



COLORADO  
WATER CONGRESS  
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## **SB21-136**

**SHORT TITLE:** Sunset Forest Health Advisory Council

**LONG TITLE:** Concerning the continuation of the forest health advisory council, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendation contained in the 2020 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies to continue the advisory council to continue it for five years.

**COMMITTEES:** Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

**SPONSORS:** Sens. Ginal and Coram

**PURPOSE OF THE BILL:** To continue the existence of the Forest Health Advisory Council for five years to implement the recommendations of the Sunset Report. The Council was formed to advise the State Forester on a broad range of issues.

**PROPONENTS OF THE BILL:** Forest Health Advisory Council, Department of Regulatory Agencies

**POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS:** Forest health advocates, water community, public safety entities

**BACKGROUND:** The Forest Health Advisory Council (FHAC) was established in 2016 to create a collaborative forum to advise the state forester. The FHAC is housed in the Colorado State Forest Service (Forest Service) within Colorado State University. The FHAC consists of 24 members, including eight members appointed by the Governor:

- One member who is the state forester,
- One member who is a senior-level policy advisor on water or natural resources from the executive branch,
- Two members who represent environmental organizations,
- Two members who represent the wood products industry,
- One member who represents a wildlife organization, and
- One member who is a scientist.

The Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives appoints four of the members:

- One county commissioner selected from a list provided by Colorado Counties, Inc.,
- One county commissioner from the Western Slope selected from a list provided by Colorado Counties, Inc., and
- Two employees of a public utility that owns or operates transmission facilities.

The minority leader of the Colorado House of Representatives appoints four of the Members:

- One member who owns a ranch,
- One member who is a fire chief,

- One member who represents a tribe with a reservation in Colorado, and
- One member who represents an insurance company.

The President of the Colorado Senate appoints four members:

- Two members who represent municipal drinking water facilities,
- One member who represents an irrigation water supplier, and
- One member who represents a conservation organization.

The minority leader of the Colorado Senate appoints four members:

- One member who represents an economic development organization,
- One member who represents a sportsman organization,
- One member who represents a motorized recreation advocacy organization, and
- One member who represents a non-motorized recreation advocacy organization.

Members serve five-year terms. On or after September 1, 2021, members will serve four-year terms.

**Is this bill necessary this year?** Yes. Unless the sunset (repeal) date is changed, the Council will cease to exist.

**How does the bill change current law?** The repeal date is extended by five years, and members will serve four-year terms, rather than five.

**Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system?** No.

**How is the bill implemented?** The Forest Health Advisory Council will continue operating as it currently does until the next Sunset Review.

**Practical considerations:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact statement. The FHAC costs are paid for by the Forest Service and cover the cost of meeting facilitation, mediation and travel expenses for Forest Service staff. Members are not paid a per diem allowance and their expenses to attend meetings are not covered by the state. The Forest Service spent approximately \$29,295 in fiscal year 18-19 and \$15,441 in fiscal year 19-20 to pay for FHAC meeting expenses.