

# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Executive Director's Office

Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor

Harris D. Sherman, DNR Executive Director

COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES

Attachment C

## HB 09-1289

### CONCERNING THE SPECIES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND, AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, APPROVING THE SPECIES CONSERVATION ELIGIBILITY LIST

#### Background

The Colorado General Assembly created the Species Conservation Trust Fund ("SCTF") in 1998 through HB 98-1006. This program is designed to provide ongoing annual funding to implement cooperative agreements, recovery programs, and other programs designed to meet Colorado's obligations under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The program also is intended to promote practices designed to conserve species currently listed as threatened or endangered under state law, recover or protect candidate species in order to avoid the need to list those species under the ESA, and improve the scientific understanding governing federal or state species listing and delisting.

Expenditures from the SCTF are derived principally from transfers into the Fund from the Department of Natural Resources Severance Tax Operational Account. However, other sources of funding have been used in previous years to capitalize the Fund. In some years, the Fund balance has been fully spent down to accomplish the goals of the SCTF program, though in most years a balance is carried forward. Approval of a project "eligibility list" by the General Assembly is required each year before expenditures from the Fund can be made.

#### Purpose of HB 09-158

SB 09-1289 is the vehicle by which the General Assembly would approve the FY 2009-10 SCTF project eligibility list for projects totaling \$8.38 million in proposed spending.

#### Bill Sponsors:

Senator Jim Isgar

Representative Kathleen Curry

#### For more information, please contact:

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#### SB 09-1289 would:

- 1) Provide \$4 million towards the State of Colorado's outstanding \$10 million obligation to the Platte River Recovery Program.
- 2) Provide \$1 million towards the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program for the analysis of the effects of selenium contamination on endangered fish and for the acquisition of water for purposes of meeting flow requirements in the 15-mile reach of the Colorado River upstream of Grand Junction.
- 3) Provide \$825,000 for native grouse species habitat restoration, improvement, and mitigation.
- 4) Provide \$711,070 for various initiatives to breed native grouse species and to study and monitor response of native grouse species to habitat improvements and to different grazing regimes.
- 5) Provide \$982,000 for native fish conservation (eastern plains fish species, unlisted Colorado River species, and native cutthroat trout).
- 6) Provide \$500,000 for research related to landowner incentive programs, climate warming, and disease in white tailed prairie dog.
- 7) Provide \$360,000 for management and study of listed species on state parks and natural areas.