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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Balderas DATE TYPED 3/10/05 HB 760

SHORT TITLE White Peak Area Land Purchase SB _____

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
\$15,000.0				Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06			
	NFI	Indeterminate	Recurring	State Lands Maintenance Fund
	NFI	Indeterminate	Recurring	Land Grant Permanent Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Duplicates SB 24

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Commissioner of Public Lands (SLO)

Department of Game & Fish (DGF)

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 760 appropriates \$15 million from the General Fund to the State Land Office for expenditure in FY05 and FY06 for the purchase of the Stanley Ranch in the White Peak area in Mora and Colfax counties, contingent on a purchase agreement between the State Land Office

and the owner of the land. Any unencumbered balance would revert to the General Fund at the end of FY06.

Significant Issues

The White Peak area has a long history of conflict between private landowners and local members of the public who have used the area for hunting, firewood gathering and other outdoor activities for several generations. Consolidation of the land into a continuous block of state land could reduce conflicts between hunters and landowners and provide additional land for recreational opportunity on state lands that could include hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife watching and wood gathering depending on how the state land office administered the land.

The State Forestry Division notes this bill would result in the acquisition of approximately 12,000 acres of primarily forested land in the northeastern portion of the state that provides exceptional qualities for forest, watershed and wildlife habitat. This property occurs on the east-slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the Mora/Colfax County line north of the town of Ocate. The landowner also leases the adjacent 26,000 acres of State Trust Land. This project would protect important watershed, critical wildlife habitat, and productive timber resources from subdivision and conversion to recreational homes and other development. These collectively make a large block of undeveloped land that could be maintained for forest values that could benefit the land and those that enjoy its use.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$15,000.00 contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

PA/lg