

JLARC Receives National 2012 Impact Award

JLARC received an award from the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society (NLPES) for its 2011 report Department of Natural Resources Helicopter Cost and Use. The award recognizes the impact performance audit organizations have on improving government performance and reducing the cost of public services.

In this study, JLARC concluded that the costs for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to operate its own fire suppression helicopter fleet was considerably less than options to contract for the service. JLARC staff determined this by developing a maintenance and operation cost model that compared DNR costs with exclusive use contract costs.

In addition, based on information from JLARC's analysis, DNR reduced the size of its helicopter fleet and eliminated a local leasing arrangement. This resulted in a reduction of annual operating costs of \$400,000 per year and a redirection of fleet resources equivalent to \$1 million in replacement parts.

JLARC's report can be accessed [here](#).