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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-25-07
 LAST UPDATED 2-19-07 HB _____

SPONSOR P. Campos

SHORT TITLE Wildlife Enhancement Authorization Packages SB 286/aSFC

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08	FY09		
NFI	\$200.0 - \$250.0	\$200.0 - \$250.0	Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicate to House Bill 341

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SFC Amendment

Senate Finance Committee amendment to Senate Bill 286 amends the legislation to reflect the following language:

1. On page 1, lines 22 and 23, strike “The first” and insert in lieu thereof “Each”.

2. On page 2, line 1, after the period strike the rest of the line, strike lines 2 and 2 in their entirety and strike like 4 through the period.

Senate Finance Committee amendment to Senate Bill 286 adds no appropriation language to the bill.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 286 seeks to direct the state game commission to adopt rules for the Department of Game and Fish to issue enhancement authorization packages each license year for the taking of one each of elk, deer, oryx, ibex and pronghorn antelope.

The first enhancement authorization package shall be auctioned by the department of game and fish or by an incorporated nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and sold to the highest bidder.

The second enhancement authorization package shall be awarded by lottery by the department of game and fish or by an incorporated nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of wildlife.

Money collected from the enhancement authorization packages shall be deposited in the game protection fund and shall be used exclusively for big game habitat enhancement, conservation and protection.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DGF estimates that the annual revenues generated from the provision of these packages of authorizations will be from \$200,000 to \$250,000 annually. Further, that these dollars can then be leveraged against a variety of federal funding sources to maximize habitat improvement, conservation, and protection activities for species providing opportunities for sportsmen.

DGF adds that impacts to the Department's operating budget will be realized in FY08 and FY09 as a result of costs associated with contracting marketing services for the auction and raffle of the authorization packages. Once the sale of the authorization packages has generated sufficient revenue, a more realistic marketing cost can be incorporated into the budget development process for FY10 and the source of funds for these costs can be the revenue generated by their annual sales. It is felt that it would be in the best interest of the program, initially, to use the marketing capabilities of an incorporated non-profit organization so as to maximize the annual value of each package.

DGF indicates that one to two department staff typically travel to out-of-state locations where the auctions occur to promote the authorizations as well as New Mexico's wildlife. Historically these costs have been 10 percent of the total auction price and 15-20 percent of total raffle ticket sales in addition to the out-of-state travel costs for two staff for 5-6 days each year. These estimates are based on the current enhancement programs for deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. In addition to the marketing cost estimates, the department will need to submit a budget increase request, probably beginning in FY09, so that funds are available for expenditure on projects. The amount will depend on revenues generated.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Duplicate to House Bill 341

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

DGF suggests that if the bill is not enacted the State of New Mexico will lose an opportunity to generate revenues that can be leveraged with various federal funding sources resulting in important habitat improvement, conservation, and protection activities for species, providing opportunities for sportsmen, and ensuring that New Mexico's wildlife resources flourish in the future.

BFW/csd:nt