

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0866	Date: March 11, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Sonnenberg Rep. Vigil	Bill Status: Senate Agriculture Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

BILL TOPIC: CONTINUE FUNDING FOR HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Transfers	\$0	\$0
Cash Funds	(2.1 million)	(2.1 million)
Cash Funds	2.1 million	2.1 million
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None. Funds are continuously appropriated.		

** This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. Transfers and diversions result in no net change to state revenue. Parentheses indicate a decrease in funds.*

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, 5 percent of the previous years' net sales of big game licenses used in the geographic areas represented by local habitat partnership committees are transferred from the Wildlife Cash Fund to the Habitat Partnership Cash Fund in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This transfer is set to repeal July 1, 2015. This bill extends the repeal date to July 1, 2023.

Background

The Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) develops partnerships among landowners, land managers, sportsmen, the public, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to reduce wildlife conflict, particularly conflict associated with forage and fencing and to assist CPW in meeting game management objectives. The nine-member Habitat Partnership Council has oversight over the HPP and allocates money to 19 local habitat partnership committees. HPP funds can be used to leverage cash contributions, in kind services, and labor from CPW partners for HPP projects.

The money in the cash fund is continuously appropriated. The HPP can carry money over into the next year but the balance of the Habitat Partnership Cash Fund cannot exceed the amount received in the beginning of the year. At the end of the fiscal year, if the balance is over the allowable amount, the excess funds must be transferred back to the Wildlife Cash Fund. Table 1 shows the transfers between the two cash funds for the past three fiscal years. Average annual transfers are approximately \$2.1 million.

Table 1. Recent Transfers Between the Wildlife Cash Fund and the Habitat Partnership Cash Fund			
	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14
Transfer from the Wildlife Cash Fund to the Habitat Partnership Cash Fund	\$2,188,543	\$2,105,347	\$2,126,792
Transfer from the Habitat Partnership Cash Fund to the Wildlife Cash Fund	0	125,393	0
Total (Net impact to the Habitat Partnership Cash Fund)	\$2,188,543	\$1,979,954	\$2,126,792

State Revenue

State transfers. This bill continues an annual transfer from the Wildlife Cash Fund to the Habitat Partnership Cash Fund of approximately \$2.1 million beginning in FY 2015-16. The exact amount will depend on the amount of big game license revenue received in HPP areas by the end of the fiscal year.

State Expenditures

This bill continues expenditures of approximately \$2.1 million to fund HPP projects such as habitat improvement and fencing, as well as research, monitoring, and education rather than for other CPW purposes. This represents no net change in expenditures.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources