



HB22-1379

SHORT TITLE: Wildfire Prevention Watershed Restoration Funding

LONG TITLE: Concerning transfers from the economic recovery and relief cash fund to provide additional funding for the management of certain natural resources, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

SPONSORS: Representatives McCormick and Catlin/Senators Donovan and Simpson

COMMITTEES: House Agriculture, Livestock & Water Committee and House Appropriations Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To use federal dollars to fund wildfire mitigation and recovery

PROPONENTS OF THE BILL: Advocates of mitigating wildfire risk and restoring watersheds after wildfires

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Water providers and users, forest managers

Is the Bill necessary this year? Yes. In addition to the need to address wildfire mitigation and recovery, the state has and will receive federal dollars that must be spent in designated timeframes.

How does the bill change current law? It transfers and appropriates money to be spent for specific purposes.

How is the bill implemented? The bill directs the Treasurer to transfer money from the Economic Relief and Cash Recovery Fund (established by the legislature) for the following purposes:

- \$3.0 million to the Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Fund in the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) to support wildfire risk mitigation and watershed resilience;
- \$2.0 million to the Wildfire Mitigation Capacity Development Fund in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for wildfire mitigation and fuel reduction projects; and
- \$15.0 million to the Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund in the DNR for watershed restoration and flood mitigation project grants, administering the grant program, and to provide grants and assistance in applying for grants to local governments. The \$15 million is further broken down into smaller amounts for specific purposes.

Does the bill affect prior appropriations? No

Practical Considerations: If there are deadlines for spending the federal dollars, will the recipient agencies be able move quickly enough?

Fiscal Impact: \$20 million from federal funding