



**Legislative  
Council Staff**

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**FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 19-0979	<b>Date:</b>	March 29, 2019
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. Roberts; Pelton Sen. Donovan	<b>Bill Status:</b>	House Rural Affairs
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**Bill Topic:** SPECIES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND PROJECTS

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill authorizes expenditures for the Department of Natural Resources for a designated list of projects to conserve native species. It authorizes transfers from multiple cash funds to the Species Conservation Trust Fund to support this work.

**Appropriation Summary:** For FY 2019-20, the bill authorizes the DNR to spend \$3.9 million. See State Appropriations section.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 19-1259**

		<b>FY 2019-20</b>	<b>FY 2020-21</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>	Cash Funds	\$3,900,000	-
<b>Transfers</b>	Severance Tax Operational Fund	(\$3,600,332)	(\$2,739,753)
	CWCB Construction Fund	(\$600,000)	-
	Species Conservation Trust Fund	\$4,200,332	\$2,739,753
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TABOR Refund</b>		-	-

## Summary of Legislation

This bill appropriates \$3.9 million from the Species Conservation Trust Fund (SCTF) for programs submitted by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that are designed to conserve native species that are 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 2019-20, and remain available for the designated purposes until they are fully spent.

The bill transfers \$600,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Construction Fund to the SCTF. The bill authorizes annual transfers of up to \$5.0 million from the Severance Tax Operational Fund to the SCTF from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24.

## Background

Senate Bill 19-016 changes the timing and budgeting of severance tax revenue to several grant programs administered by the DNR. The bill does not change the funding amount for individual programs over time, but delays the transfers until severance taxes have been collected for the previous fiscal year. That bill formally names these grant programs Natural Resource and Energy Grant Programs. This bill has passed both chambers of the legislature and will become law upon signature of the governor.

## State Transfers

The bill transfers about \$4.2 million in FY 2019-20, and \$2.7 million in FY 2020-21, to the SCTF from multiple sources.

**CWCB Construction Fund.** On July 1, 2019, the bill transfers \$600,000 from the CWCB Construction Fund to the SCTF.

**Severance Tax Operational Fund.** The bill authorizes annual transfers of up to \$5.0 million from the Severance Tax Operational Fund to the SCTF from FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24. Pursuant to SB 19-016, if there is insufficient revenue in the Operational Fund to fully fund all authorized transfers to Natural Resource and Energy Grant Programs, the transfers shall be proportionally reduced. Based on the March 2019 LCS forecast, these transfers are expected to be about \$3.6 million in FY 2019-20 and \$2.7 million in FY 2020-21, rather than the \$5.0 million authorized. If SB 19-016 does not become law, the amounts transferred will be different; these amounts are not estimated.

## State Expenditures

For FY 2019-20, the bill authorizes expenditures of \$3.9 million from the SCTF for the projects summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2**  
**Species Conservation Trust Fund Project Expenditures**

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2019-20</b>
Native Terrestrial Wildlife Conservation	\$615,500
Native Aquatic Wildlife Conservation	\$839,000
Platte River Recovery Implementation Program	\$1,940,000
Colorado River Basin Native Fish Recovery Program	\$205,500
Federal Endangered Species Act Litigation Program	\$300,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$3,900,000</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 2. No further appropriations are required.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Natural Resources