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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/06

SPONSOR Altamirano LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE UNM Wild Friends of New Mexico Program SB 268

ANALYST Hoffmann

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$75.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

No Duplicates.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 268 appropriates \$75,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of University of New Mexico (UNM) to increase funding for the Wild Friends of New Mexico program to \$146,500.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

UNM included \$71,500 in its fiscal year 2007 budget request under the Wildlife Law Education Program. This bill increases the funding request to \$146,500. This request for the increase is not included in the New Mexico Higher Education Department's recommendations. The LFC's appropriations recommendations include a lump-sum amount of \$71,500 to the Wildlife Law Education Program.

According to the Higher Education Department, the Wild Friends of New Mexico is incorporated under the University of New Mexico's Center for Wildlife Law. Wild Friends of New Mexico is a network of students, teachers, and mentors who support wildlife and seek common-ground solutions to wildlife issues. The goal of Wild Friends of New Mexico is to bring together people with different points of view and together develop common ground. Currently, the cost of lawsuits tie-up the use of natural resource extraction activities such as logging and have a negative impact on the economy of New Mexico, particularly in small population centers where the economy is strongly linked to logging or mining. Funding of a group that seeks to bring together groups with different views to find a common or middle ground could benefit the economy of New Mexico.

CH/mt