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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Moore DATE TYPED: 02/19/03 HB 860

SHORT TITLE: Bighorn Sheep Habitat Improvement SB _____

ANALYST: Valenzuela

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$100.0			Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Legislative Finance Committee files

Responses Received From
Department of Game and Fish

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 860 appropriates \$100.0 from the Game Protection Fund to Department of Game and Fish for the purpose of funding additional bighorn sheep habitat improvement and management projects.

Significant Issues

Every year, DGF issues two bighorn sheep enhancement permits to an incorporated nonprofit organization involved in wildlife conservation, where one permit is to be sold at auction to the highest bidder and one to be sold in a lottery. All money collected from the issuance and sale of the bighorn sheep enhancement permits is deposited into the Big Game Enhancement fund, which is a subsidiary account to the Game Protection Fund. The money is to be used exclusively for bighorn sheep preservation, restoration and management.

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For the past three years, these licenses have been highly sought after, as measured by the prices paid in auction and lottery. For 2000, the auction permit brought in \$85,000 while the lottery was sold for \$40,000. For 2001, the auction permit brought in \$75,000 while the lottery was sold for \$45,000. For 2002, the auction permit brought in \$157,500 while the lottery was sold for \$75,000.

In its FY04 budget request, the LFC supported the DGF request in this program to spend \$474.4 for bighorn sheep preservation, restoration and management. HB 860 would increase this budget by \$100.0. The Big Game Enhancement Fund has sufficient cash balance to absorb the increase.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the Game Protection Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert to the Game Protection Fund.

MFV/njw:yr