



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1255

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0797
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Coram; Vigil

Date: February 11, 2016
Bill Status: House Agriculture
Fiscal Analyst: Marc Carey (303-866-4102)

BILL TOPIC: MANAGE FORESTS TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	See State Expenditure section	
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill directs the Colorado state forest service (CFS) to conduct demonstration pilot projects to implement forest management treatments that:

- improve forest health and resilience;
- supply forest products to Colorado businesses; and
- target a Colorado watershed.

The bill requires at least \$200,000 of the \$1 million annually allocated to the CFS for community watershed restoration be used to implement these pilot projects. The CFS in conjunction with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is also required to conduct a study to quantify and document the relationship between the state water plan and the importance of forest management in protecting and managing Colorado's water resources. Study results must be submitted in a report to the House and Senate natural resource committees by January 1, 2017.

The bill also creates within the CFS the 24 member Forest Health Advisory Council to advise the state forester on a broad range of issues, opportunities, and threats to Colorado's forests. Council membership will be appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership and is subject to sunset review in 2021.

State Expenditures

This bill does not increase state expenditures but specifies how \$200,000 of an existing appropriation will be spent.

Department of Higher Education, Colorado State Forest Service. The bill directs the CFS to conduct demonstration pilot projects that improve forest health and resilience. The cost of these pilot projects will be covered within existing CFS appropriations, as specified in the bill. By requiring at least \$200,000 be spent on pilot projects, the bill reduces, by a like amount, the money available for activities under current law, including the administration and award of forest restoration grants and prescribed burning projects.

The bill also requires the CFS to collaborate with the CWCB and prepare a study to document the relationship between the state water plan and forest management. CFS will utilize existing appropriations to contract for the study.

Department of Natural Resources. Conducting the study in coordination with the CFS will result in minimal workload increase for the staff of the CWCB. It is anticipated that this workload increase will be handled within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education Information Technology Natural Resources

Research Note Available

An LCS Research Note for HB16-1255 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.