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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>Steinborn</u>	LAST UPDATED _____
	ORIGINAL DATE <u>1/22/2024</u>
SHORT TITLE <u>Citizen Science in State Agencies Task Force</u>	BILL NUMBER <u>Senate Memorial 1</u>
	ANALYST <u>Torres, Isaiah</u>

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact			

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
 State Land Office (SLO)
 Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
 Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From
 State Engineer (OSE)
 Department of Environment (NMED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Memorial 1

Senate Memorial 1 requests NMED, SLO, DGF, EMNRD’s state parks division, and other interested state departments and agencies to participate in a citizen science task force. This task force would be assembled and managed by the University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Law Wild Friends Program. The purpose of the task force is to develop recommendations that detail the fundings needs and strategies that will advance the usage of citizen science in New Mexico. The memorial also includes a pilot program for the use of the Wild Friends Program and for the use as a template for state government agencies.

The memorial requires the task force to submit a report to the appropriate interim legislative committee by October 31, 2024.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The memorial does not have a direct fiscal impact on the agencies that would participate in the citizen science task force. If the task force was established, this would require additional staff support and time. The participating agencies would have to ensure that the citizen science data collection method is reliable, and that the recommendations are actionable and are integrated into the agencies decision-making process.

EMNRD's analysis mentioned that the use of citizen science could be a cost-efficient method for data collection.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Both EMNRD and SLO support the memorial and have indicated that the memorial is consistent with their mission. SLO indicated that the memorial will expand the scientific data collection capacity of their agency and will assist with land management decisions. If the task force was created, agencies would have to consider and vet the integrity and quality of the data that would be included in the report.

EMNRD's state park division indicated the memorial would provide an opportunity for citizen science projects related to state parks within New Mexico. In addition, EMNRD highlighted how this task force would be beneficial for wildlife monitoring, as well as to promoting outdoor education and recreation.

IT/rl/ne/ss