

PREPARED BY:  
DATE PREPARED:  
PHONE:

Mike Lovelace  
January 27, 2012  
471-0050

**LB 928**

Revision: 00

# FISCAL NOTE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *				
	FY 2012-13		FY 2013-14	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS	9,646	See below	6,427	See below
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	9,646		6,427	

\*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

LB 928 gives the Game and Parks Commission the authority to issue permits for hunting mountain lions. The resident permit has a \$25 non-refundable application fee and no other fee will be charged in addition to this application fee. One resident/non-resident permit is allowed to be sold through an auction process. Any money raised from the auction may only be used for the perpetuation and management of mountain lions.

The Game and Parks Commission has indicated that insufficient information currently exists to determine whether the mountain lion population is sufficient to allow hunting. To gather the needed information they plan to annually survey the population through the use of trail cameras and scent stations. Costs related to this data gathering are estimated at \$9,646 CF in FY12-13 and \$6,427 CF in FY13-14 and thereafter, and include the purchase of camera equipment as well as seasonal employee wages.

The revenue that may be generated from the application fee and auction are speculative since it is not currently known when or whether a mountain lion season will be established due to the above mentioned lack of data. The Commission has estimated potential revenue of \$27,000 if a season is established, broken down into \$25,000 from application fees and \$2,000 from an auction.

They have requested that a cash fund A-bill be prepared to fund the costs shown in the table above. It is not believed that an A-bill will be necessary given the relatively small costs compared to the cash fund appropriation in the applicable budget program (\$20,276,763 in FY12-13), and the fact that unused cash fund authority from FY11-12 will carry forward into FY12-13.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

REVIEWED BY	Cindy Miserez	1/20/12	PHONE 471-2526
COMMENTS			
GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION – I have no basis to disagree with estimate.			

Please complete **ALL** (5) blanks in the first three lines.

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 928 FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Patrick H. Cole Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> January 13, 2012 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> (402)471-5523

**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

	FY 2012-2013		FY 2013-2014	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS	9,646	See below	6,427	See below
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>9,646</b>		<b>6,427</b>	

Return by date specified or 72 hours prior to public hearing, whichever is earlier.

**Explanation of Estimate:**

The proposed legislation would allow the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (Commission) to issue permits for the hunting of mountain lions and adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for said purpose. The permit issuance process would include awarding resident-only permit(s) through a random drawing which would require the establishment of a nonrefundable application fee of not more than twenty-five dollars. No permit fee could be charged in addition to the nonrefundable application fee. No more than one additional permit could be authorized and issued pursuant an open auction open to residents and nonresidents.

Commission action to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for the issuance of mountain lion hunting permits would be based on sound scientific evidence of mountain population levels and biological life history modeling. While the agency has confirmed evidence of a resident population in the pine ridge area of the state, additional information and scientific modeling is needed to determine and support a harvest program.

A key investigative measure would require the implementation of an annual survey using trail-camera's and scent stations (camera trap survey) to document reproduction. It's estimated that such a survey would cost \$9,646 the first year and \$6,427 the following years. The cost would include initial and replacement costs of camera equipment as well as seasonal employee wages. These expenses would need to be incurred in the first year, prior to a proposed hunting season to determine if a season is warranted and what harvest level could be established. Ongoing surveys would be implemented to determine what, if any harvest level, could be sustained on an annual basis..

**MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

POSITION TITLE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2012-2013	2013-2014
	12-13	13-14	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES
Conservation Technician (Temporary)			4,316	4,316
Benefits.....			330	330
Operating.....				
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....			5,000	1,781
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
<b>TOTAL.....</b>			<b>9,646</b>	<b>6,427</b>

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

2012

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 928 FISCAL NOTE**

For purposes of this note, it will be assumed that the camera trap survey would begin in the first year and continue into the second. These would be the major new expenditure needs during the period covered by this fiscal note. Should an opportunity for the issuance of a permit or permits be determined, the process for issuance is not anticipated to create additional costs beyond the current permit processes employed for other species. Current employed survey methods would continue to supplement monitoring and documenting mountain lion populations and activity in the state.

While it is currently unknown whether or not any mountain lion permit issuance would be biologically warranted during this fiscal note period, the following estimates are provided as an estimate of potential revenue earnings from such a process when it would occur.

A random drawing process involving twenty-five dollar nonrefundable applications would be expected to generate an estimated 1,000 applications, thus some 25,000 dollars could be collected. A permit sold through an auction would be thought to bring \$2,000. A year in which two permits could be issued, one drawing and one auction, an estimated \$27,000 could be earned.

It should be noted that insufficient information currently exists to determine when or if the first permit(s) could be issued. Additionally, the number issued in any given year, or whether or not any permits could be issued in a given year would be dependent upon harvest and population data from previous years once a harvest program were put in place.

**An A bill would be requested** to ensure adequate cash fund authority to begin implementation of the camera trap survey process.