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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

<b>SPONSOR</b>	<u>Cook</u>	<b>ORIGINAL DATE</b>	<u>02/11/16</u>	<b>HM</b>	<u>74</u>
		<b>LAST UPDATED</b>		<b>SB</b>	
<b>SHORT TITLE</b>	<u>Collaborative Forest Restoration Program</u>			<b>SB</b>	
		<b>ANALYST</b>	<u>Amacher</u>		

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources (EMNRD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of the Memorial

House Memorial 47 requests the recognition of the Collaborative Forest Restoration program benefits to Otero, Lincoln and Chaves counties by commending their continuing efforts in encouraging sustainable communities and forests. HM 47 further resolves that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the county commission chairs of Otero, Lincoln and Chaves counties, the mayor of Alamogordo and the partners of the Westside Sacramento mountains watershed restoration and fuels reduction project.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

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

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HM 74 outlines the collaborative forest restoration program in New Mexico established a new and innovative program that supports sustainable communities and forests. The success of the program relies upon strong collaborative partnerships with measurable ecologically sound forest restoration. For instance, the Westside Sacramento mountains watershed restoration and fuels reduction project proposes a combination of mechanical thinning and prescribed fires on approximately 6,700 acres of Lincoln national forest and city of Alamogordo land to reduce the threat of high-intensity wildfires and promotes healthy watersheds.

This spring, March 30-31, 2016, the Sacramento mountain wood industry summit will be convened in Ruidoso to allow for further collaboration among the partners in the forest restoration program. The summit is organized to address emerging markets and demands for ecologically sound forest projects in hopes of achieving successful forestry and wood product business development.

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The energy, minerals and natural resources department (EMNRD) indicates there are 42 communities at high risk from wildland fire in Otero, Lincoln and Chaves counties as listed in the EMNRD 2015 New Mexico communities at risk plan. The collaborative Westside Sacramento mountains watershed restoration and fuels reduction project provides direct benefits to nine local communities, and the adjacent projects provide benefits to thirty at risk communities.

According to EMNRD, the forestry division collaborates with the United States Department of Agriculture forest service's collaborative forest restoration program, which will provide the environmental and cultural clearances required for the forestry division and its partners to conduct certain on-the-ground projects in the Sacramento Mountains landscape.

### **RELATES**

Relates to HM 47 that 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.

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