

Program, which provides a means for Parks and Wildlife to work with private landowners, local governments, and conservation organizations to protect important fish and wildlife habitat. A habitat stamp is not required to hike or camp on state wildlife areas or state trust lands.

Authorized by Senate Bill 09-235, the Colorado Wildlife Passport was expected to raise funds for habitat protection and the Search and Rescue Cash Fund, but was never implemented.

State Revenue

The Habitat Stamp Program currently collects approximately \$6.6 million in revenue per year, although that revenue stream is scheduled to end December 31, 2013, under current law. This bill continues the program and the associated fees at the current level. Compared to current law, this represents an increase of **\$6.6 million per year** beginning January 1, 2014. A half-year impact of \$3.3 million would occur in FY 2013-14. Fees are credited to the Habitat Stamp Cash Fund.

State Expenditures

This bill continues the Habitat Stamp Program at its current level of expenditures — **\$6.5 million per year**. The bill also continues the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Committee, which currently incurs costs of about **\$2,500 per year**. A half-year impact is shown for FY 2013-14 due to the program's current December 31, 2013, expiration date. Because the program is set to expire under current law, the state expenditures described here represent an increase over current law.

The Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife spends \$6.5 million annually from the Habitat Stamp Cash Fund to acquire property and easements to protect habitats for wildlife and to provide public access to land and water. Funding to support the committee comes from the Parks and Wildlife Game Cash Fund and covers costs for meals and travel reimbursements for members and meeting room facilities.

State Appropriations

For FY 2013-14, Parks and Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resources requires an appropriation of \$3.25 million from the Habitat Stamp Cash Fund and \$1,250 from the Parks and Wildlife Game Cash Fund.

Departments Contacted

Local Affairs

Natural Resources