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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Coll DATE TYPED 1/31/04 HB HJM 37

SHORT TITLE Funding Sources for Landscape Protection SB _____

ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
			NFI		

Duplicates SJM 24
Relates to SB 291

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

Game & Fish Department (GFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 37 requests the GFD and EMNRD to conduct a study to investigate sustainable alternative funding measures to protect New Mexico's unique landscapes, open spaces, recreation areas and wildlife habitats by December 31, 2004.

Significant Issues

Wildlife-associated recreation creates annual expenditures of more than \$1 billion each year in New Mexico. Conservation funding for protection and maintenance of outdoor recreation areas, land, water and wildlife is inadequate to meet current and future needs.

New Mexico is home to the fourth largest number of plant and animal species in the United States with ninety species of plants and animals that do not exist anywhere else in the world. One hundred twenty-two species are at risk of extinction and 22 species have been extirpated. Preventing further loss is in the best interest of the State's conservation efforts, economic vitality

and quality of life. Alteration and development of natural areas to accommodate the State's growing population contribute to fragmentation and destruction of habitat. This growth requires governmental efforts to restore, enhance or acquire lands.

Fragmentation and loss of habitat are contributing to the loss of plant and animal species. Housing and industrial development in new areas continue to put pressure on certain rare species and generally degrade landscapes and open spaces.

The GFD and EMNRD staff hope the requested study of sustainable alternative means of funding will identify new funding sources.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal impacts contained in this memorial. The study requested by this memorial could lead to the identification of funding sources that would have positive fiscal impacts on the GFD.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The GFD and EMRD can complete the study with existing staff.

DUPLICATION, RELATIONSHIP

HJM 37 duplicates SJM 24 and relates to SB291, Severance Bonds for Unique Land Acquisitions.

DW/lg