

LFC Requester:

Helen Gaussoin

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2024 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

Analysis.nmlegis.gov

{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  Amendment

Correction  Substitute

Date

Prepared: 02/01/2024

House Memorial 34

Bill No: (HM 34)

Sponsor: Representative Ortiz

Short Title: Citizen Science in State Agencies Task Force

Agency Name and Code

Number: EMNRD 521

Person Writing Analysis: Toby G. Velasquez, State Parks Director

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: N/A

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act – Unknown

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: House Memorial 34 (HM 34) requests the State Parks division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department, the department of environment, the state land office, the department of game and fish and other interested state departments and agencies to participate in a working group convened and managed by the Wild Friends Program to develop and recommend actions to establish and expand the use of citizen science using the best available science and data collection practices.

HM 34 also requests that the working group submit a report to the appropriate interim legislative committee by October 31, 2024, that details the working group's recommendations, including infrastructure, funding needs and strategies to advance the use of citizen science in state agency operations.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None for EMNRD.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The State Parks Division's (Division) mission is to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources, provide first-class recreational and education facilities and opportunities, and promote public safety to benefit and enrich the lives of visitors.

HM 34 directly supports our agency's mission by promoting conservation, education, and outdoor recreation. HM 34 will engage citizens, implement wildlife management techniques, expand outdoor recreation interests, promote outdoor education, support conservation of natural resources, inform park management and staff, and enrich the visitor experience at state parks.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Division administers and operates thirty-five (35) state parks located in 25 of 33 counties across our state. Each state park is unique and can provide an outstanding and diverse platform for citizen science projects. Citizen science has emerged as a cost-efficient method to collect data for wildlife monitoring while promoting outdoor education and recreation. HM 34 will provide valuable data that will inform and improve conservation efforts across public lands.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

If HM 34 is not enacted, a state agency working group will not convene to partner with the wild friends program to develop and recommend actions to establish and expand the use of citizen science using the best available science and data collection practices. A pilot project for the use of the Wild Friends program will not be enacted and a project template for state government agencies will not be created. Finally, there will be no report to the appropriate interim legislative committee that details recommendations, including infrastructure, funding needs and strategies to advance the use of citizen science.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.