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## NRSC-3-2024: OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

The Office of Management and Finance working group was created to review the management and finance functions across natural resources management, in collaboration with CPRA management personnel. The working group recommended collaboration between DENR and CPRA to enhance DENR's capabilities to administer the influx of federal grant funds. Further, the working group recommended further investigation to create a workflow which allows CPRA and DENR to collaborate on grant support through the Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) process while not diluting CPRA. The working group otherwise recommended no change to the administrative structure of DENR.

Currently, all administration functions for natural resources management are housed within the Undersecretary's office of DENR. During the 2024 regular session, the Natural Resources Trust Authority (Trust) was created, which is to be housed within the Undersecretary's office. The Trust will be discussed further in the following paragraphs. The creation of the Trust provides additional opportunity and additional workload to the Undersecretary's office. Given the expanded role of the Undersecretary's Office, the NRSC recommends that the position of Undersecretary be changed to Chief Administrative Officer to better reflect the nature of the office.

Further, as referenced in the previous section, the need for strategic planning across natural resources management has become obvious through the DRIVE Initiative. Such planning will also require working across governmental boundaries to encompass the breadth of all natural resources management. The above section regarding the Office of the Secretary considers the utility of housing strategic planning functions within the administrative offices of DENR. If the planning functions are housed within the administrative office, the office will need additional flexibility going forward to perform these necessary functions in addition to its current role.

The functions of planning across agency lines and intergovernmental boundaries creates challenges which are difficult to overcome in a traditional agency structure. The NRSC recommends that further due diligence be executed and reported under EO-13 for the Governor to consider. Given the complexities under the Division of Administration, along with the budgeting process, any proposed administrative and planning functions will require multi-year implementation plan.