



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB17-202**

**FISCAL NOTE**

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

**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-1019  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Coram  
Rep. Esgar

**Date:** March 7, 2017  
**Bill Status:** Senate Agriculture  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

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

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2017-2018</b>	<b>FY 2018-2019</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$1.5 million</u></b>	
Cash Funds	1.5 million	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> See State Appropriations section.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the Species Conservation Trust Fund for programs submitted by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that are 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. The funds appropriated are available in FY 2017-18 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, energy efficiency, soil conservation, the control of invasive species, low-income energy assistance, and the Species Conservation Trust Fund. Tier 2 programs were not funded in FY 2016-17 but expenditures for the Species Conservation Trust Fund were made from its fund balance.

Under current law the Species Conservation Trust Fund is authorized to receive \$5.0 million per year through FY 2018-19. In the absence of legislative action in the current legislative session, all current Tier 2 programs will expire at the end of FY 2016-17, in which case the SCTF will receive \$130,000 in FY 2017-18, according to the December 2016 Legislative Council forecast. If all current Tier 2 programs are continued, the SCTF is expected to receive \$119,000. There is also

\$2.0 million in unobligated fund balance in the Species Conservation Trust Fund. The \$1.5 million in proposed spending will utilize both FY 2017-18 Tier 2 revenue as well as the fund balance to finance the proposed projects.

**State Expenditures**

For FY 2017-18, the bill authorizes expenditures of \$1.5 million from the Species Conservation Trust Fund to the DNR for the projects summarized in Table 1.

<b>Table 1. Species Conservation Trust Fund Project Expenditures Under SB17-202</b>	
<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2017-18</b>
Native Terrestrial Wildlife Conservation	\$375,000
Native Aquatic Wildlife Conservation	375,000
Platte River Recovery Implementation Program	600,000
Nonnative Fish Control	150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</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**

Information Technology      Natural Resources

**Research Note Available**

An LCS Research Note for SB17-202 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.