


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE
REVISED FISCAL IMPACT
(replaces fiscal note dated March 15, 2007)

Drafting Number: LLS 07-0313	Date: April 16, 2007
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Gibbs	Bill Status: Senate Local Government
Sen. Fitz-Gerald	Fiscal Analyst: Bill Goosmann (303-866-3561)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PILOT PROGRAM TO DEMONSTRATE COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO FOREST RESTORATION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2007-2008	FY 2008-2009
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures		
Cash Funds		
Perpetual Base Account – Severance Tax Trust Fund	\$1,000,000	\$0
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2007-2008: See the State Appropriations section.		
Local Government Impact: See the Local Government Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

The re-engrossed bill directs the Colorado State Forest Service and the Division of Forestry (Department of Natural Resources; DNR) to solicit proposals for experimental forest restoration projects that protect water supplies. Proposals should be collaborative, community-based, and include cost-share elements. Projects may be located on public or private land, but they must be located in an area with an approved "community wildfire protection plan."* The state forest service is assisted in the proposal selection process by a technical advisory panel of 7-11 members appointed by the DNR executive director. A report on the program must be submitted to the Governor by July 1, 2008, at which time the program is repealed.

* Community wildfire protection plans are part of a process established under the federal "Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003" (P.L. 108-148). The plans identify communities that are at risk of damage from wild fires because of the overgrown condition of adjacent forests, whether on public or private land.

State Expenditures

For FY 2007-08, the Department of Natural Resources is authorized to spend \$1 million on approved grant proposals. Moneys are derived from the Perpetual Base Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund, contingent on the passage of SB 07-122. The state's share on any given project may not exceed 60 percent or \$1 million, and no more than 3 percent of appropriated funds may be used to administer the grant program.

Local Government Impact

Additional wildfire-related resources will become available to those communities located in or near designated community wildfire protection areas identified in approved reforestation program grants.

State Appropriations

Contingent on the passage of SB 07-122, the Department of Natural Resources will require a cash funds appropriation of \$1.0 million from the Perpetual Base Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund for FY 2007-08.

Departments Contacted

Natural Resources