American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
Bill

Principal Author: Midori Yuen

Bill No: 32 Committee: A

Status:

Passed by: ☐ Committee ☐ House ☐ Senate ☐ Governor

Tabled by: ☒ Committee ☐ House ☐ Senate ☐ Governor

Other: _____

Simple Title of Bill: Protecting endangered species.

SENATE BILL

72nd SESSION – **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE** – **2019**

INTRODUCED BY

Midori Yuen

AN ACT

PROTECTING OUR ENDANGERED SOUTHWESTERN FLYCATCHER BY PRESERVING SALTCEDAR

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. - As you may know, Salt Cedar is an invasive species that was brought in from China that is destroying the soil and the life around it. It is extremely difficult to de-root due to the nature of their roots getting tangled. We brought in another invasive species that is known as the Salt Seeder Beetle, in hopes of getting rid of the Salt Cedar. It ended being a bigger problem than solution. What the Salt Cedar does to the soil is make it's PH very acidic, and salty. Not to mention it takes in a lot of water. If the soil

is acidic and salty, other vegetation cannot grow there, not to mention, species of trees such as the Rio Grande Cottonwood that need excessive amounts of water to be able to survive are greatly affected by this pest. What you may not know is The southwestern flycatcher is a New Mexico endangered species. Whom habitat seems to be this invasive species.

SECTION 2. PROVISIONS. - Tearing down and destroying these trees violates the "Endangers Species Act of 1973" which states, "The law requires federal agencies to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service &/or the NOAA Fisheries Service to ensure their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of such species." Meaning, destroying their habitat is in strict violation of it. If this bill is passed, it will save this endangered species from becoming threatened or worse, extinct. Getting this population up could include finding a solution to the Salt Cedar beetle not having any natural predators. Which could keep them from spreading and destroying other types of vegetation and plants. Keep the beetle in a cycle, which could very well control the Salt Cedar itself. No person shall inflict any sort intensive damage on these invasive plants unless of course contacting the Fish and Wildlife Services, stating reasons, location, and in details EXACTLY what you are doing.(as stated previously above) although it might seem that this might conflict with the intensive amount of damage the Salt Cedar causes and the amount of money it costs the United States. I assure you, enacting this, would be doing more good than you'd think originally.

SECTION 3. PENALTY. - If anybody is found in violation, they shall be fined at least $50,000 or one year in prison, or both. Depending on how bad the damage was inflicted.

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION. -

All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are herby repealed.

This act shall become effective 90 days after it's passage and approval by the American Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State Governor or it's otherwise becoming a law.