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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Moore DATE TYPED 2/23/05 HB 47

SHORT TITLE Remove Cougars From Regulated Game List SB _____

ANALYST Aguilar

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06			
	(\$107.0)	(\$107.0)	Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Conflicts with SB-16, SB-77 (both bills amend hunting & fishing fees, one of which is removed under the provisions of this bill)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DFG)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 47 removes cougars from the list of game animals regulated by the Department of Game and Fish.

Significant Issues

House Bill 47 removes all protection and regulatory oversight of cougars by the department of game and fish.

DGF would no longer be responsible for addressing cougar depredation complaints filed by landowners.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The proposed bill, if adopted, will not negatively impact the department's ability to meet performance measures.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Enacting this bill will decrease the department's revenue by an estimated \$107 thousand annually because cougar will not be protected no longer requiring a license. Currently, the department conducts a cougar removal program in Southeast New Mexico to protect mule deer and livestock from cougar depredation and responds to cougar depredation complaints statewide at a cost of \$47 thousand annually. The presumption is program would no longer be needed resulting in a reduction of overall expenditures.

Personnel and contractors needed to deal with cougar issues (licensing, depredation) as well as associated costs could be redirected to other department needs or not be utilized and remain in the Game Protection Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The department will no longer be mandated to estimate the populations, track harvest, enforce laws pertaining to the taking of cougar, and recommending hunting structures to the State Game Commission for cougar.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bills 16 and 77 make changes to the fees charged for hunting and fishing licenses. This bill removes one type of license from the license structure.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Hunting proclamations and licenses have already been printed for the 2005 – 2006 hunting season which begins April 1, 2005. The legislature may wish to consider inserting an effective date of April 1, 2006.

PA/lg