

LFC Requester:

Connor Jorgensen

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

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{Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Original X Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date January 19, 2023

Bill No: HB 173

Sponsor: Joseph L. Sanchez
Short Rangeland Pests
Title:

Agency Name and Code NMDA - 199
Number:
Person Writing Jeff Witte
Phone: 575-646-5063 Email Hrickner@nmda.nmsu.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Table with 4 columns: Appropriation (FY24, FY25), Recurring or Nonrecurring, Fund Affected. Rows show NFI and \$500.00.

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Table with 5 columns: Estimated Revenue (FY24, FY25, FY26), Recurring or Nonrecurring, Fund Affected. Rows show \$0.0.

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

Table with 7 columns: FY24, FY25, FY26, 3 Year Total Cost, Recurring or Nonrecurring, Fund Affected. Row shows Total NFI.

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 173 (HB 173) addresses a one-time appropriation from the general fund of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500.00) to New Mexico department of agriculture (NMDA) through New Mexico state university board of regents for the control of rangeland pests. Monies are to be expended during FY2025 and FY2026 with remaining balances reverting to the general fund at the end of FY2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NMDA expects to utilize existing staff to administer and fulfill technical requirements associated with HB 173.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico's private, state, federal, Tribal trust, and Tribal rangelands periodically experience outbreaks of forage feeding insects, primarily range caterpillar and grasshopper species. Control of outbreaks preserves forage for livestock and wildlife, preserves annual contribution to the rangeland seed bank, limits geographical expansion of outbreaks to adjacent rangeland during the current and in the subsequent year, aides in erosion control in sensitive areas, and contributes to sustainable rangeland health. Preservation of forage is important to beef production economics, especially during extended periods of drought.

Following a request by ranchers, or others, the federal plant protection act authorizes the United States department of agriculture (USDA) to participate in the management and funding of control programs to address grasshopper outbreaks. For federal owned rangelands (including Tribal and trust lands), USDA contributes 100% of control costs; for state owned rangelands, USDA contributes 50% of control costs with rancher and/or state contributing the remainder; for privately owned rangeland, USDA contributes 33.3% of control costs with ranchers and or state contributing the remainder.

During CY2023, a grasshopper outbreak was identified on approximately 25,000 acres of New Mexico's state, federal and privately-owned rangelands. USDA was invited by ranchers and participated in managing the program. To address a funding shortfall, ranchers elected to cover the costs associated with grasshopper control on state-owned leased rangelands. Timing issues prevented USDA from implementing control measures in CY2023, resulting in the continuation of grasshopper feeding, hatching and egg laying. It is anticipated that USDA's inability to initiate grasshopper control measures in CY2023 may significantly increase the chances of a subsequent outbreaks in the following years. Funding addressed in HB 173 will support ranchers' efforts to address costs associated with grasshopper control programs involving private and possibly state-owned leased rangelands.

During CY2023, an outbreak of range caterpillar, primarily a New Mexico rangeland pest, was identified on approximately 300,000 acres. Range caterpillar is not addressed in the federal plant protection act; therefore, USDA is not authorized to provide support for this program effort. Control efforts were completed in CY2023 with all program costs covered by the impacted ranchers. Funding provided in HB 173 will support range caterpillar control efforts on private and

state-owned leased rangelands, if required, for the two-year period of the grant.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None known to impact NMDA.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Depending on the occurrence of, number and extent of outbreaks, NMDA anticipates .5 FTE to be utilized in the direct administration of, and in providing technical support associated with HB 173.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None known by NMDA.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None known by NMDA.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None known by NMDA.

ALTERNATIVES

None known by NMDA.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

In the event of grasshopper outbreaks, ranchers will be responsible for the majority of any control costs associated with private, and possibly the state's share of state-owned leased rangelands. In the event of range caterpillar outbreaks, control costs of private and possibly the state's share of state-owned leased rangelands will be addressed by impacted ranchers.

AMENDMENTS

None suggested by NMDA.