

- \$2 million to acquire land for and equip Pecos Canyon state park in San Miguel County;
- \$250 thousand to upgrade water infrastructure at Sugarite Canyon State Park;
- \$250 thousand for flooding and erosion control improvements at state parks statewide;
- \$250 thousand for campsite improvements at state parks statewide;
- \$250 thousand for road improvements at state parks statewide;
- \$500 thousand for group shelters and park furnishings at state parks statewide; and
- \$250 thousand for comfort stations at state parks statewide.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$7.4 million contained in this bill is considered a recurring expense to the general fund because it can be expended across fiscal years. Any unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining at the end of FY23 shall revert to the general fund within six months of completion of the projects, but no later than the end of FY23.

The proposed capital outlay package, Senate Bill 280 makes appropriations from the general fund for FY19 through FY23, as follows: 1) \$1 million for state park improvements statewide and 2) \$500 thousand for vehicles and equipment. SB280 also provides an appropriation from the water project fund of \$1.35 million for water and wastewater infrastructure projects statewide.

The HAFC appropriation for EMNRD currently includes about \$465 thousand for the administration and operation of Pecos Canyon as a state park. Five FTE are supported by this recommendation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB499 would complete key projects in state parks to upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure, modernize fee collections, upgrade campgrounds and roads, and renovate campgrounds and facilities. In addition, HB499 includes funds that would help to acquire land for and construct, equip, renovate, and improve Pecos Canyon State Park in San Miguel County.

In 2009, Senate Joint Memorial 16 directed the DGF to work with the State Parks Division to improve campgrounds and facilities in Pecos Canyon. In 2017, both agencies entered into a memorandum of agreement to allow the State Parks Division to use capital funds on the State Game Commission-owned properties to improve facilities. According to DGF, this bill provides state parks essential funding to implement improvements and increase recreational opportunities in the canyon.

There is currently \$250 thousand from a prior 2016 capital outlay appropriation for a Pecos Canyon state park that has yet to be authorized for expenditure by the State Game Commission.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB 499 includes \$2 million “to acquire land for” Pecos Canyon state park. It is unclear how this appropriation would be spent considering the State Game Commission currently owns the property. To transfer it to State Parks, the Legislature might need to pass a joint resolution.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB 499 is not enacted, \$7.4 million will not be appropriated to State Parks for expenditure in fiscal years FY 2019 through FY23 and most of the associated projects would be deferred.

AHO/gb/al/gb