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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Dodge **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/04/16  
**LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_ **HM** 47

**SHORT TITLE** State Agency Work With U.S. Dept. of Ag **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Amacher

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LFC Files
- Department of Game and Fish (DFG)
- Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
- New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
- New Mexico Department of Environment (NMED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of the Memorial

House Memorial 47 encourages state agencies to seek a stronger role in working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in supporting agriculture, rural development, water, infrastructure, energy and broadband through planning for potential state project funding.

HM 47 further resolves that each appropriate cabinet agency report its funding plan to the appropriate interim legislative committee.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no known fiscal impacts to the state resulting from this memorial.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The New Mexico department of agriculture (NMDA) notes that this memorial draws attention to the funding that USDA provides in a variety of arenas in this state. Such areas include natural resource conservation efforts, rural economic development, support for new and existing farmers and ranchers, food and nutrition programs, to name a few, which amount to more than ten billion dollars in New Mexico as indicated in HM 47.

HM 47 encourage state agencies to work with USDA through planning efforts to leverage state funds with available federal funding for the benefit of the state.

The Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) forestry division currently works with many USDA agencies and seeks to maximize federal funding for state projects through established cooperative agreements with the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Such funding is used to improve the state's forest and watershed health, protect natural resources, increase public safety, and provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners and public land managers.

The Department of Game and Fish (DGF) also currently partners with USDA's NRCS in a local regional conservation partnership program committee and as part of a local coordinated resource management plan committee. DGF working with these committees identify habitat improvement projects that will benefit wildlife, forest health, and water quality in leveraging funding and maximizing benefits.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

HM 47 outlines the need for further collaboration through planning that will have minimal administrative implications for those few state agencies not currently engaged in partnering with USDA.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

DGF reports that having a strong relationship with the USDA will benefit the citizens of the state of New Mexico by providing enhanced services and from the perspective of DGF, improved habitat and resources for the state's wildlife.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) notes that their collaboration with USDA goes beyond the current activity in prioritizing and funding water and wastewater projects. NMED utilizes the USDA template for preliminary engineering reports, and other National Environmental Policy Act like documents. NMED continues to work closely with USDA to create greater efficiencies as the planning documents for water and wastewater infrastructure are developed.

JMA/al