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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/11/10

SPONSOR Griego, E. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund SM 6

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
	NFI	Recurring	General 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 Memorial 6 is a statement of support for the Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act of 2009 (S. 2747) introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Jeff Bingaman. S. 2747 would provide for full and dedicated funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which provides funding to both federal agencies and the fifty states for land acquisition, conservation, and recreation projects.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The EMNRD states:

The State Parks Division (SPD) administers the LWCF's stateside assistance program in New Mexico and receives federal funds from the LWCF annually based on an apportionment formula; the amount that New Mexico receives depends on the overall LWCF appropriation level set by Congress. LWCF funding to New Mexico has fallen from a high of over \$1 million annually to a present level of about \$300,000 annually. If

Senate Memorial 6 – Page 2

the federal legislation that SM 6 endorses (S. 2747) becomes law, it would result in a significant increase in federal LWCF funds coming to New Mexico—likely in excess of \$1 million per year annually. Since current federal program requirements for LWCF stateside funds require a 50-50 match, SPD and/or other project sponsors seeking to use stateside LWCF funds will have to provide that match or some federal funds might go unutilized. Some of the match could be provided by a local government or private entity – the match does not have to be provided solely by the state.

None directly from SM 6. If the federal legislation that SM 6 endorses (S. 2747) becomes law, however, SPD would have significantly increased financial resources for conservation and recreation projects within the state parks. Stateside LWCF funds can be used by SPD for park land acquisition, campground development, visitor centers, playgrounds, cabins, and other park and recreation improvements. Enactment of S. 2747 would result in the accomplishment of many additional projects within state parks, which would positively impact SPD performance measures such as visitation and self-generated revenue.

Stateside LWCF funds have helped complete over 1,200 projects spread across every county in New Mexico. Reductions in stateside LWCF apportionments to New Mexico have forced the suspension of a LWCF grant program for local communities. At the previous higher federal appropriations levels, SPD had made a portion of stateside LWCF funds available to eligible entities for qualified local park and recreation projects, which can include things such as swimming pools, playgrounds, sport/recreation playing fields, etc. If the federal legislation that SM 6 endorses (S. 2747) becomes law and SPD receives increased federal LWCF funds, it would also result in more LWCF grants being offered to qualified entities in New Mexico, which include local political jurisdictions (such as cities and counties) as well as the tribes and pueblos. This would lead to many more park, conservation, and recreation projects being accomplished in local communities throughout New Mexico.

GH/mew