



**COLORADO**

Department of Natural Resources

**DNR SUPPORTS HB19-1259**

**Species Conservation Trust Fund Projects Bill**

This annual DNR department bill appropriates \$3.9 million from the Species Conservation Trust Fund for programs that conserve native species that state or federal law list as threatened or endangered or that are candidate species or are likely to become candidate species as determined by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Examples of projects approved for FY 2019-20 are summarized below.

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife Projects - Total Request: \$1,454,500**

***Native Terrestrial Wildlife Conservation (\$615,500)***

- Compare regional abundance and distribution estimates for golden eagles.
- Research the magnitude and direction in which various forest management activities affect relative snowshoe hare density. Canada lynx rely heavily on snowshoe hare for survival.

***Native Aquatic Wildlife Conservation (\$839,000)***

- Continue work on native cutthroat trout to construct barriers, improve habitat, and reclaim populations by removing non-native competitors and reintroducing native cutthroats.
- Understand the repercussions of bacterial kidney disease in native green back cutthroat trout.
- Bolster eastern plains native fish monitoring to facilitate better species evaluation and conservation planning.

**Colorado Water Conservation Board Projects - Total Request: \$2,145,500**

***Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (\$1,940,000)***

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program is a partnership of Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and the Department of the Interior to provide Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance for existing and new water uses in the South Platte and North Platte River basins. The four target species that benefit from the Program include three endangered species (the whooping crane, the interior least tern, and the pallid sturgeon), and one threatened species (the piping plover).

***Colorado River Basin Native Fish Recovery Programs (\$205,500)***

CWCB actively participates in two recovery programs designed to conserve four endangered fish species within the Upper Colorado River Basin - the humpback chub, razorback sucker, Colorado pikeminnow, and bonytail. The recovery programs implement habitat improvements, support populations with fish hatcheries, and remove non-native fish. In addition to helping recover species, the programs also provide ESA compliance for 2,500 water projects across the Upper Colorado River Basin.

**Department-Wide Projects - Total Request: \$300,000**

***Federal Endangered Species Act Litigation Program (\$300,000)***

Continue support for an ESA attorney to develop legal and policy strategies for DNR to protect the interests of the state regarding species protection efforts.