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SENATE BILL 326

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Ron Adair

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE FORESTRY DIVISION TO ASSESS
THE FEASIBILITY OF USING BIOMASS FROM SALT CEDAR REMOVAL AND
WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECTS FOR ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. APPROPRIATION.--

A. Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) is
appropriated from the general fund to the energy, minerals and
natural resources department for expenditure in fiscal year
2003 for the forestry division to assess the feasibility of
using biomass from salt cedar and other undesirable woody
vegetation removal and watershed restoration projects to
generate electric power. The project shall include:

(1) an inventory of the supply of undesirable
woody vegetation such as salt cedar, Russian olive, pinon and
juniper on land that needs clearing and restoration to native

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1 plant species in the middle Rio Grande valley, the Pecos river
2 valley and the northern upland rangelands;

3 (2) cooperation and consultation with
4 federal, state, local and nonprofit organizations to implement
5 the action plan; and

6 (3) preparation of an interdisciplinary
7 action plan to remove undesirable woody species to enhance
8 water quality and quantity, restoration of native plant
9 species and wildlife habitat, promote fire prevention in the
10 bosque, promote local industry and improve the environment.

11 B. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
12 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003 shall revert to the
13 general fund.