



SB22-158

LONG TITLE: Concerning support for species conservation trust fund projects, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation

SHORT TITLE: Species Conservation Trust Fund Projects

COMMITTEES: Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee

SPONSORS: Senator Donovan/Representatives McCormick and Will

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To appropriate money for the species conservation program.

PROPONENTS OF THE BILL: Dept. of Natural Resources

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Water developers and others who need federal permits that could be impacted by threatened or endangered species.

BACKGROUND: The native Species Conservation Trust Fund (SCTF) was created in 1998, pursuant to HB 98-1006 (C.R.S. 24-33-111). After its initial creation, the General Assembly expanded the SCTF to cover studies and programs dedicated to recovering species listed as threatened and endangered under state law; recovering and protecting federal candidate species; conducting scientific studies related to the listing or delisting of any species; and evaluating genetic, habitat and declining species baseline data. Every year, the Department of Natural Resources coordinates with CWCB and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to identify programs and projects designed to meet the goals of the SCTF, and makes recommendations to the General Assembly regarding appropriations for those programs.

Is this bill necessary this year? This is an ongoing program that must be appropriated annually depending on available funding.

How does the bill change current law? The amount changes from year to year as does the allocation to various species programs. Funding under this bill is allocated as follows:

\$770,000 for native terrestrial wildlife conservation
\$2,230,000 for native aquatic wildlife conservation
\$1,900,000 for a Platte River recovery implementation program
\$800,000 for an upper Colorado river endangered fish recovery program and San Juan River basin recovery implementation program
\$250,000 for a 15-mile reach of Ruedi reservoir releases
\$50,000 for selenium management, research, monitoring, evaluation, and control

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No.

How is the bill implemented? It appears to be self-executing.

Practical Considerations: Funding depends on available revenues. Historically funding has come from the severance tax.

Fiscal Impact: \$6 million.

DRAFT