

CHAPTER 219

NATURAL RESOURCES

SENATE BILL 26-165

BY SENATOR(S) Roberts and Pelton R., Amabile, Ball, Bridges, Carson, Catlin, Cutter, Jodeh, Kipp, Liston, Marchman, Simpson, Coleman;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McCormick and Soper, Bacon, Brown, Caldwell, Duran, Flanell, Froelich, Goldstein, Gonzalez R., Hamrick, Jackson, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Marshall, Nguyen, Paschal, Phillips, Rutinel, Sirota, Smith, Stewart K., Story, Titone, McCluskie.

AN ACT

**CONCERNING MEASURES TO SUPPORT SPECIES CONSERVATION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,
AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE SPECIES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Section 24-33-111 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, creates the species conservation trust fund in the state treasury to fund programs designed to conserve native species that have been listed as threatened or endangered under state or federal law or that are candidate species or are likely to become candidate species, as determined by the United States fish and wildlife service; and

(b) Pursuant to section 24-33-111 (3), Colorado Revised Statutes:

(I) The executive director of the department of natural resources, after consulting with the Colorado water conservation board, the parks and wildlife commission, and the director of the division of parks and wildlife, has prepared and delivered to the general assembly a species conservation eligibility list describing programs and associated costs that are eligible to receive funding from the species conservation trust fund; and

(II) The species conservation eligibility list is subject to modification and adoption through the passage of this Senate Bill 26-165, enacted in 2026.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. Eligibility list - approval. (1) The general assembly deems the recommended expenditures described in the species conservation eligibility list to be in the interest of the people of the state. The money specified in this subsection (1) is available in state fiscal year 2026-27 and remains available for the designated purposes until it is fully expended. Species conservation trust fund money made available for native terrestrial wildlife conservation pursuant to subsection (1)(d) of this section is not available for purposes of importing new wolves for reintroduction into the state for state fiscal year 2026-27. The executive director of the department of natural resources is authorized to obligate and expend five million dollars (\$5,000,000) from the species conservation trust fund created in section 24-33-111 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, for the following activities, programs, and species in the following amounts:

PROGRAM/SPECIES	AMOUNT
(a) Upper Colorado river endangered fish recovery program and San Juan river basin recovery implementation program;	\$2,380,000
(b) Rio Grande native fish protection and habitat improvements;	\$60,000
(c) Selenium management, research, monitoring, evaluation, and control;	\$60,000
(d) Native terrestrial wildlife conservation;	\$1,250,000
(e) Native aquatic wildlife conservation.	\$1,250,000
Total authorization	\$5,000,000

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Approved: May 29, 2026