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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**ORIGINAL DATE**  
**LAST UPDATED** 2-11-06     **HB** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR** Campos \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT TITLE** Environmental Education and Tree Planting     **SB** 604 \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Woods \_\_\_\_\_

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation |         | Recurring<br>or Non-Rec | Fund<br>Affected |
|---------------|---------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY06          | FY07    |                         |                  |
| NFI           | \$100.0 | Recurring               | General Fund     |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)  
 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 604 seeks to appropriate \$100,000 from the general fund to the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department for expenditure in fiscal year 2007 for environmental education and tree planting programs. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) indicates that this legislation recognizes the importance of trees and environmental education to New Mexico and its young citizens. The Division has two programs that focus on tree planting and environmental education:

- *New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf*, which provides grants to municipalities, schools, and organizations for tree planting projects. The purpose of the Re-Leaf Pro-

gram is to educate the public and help protect the environment by encouraging and arranging for the planting of trees throughout the state by children, students, parents, schools, civic and community groups.

- *Conservation Seedling Program* that distributes seedlings for conservation and environmental education plantings through the Division's six district offices, as well as to interested landowners who want to plant trees for conservation purposes. For well over forty years the division has sold low cost seedlings to landowners to plant for wildfire rehabilitation, riparian restoration, erosion control, windbreaks as well as other conservation purposes.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Division's New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Program is responsible for coordinating and implementing most of the Division's tree planting projects and would be tasked with implementing the majority of this project.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The Forestry Division would generate agreements to implement the majority of this tree planting and environmental education program. Therefore, administrative implications include an increased workload for division and department program managers, as well as legal, contract and fiscal staff.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

EMNRD suggests that both the New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Program and the Division's Conservation Planting Program's funds reside in the Conservation Planting Fund. The Conservation Planting Fund consists of money appropriated to the fund by the legislature, all receipts from the sale of trees and any other revenues. Expenditures are made from this fund for the purpose of purchasing, selling or distributing trees to New Mexico landowners, schools, civic or community groups. Money in the conservation planting revolving fund does not revert to the general fund. The Conservation Planting Fund would be the desired fund for this appropriation to be directed.

## **AMENDMENTS**

EMNRD recommends the funding be appropriated to the EMNRD – Forestry Division's Conservation Planting Revolving Fund.

BW/mt