

**-Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0973.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

SENATE BILL 26-165

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts and Pelton R., Amabile, Ball, Bridges, Catlin, Coleman, Cutter, Jodeh, Kipp, Marchman, Simpson

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCormick and Soper,

Senate Committees

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Appropriations

House Committees

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO SUPPORT SPECIES CONSERVATION, AND, IN**
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION**
103 **FROM THE SPECIES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

For state fiscal year 2026-27, the bill appropriates \$5,000,000 from the species conservation trust fund in the state treasury for various wildlife conservation programs directed at conserving candidate species or species that are likely to become candidate species, as determined by the United States fish and wildlife service. The executive director of the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
May 7, 2026

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
May 1, 2026

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 30, 2026

Colorado department of natural resources, after consulting with the Colorado water conservation board, the parks and wildlife commission, and the director of the division of parks and wildlife, has submitted to the general assembly a list of programs and associated costs that are eligible to receive funding from the species conservation trust fund as follows:

- \$2,380,000 for the upper Colorado river endangered fish recovery program and San Juan river basin recovery implementation program;
- \$60,000 for Rio Grande native fish protection and habitat improvements;
- \$60,000 for selenium management, research, monitoring, evaluation, and control;
- \$1,250,000 for native terrestrial wildlife conservation; and
- \$1,250,000 for native aquatic wildlife conservation.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Section 24-33-111 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, creates the
5 species conservation trust fund in the state treasury to fund programs
6 designed to conserve native species that have been listed as threatened or
7 endangered under state or federal law or that are candidate species or are
8 likely to become candidate species, as determined by the United States
9 fish and wildlife service; and

10 (b) Pursuant to section 24-33-111 (3), Colorado Revised Statutes:

11 (I) The executive director of the department of natural resources,
12 after consulting with the Colorado water conservation board, the parks
13 and wildlife commission, and the director of the division of parks and
14 wildlife, has prepared and delivered to the general assembly a species
15 conservation eligibility list describing programs and associated costs that
16 are eligible to receive funding from the species conservation trust fund;
17 and

1 (II) The species conservation eligibility list is subject to
2 modification and adoption through the passage of this Senate Bill 26-165,
3 enacted in 2026.

4 **SECTION 2. Eligibility list - approval.** (1) The general
5 assembly deems the recommended expenditures described in the species
6 conservation eligibility list to be in the interest of the people of the state.
7 The money specified in this subsection (1) is available in state fiscal year
8 2026-27 and remains available for the designated purposes until it is fully
9 expended. Species conservation trust fund money made available for
10 native terrestrial wildlife conservation pursuant to subsection (1)(d) of
11 this section is not available for purposes of importing new wolves for
12 reintroduction into the state for state fiscal year 2026-27. The executive
13 director of the department of natural resources is authorized to obligate
14 and expend five million dollars (\$5,000,000) from the species
15 conservation trust fund created in section 24-33-111 (2), Colorado
16 Revised Statutes, for the following activities, programs, and species in the
17 following amounts:

18	PROGRAM/SPECIES	AMOUNT
19	(a) Upper Colorado river	
20	endangered fish recovery	
21	program and San Juan river basin	
22	recovery implementation program;	\$2,380,000
23	(b) Rio Grande native fish	
24	protection and habitat improvements;	\$60,000
25	(c) Selenium management, research,	
26	monitoring, evaluation,	
27	and control;	\$60,000

1	(d) Native terrestrial	
2	wildlife conservation;	\$1,250,000
3	(e) Native aquatic	
4	wildlife conservation.	\$1,250,000
5	Total authorization	\$5,000,000

6 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
7 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
9 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
10 institutions.