

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Martinez **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/13/2007 **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____
SHORT TITLE NMSU Vegetation Monitoring Study **SB** 913
ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$250.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates: HB982

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 913 makes an appropriation of \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) for expenditure for FY08 to assist the livestock industry with vegetation monitoring studies by the College of Agriculture.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250,000 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU reports that the College of Agriculture and Home Economics is aggressively involved in finding solutions to current problems in New Mexico. Many of the research and community educational programs are guided by community advisory groups, which help focus efforts on improving the economic and environmental conditions and personal quality of life in communities. For example, there is a program geared to bring together ranchers, especially those using federal and state trust lands, as well as federal and state land management employees to

participate in a rancher initiated monitoring system. Ranchers and people interested in vegetation management will be informed as to management options for locoweed and other poisonous plants. State and federal land management agencies and sportsman groups are target audiences that will be provided information regarding livestock and wildlife interactions and the carrying capacity of rangelands. Certain plants and weeds become an increasingly dangerous problem in the river valleys and rangelands. Rancher, farmers, environmental groups, wildlife management agencies, and homeowners require training in the effects and control of noxious weed species.

The Range Improvement Task Force has a mission to improve rangelands and resource management by addressing issues related to water, land title, and policy. Due to recent climate change conditions, drought and flooding have highlighted a greater need for the Range Improvement Task Force. This appropriation will support data driven monitoring of vegetation aimed to improve rangelands and management of resources. As a result, this will assist the livestock industry and other stakeholders to solve problems such as poisonous plants, climate change, overgrazing, and grassfires.

This proposal was not submitted to the HED by NMSU and was not included in the department's funding recommendation for FY08.

GM/csd