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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Moore DATE TYPED 02-23-2004 HB 9

SHORT TITLE NMSU-Tucumcari Research Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Baca

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	\$341.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Commission on Higher Education (CHE) Funding Recommendations for FY05

Response Received From

NMSU, College of Agriculture and Home Economics

No Responses

Commission on Higher Education

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 9 appropriates \$341,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY05 to enhance research and education programs relating to water conservation and rangeland ecology at the Agricultural Science Center in Tucumcari. The bill appropriates \$219,000 to be expended by the Agricultural Experiment Station and \$122,000 by the Cooperative Extension Service.

#### Significant Issues

Need for this program is explained in the NMSU analysis as follows:

“Economically feasible techniques for converting flood irrigated acreage to sprinkler or drip irrigation must be developed. Methods for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of irrigation delivery systems need to be identified. Methods of monitoring and improving rangeland watersheds and ecosystems must be developed. Grazing systems that optimize rangeland utilization in periods of drought or abundant rainfall are important to the sustainability of rangelands in New Mexico.”

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$341.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY05 shall revert to the general fund.

### **RELATIONSHIP**

This appropriation relates to the appropriation for NMSU in the General Appropriation Act.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

This program request was not included in the recommendations submitted by the Board of Regents to the CHE and was thus not considered by the Commission.

### **AMENDMENTS**

The following language is suggested for all new recurring higher education programs and expansion of current programs (assuming that funding will continue beyond FY05):

“The institution receiving the appropriation in this bill shall submit a program evaluation to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Commission on Higher Education by August 2007 detailing the benefits to the State of New Mexico from having implemented this program over a three period.”

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. Was this request submitted to the NMSU Board of Regents?
2. If not, why not?
3. If so, why was it not recommended by the CHE?

**RLG/lg**