



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB16-1458**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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

<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 16-1232	<b>Date:</b> September 9, 2016
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Vigil; Coram	<b>Bill Status:</b> Signed into Law
Sen. Sonnenberg; Garcia	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

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

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$3.0 million</u></b>	
Cash Funds	3.0 million	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> See State Appropriations section.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill appropriates \$3.0 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 2016-17 and remain available for the designated purposes until they are fully expended.

**Background**

The Operational Fund of the Severance Tax Trust Fund (operational 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.

Under current law the Species Conservation Trust Fund is authorized to receive \$5.0 million per year through FY 2018-19. Because of the decline in severance tax revenues projected in the June 2016 Legislative Council economic forecast and the \$10 million hold under SB16-218 to help pay severance tax refunds, Tier 2 programs are not projected to be funded in FY 2016-17. However, the Species Conservation Trust Fund currently has \$3.45 million in unobligated fund balance available to help finance some projects.

**State Expenditures**

For FY 2016-17, the bill authorizes expenditures of \$3.0 million from the Species Conservation Trust Fund to the DNR for the projects summarized in Table 1. The third column shows the expected adjusted expenditures based on the June 2016 Legislative Council economic forecast and \$10 million hold on the operational account.

<b>Table 1. Species Conservation Trust Fund Project Expenditures</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2016-17 HB16-1458</b>	<b>FY 2016-17 Adjusted</b>
Native Terrestrial Wildlife Conservation	\$778,135	\$277,985
Native Aquatic Wildlife Conservation	321,865	172,015
Native Species Management, Monitoring, and Propagation	700,000	450,000
Gunnison River Basin Selenium Management Plan	250,000	100,000
Upper Colorado River Recovery Program	550,000	100,000
Grand Valley Power Plan Repair and Improvement	400,000	400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>

**Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 6, 2016.

**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**

Natural Resources