


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 12-0925	Date: April 27, 2012
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Baumgardner Sen. Schwartz	Bill Status: House Agriculture
	Fiscal Analyst: Lauren Ris (303-866-3264)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE SPECIES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
State Revenue			
State Transfers or Diversions Transfer from the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund to the Species Conservation Trust Fund (SCTF)		\$2,600,000*	
State Expenditures General Fund Cash Funds Species Conservation Trust Fund	(\$500,000)	\$4,000,000	
FTE Position Change			
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.			
Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013: See State Appropriation section.			
Local Government Impact: None.			

* A reduction in the amount of the transfer is shown as positive.

Summary of Legislation

The bill transfers money from the Operation and Maintenance Account to the Capital Account of the Species Conservation Trust Fund (SCTF) to fund programs submitted by the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources. These programs are intended to conserve native species that are listed as threatened or endangered under state or federal law, are candidate species, or are likely to become candidate species as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The bill also combines the operation and maintenance account and the capital account of the SCTF, and adjusts the existing appropriation for FY 2011-12 to reflect the amount actually required by the department.

Background

The Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund receives 25 percent of severance tax receipts. Current law provides a mechanism for balancing spending from the Operational Account by making reductions to the account's Tier 2 programs when insufficient funds exist to fully

fund the programs and the account's statutory reserve requirement. Tier 2 programs include water-related programs, agriculture-related programs, clean and renewable energy development, soil conservation, the control of invasive species, low-income energy assistance, and the SCTF. The reductions to Tier 2 programs are made on a proportional basis. For example, if the funding for Tier 2 programs needs to be reduced by 10 percent to ensure the Operational Account is balanced, each Tier 2 program's funding level is reduced by 10 percent.

State Transfers

For FY 2012-13, the bill reduces the transfer amount from \$6,600,000 to \$4,000,000 from the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund to the Species Conservation Trust Fund. This amount may be proportionally reduced if insufficient funds exist to balance the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund.

State Expenditures

In FY 2012-13, the bill provides \$4,000,000 from the SCTF to the Department of Natural Resources for the projects summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Species Conservation Trust Fund Project Expenditures Under HB 12-1349	
Project	FY 2012-13
Upper Colorado River	\$500,000
Native Fish Conservation- Capital Projects	1,000,000
Native Terrestrial Wildlife Conservation	715,000
Native Aquatic Wildlife Conservation	720,000
Wildlife Disease Management and Adaptation Landscape-Level Change	565,000
Colorado Natural Areas Program	\$500,000
Total Expenditures	\$4,000,000

Table 2 shows a \$500,000 reduction made to FY 2011-12 appropriations for SCTF projects to reflect the amount actually required by the department.

Table 2. Adjustments to FY 2011-12 Appropriations Under HB 12-1349		
Project	Appropriated	Actual
Platte River Recovery Program	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000
Upper Colorado River Recovery Program	1,000,000	1,000,000
Arkansas Darter Instream Flow Water Rights Lease	500,000	0
Native Grouse Conservation Program	400,000	400,000
Total Expenditures	\$4,500,000	\$4,000,000

State Appropriations

The bill provides the authorization necessary for the projects listed in Table 1. No further appropriations are required.

Departments Contacted

Natural Resources