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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/08/13

SPONSOR Cisneros LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Taos Youth Conservation Corps Training SB 350

ANALYST McCoy

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 350 appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) to support the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) jobs training program in Taos County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2014 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Legislature enacted the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Act (YCC Act), NMSA 1978, 9-5B-1 to 9-5B-11, whose purpose is to provide a process to employ young persons in public projects that conserve New Mexico's natural resources and provide community benefits of

lasting value. The YCC Act created the "New Mexico youth conservation corps fund," NMSA 1978, 9-5B-10, which is designed to receive "all appropriations, gifts, devises, grants and donations". The money in the fund is appropriated to the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Commission to carry out the YCC Act. The YCC Act requires that projects must apply to the YCC Commission for approval and the YCC Act specifies application requirements and criteria for approval. The YCC Commission sends out a request for proposal (RFP) each year, requesting proposals from state and federal agencies, local government entities, tribes and non-profit organizations throughout New Mexico. Funding is distributed as per the State of New Mexico procurement code and the YCC Act and YCC Commission rules.

There is one youth conservation corps jobs training program in Taos County, the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. In 2013, the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp satellite project received \$149,752 to fund four crews: a crew in Mora County to make improvements at a senior center; a crew in El Rito in Rio Arriba County to work on trails, erosion control, fencing and forest monitoring; a crew at Abiququ Lake to develop trails; and the fourth crew to work at Capulin National Monument in Colfax and Union counties to work on trails and campground improvements. Also in 2013, the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp applied for, but did not receive, \$142,000 to fund three crews working in Taos County: a crew to develop trails at Oro Verde; a crew to work on trails and erosion control at the Wild Rivers recreation area in the Questa area; and a third crew to work in the town of Taos.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Both the EMNRD and the YCC recommend appropriating the money directly to the youth conservation corps fund. Although the YCC is administratively attached to the EMNRD, the YCC has a separate operating budget. The YCC personnel are responsible for the oversight of approximately 39 to 42 youth job training programs with an agency budget of approximately \$3.9 million a year. The YCC adds, programs involving youth conservation corps organizations have traditionally been the venue of the YCC Commission, and YCC personnel have extensive experience in managing these programs.

The EMNRD also notes, because SB350 appropriates limited funding for one county, the YCC would have to do a special procurement outside of its normal procurement cycle. The YCC notes, the agency would distribute the funding provided in SB350 through a RFP and when funds are awarded, the recipient(s) must be audited for contract compliance.

AMENDMENTS

The YCC recommends the following amendment: on lines 11 and 12 as well as line 18 strike "energy, minerals and natural resources department" and insert in lieu thereof "youth conservation corps".

MTM/blm