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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Soules **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/08/16
LAST UPDATED 02/11/16 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE NM Public Lands Legacy, In Recognition **SM** 11/aSCONC

ANALYST Amacher

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 Department of Game and Fish (DGF)
 Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
 State Land Office (SLO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of the Senate Conservation Committee amendment

The Senate Conservation Committee amendment to Senate Memorial 11 removes in its entirety the last “whereas” mentioning the Enabling Act and the constitution of New Mexico and inserts in lieu thereof:

“WHEREAS, national public lands are generally managed under a multiple-use mandate and certain local economies, business and individuals are economically dependent upon those lands, and therefore, changes to land management practices require collaborative local stakeholder input;”.

Synopsis of the Memorial

Senate Memorial 11 recognizes and honors the nation’s and New Mexico’s founder’s foresight and wisdom by protecting a public lands legacy in New Mexico that is vital to the state and national economies.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The memorial, as amended, has no identified fiscal impact on the state.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Senate Memorial 11, as amended, recognizes approximately twenty-six million acres of land in New Mexico are owned by the people of the United States and that these lands are vital to the outdoor recreation economy of the state. Furthermore, SM11a acknowledges the importance of contiguous public lands as being a vital resource for wildlife populations and culturally central to a traditional New Mexico lifestyle. Such land uses such as hunting, fishing, grazing, firewood gathering, pinon nut and herb gathering are a few of the activities contributing to the approximate \$613 million spent annually by hunters and anglers as outlined in SM11a.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The energy, minerals, and natural resources department notes that SM11a does not mention the use of federal public lands by the extractive industries and the revenue generated by those industries.

According to the department of game and fish, the recreational opportunities to individuals are significant and that without public lands, the ability of the general public to recreate would be diminished. This would greatly impact current initiatives to get children and urban populations outdoors for the benefit of their health and well-being.

The state land office indicates that in addition to the significance of the federal lands recognized in the memorial, the state trust lands are also important. The commissioner of public lands, from the state land office, has issued a statewide hunting and fishing easement to the New Mexico game commission. This allows for licensed hunters and anglers to use state trust lands in accordance with the terms and conditions of the easement.

JMA/al/jle