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F I S C A L I M P A C T R E P O R T

SPONSOR:	Rodella	DATE TYPED:	02/11/00	HB	HJM 71
SHORT TITLE:	Elk Herd Size and Carrying Capacities			SB	
				ANALYST:	Valenzuela

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	**FY01**	**FY00**	**FY01**		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC files

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 71 requests the Department of Game and Fish in cooperation with federal land and wildlife management agencies develop a strategic elk management plan. The plan is to be based on elk quantity, quality of habitat and the established carrying capacity. The plan should also address all management options to manage and contain the elk herd population when necessary.

The memorial also requests that the plan be developed utilizing a process that includes landowners and sportsmen.

Significant Issues

Given the breadth and depth of the request, carrying out the request would require the agency to commit substantial resources to the project. In addition, cooperation from the affected federal agencies, Indian tribes, landowners and sportsmen would be needed. The analysis prepared by the Department of Game and Fish states that the cooperation of neighboring states would also be necessary.

Other issues revolve around coordination of the activities, fiscal impact on federal agencies and other states, the differing goals of the various stakeholders involved in developing the plan and obtaining the cooperation of all parties involved.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct fiscal impact from the memorial itself.

However, Department of Game and Fish staff project an agency cost of $2,000.0 to conduct the study and develop the plan with an additional $1,500.0 required to annually monitor elk herds and carrying capacity.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Department of Game and Fish staff estimate conducting the study will require 10 FTEs - 2 supervisors and 8 technicians.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

What circumstances led to the introduction of this memorial?

Was the memorial introduced at the request of any specific group?

Was the memorial introduced at the request of the Department of Game and Fish?

MV/sb