

## Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note


**STATE  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 15-0837      **Date:** March 19, 2015  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Vigil      **Bill Status:** House Agriculture  
                                     Sen. Sonnenberg      **Fiscal Analyst:** Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

**BILL TOPIC:** SPECIES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND PROJECTS

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary*</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>	<b>FY 2016-2017</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$5.0 million</u></b>	
Cash Funds	5.0 million	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None. See State Appropriations section.		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

**Summary of Legislation**

Current law transfers up to \$5 million from the Operational Fund of the Severance Tax Trust Fund to the Species Conservation Trust Fund (SCTF) on July 1, 2015. This bill authorizes \$5 million from the SCTF to fund programs submitted by the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designed to conserve native species that have been listed as threatened or endangered under state or federal law, or are likely to become candidate species as determined by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Funds become available in FY 2015-16 and remain available for the designated purposes until they are fully expended.

**Background**

The Operational Fund of the Severance Tax Trust Fund receives 25 percent of severance tax receipts. Current law provides a mechanism for balancing spending from the operational fund by making proportional reductions to the fund's Tier 2 programs when insufficient funds exist to fully fund those programs and still meet 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. As of the March 2015 Legislative Council economic forecast, proportional reductions are not anticipated for FY 2015-16, so a transfer of \$5 million to the SCTF is anticipated on July 1, 2015.

**State Expenditures**

For FY 2015-16, the bill authorizes \$5 million from the SCTF to the DNR for the projects summarized in Table 1.

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2015-16</b>
Native Terrestrial Wildlife Conservation	\$1,092,000
Native Aquatic Wildlife Conservation	558,000
Colorado Natural Areas Program	234,500
Colorado Resource Stewardship Program	115,500
Native Species Management, Monitoring, and Propagation	1,000,000
Gunnison River Basin Selenium Management Plan	500,000
Upper Colorado River Basin Nonnative Species Control Program	1,000,000
Colorado River Lease of Water for Instream Flows for Endangered Fish Recovery Purposes	500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

**Effective Date**

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

**State Appropriations**

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

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Natural Resources