

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
NO FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0690 **Date:** February 9, 2011
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Sonnenberg; Jones **Bill Status:** House Finance
 Sen. Schwartz; White **Fiscal Analyst:** Ron Kirk (303-866-4785)

TITLE: CONCERNING AN EXTENSION OF THE ABILITY TO MAKE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS VIA INCOME TAX TO THE COLORADO HEALTHY RIVERS FUND.

Summary of Legislation

This bill extends the period that state income tax returns will include a voluntary contribution designation benefitting the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund from tax year 2011 through tax year 2020. Money in the fund is used by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) in cooperation with the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to award competitive grants to Colorado residents working toward the restoration and protection of land and natural resources within Colorado watersheds. The bill takes effect August 10, 2011, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2011, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

Background. House Bill 08-1241 changed the name of the Colorado Watershed Protection Fund to the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund beginning tax year 2008 and extended the checkoff program for three tax years through 2010. The Colorado Watershed Protection Fund first appeared on the 2002 income tax form and has received donations for eight years through tax year 2009 (currently the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund). Over the eight-year period, average donations were \$90,064 and the average donation was \$7.45. This checkoff was also effective for the 2010 tax year under current law.

Of 14 income tax checkoffs that appeared on the 2009 tax form, total collections for the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund were \$88,585 for 10,424 returns. Average individual donations were the 11th highest at \$8.50 for tax year 2009. Table 1 provides an eight-year history of donations to the fund.

Table 1. Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund

Tax Years	Number of Returns	Total Donations	Average Donations
2002	14,871	\$98,683	\$6.64
2003	14,012	96,800	6.91
2004	12,761	90,059	7.06
2005	11,971	85,711	7.16
2006	10,601	83,003	7.83
2007	10,515	81,192	7.63
2008	11,611	97,482	8.40
<u>2009</u>	<u>10,424</u>	<u>88,585</u>	<u>8.50</u>
(8-year avg.)	12,096	\$90,064	\$7.45

Assessment

Because this bill extends an existing checkoff, the bill will not affect state revenue or expenditures and is thus assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Departments Contacted

Revenue