

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Cisneros DATE TYPED 3/8/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Questa State Park Feasibility Study SB SJM 88

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI		Indeterminate	Nonrecurring	State Park Operating Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 88 requests the State Parks Division (SPD) conduct a feasibility study on lands near the town of Questa, New Mexico, that are owned by Molycorp Inc. for the purposes of creating a state park. The bill also directs the SPD to report its findings to the appropriate interim committee of the legislature by December 1, 2005.

Significant Issues

Section 16-2-11 NMSA 1978 requires a feasibility study be conducted to determine if a particular area meets the criteria for becoming a state park. SPD is currently working on expansions/land acquisitions at several existing state parks. One new park project (Mesilla Valley) is underway and three other proposed new state parks; Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Shakespeare Ghost Town, and Cerrillos Hills are contemplated. State Parks notes with these existing projects, the December 1, 2005 deadline to report findings to the legislature is aggressive and would require park staff to divert attention from other priorities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

State parks estimates a feasibility study could cost as much as \$25 thousand to complete. The division may have difficulty in meeting this amount in its FY06 budget without assistance.

PA/rs