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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-26-09

SPONSOR Eichenberg LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Valles Caldera Management Hearings SM 32

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SJM 49

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

State Land Office (SLO)

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 32 requests that the New Mexico delegation to the Congress of the United States hold hearings on the management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve and suggests moving the management of the preserve from the current management system to management by a federal agency such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Park Service.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None reported by respondents

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

EMNRD states, "Upon its acquisition by the public in 2000, management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve was entrusted to a quasi-governmental 'Board of Trustees' appointed by the President. Nearly a decade has gone by since this occurred. The land management experiment that the Preserve represents has proven difficult to implement and controversial at times for

many of the groups and interests that have a stake or interest in the Preserve. SM 32 suggests that management by a federal agency could generate more economic activity around the preserve thus improving public access, hunting and fishing opportunities, and outdoor recreation possibilities in the preserve. Given the significance of the preserve and the possibility of economic development in the area surrounding the preserve, having the preserve managed by an agency that routinely provides the types of services identified in the memorial would assist the preserve in maintaining itself as developing a premier outdoor recreation area.”

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DGF indicates that the legislation may result in the department improving its ability to increase the level of annual elk hunting and fisherman days.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SJM 49.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

DGF states, “The department will continue to work with the VCNP to provide appropriate levels of hunting and fishing opportunities within their current management constraints.”

AMENDMENTS

None suggested by respondents.

BW/mc