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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 22-0231 Date: February 2, 2022
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Will; Roberts Bill Status: House Agriculture
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Bill Topic: HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:
State Revenue (checkbox)
State Expenditure (checkbox checked)
State Transfer (checkbox checked)
TABOR Refund (checkbox)
Local Government (checkbox)
Statutory Public Entity (checkbox)

The bill modifies the Habitat Partnership Program in Colorado Parks and Wildlife and removes the repeal date for program funding, continuing state cash fund transfers and expenditures indefinitely beginning with FY 2023-24.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 22-1072

Table with 3 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2022-23, and Out Year FY 2023-24. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (Cash Funds), Transfers (Cash Funds), and Net Transfer.

Other Budget Impacts

## Summary of Legislation

The bill modifies the Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) in Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Notably, the bill allows the Habitat Partnership Council (the council) to allocate the annual budget of local habitat partnership committees (local committees) and submit local budgets for approval by the CPW director. The council may also spend money as necessary in areas not covered by a local committee. The bill allows the CPW director to independently appoint members of the council without approval of the CPW Commission. The director may also set terms for local committee membership.

Under current law, five percent of the net sales of big game licenses used in the geographic areas represented by local committees is transferred from the Wildlife Cash Fund to the Habitat Partnership Cash Fund to fund the program. This funding repeals July 1, 2023. The bill extends program funding indefinitely beginning FY 2023-24, and allows CPW to retain all encumbered funds in the HPP cash fund at the end of each fiscal year. Finally, the bill exempts the HPP from the state procurement code.

## Background

The Habitat Partnership Program works with local communities to develop partnerships to meet game management objectives and reduce conflicts with big game species, particularly related to forage and fence issues. Each local committee has a 10 year CPW Commission approved management plan. In the past five fiscal years, the Habitat Partnership Cash Fund received about \$2.5 million annually in cash fund transfers from the sale of big game hunting licenses to fund the program. The CPW matches expenditures with annual program revenue, and any unexpended funds at year end revert to the original cash fund.

## State Transfers

Starting in FY 2023-24, the bill continues annual transfers of big game license fee revenue from the Wildlife Cash Fund to the Habitat Partnership Program Cash Fund, estimated at about \$2.5 million each year.

## State Expenditures

Starting in FY 2023-24, the bill continues program expenditures by approximately \$2.5 million annually. Additionally, the division will now retain up to \$500,000 in encumbered funds in the HPP cash fund at the end of each fiscal year, rather than reverting those committed funds to the Wildlife Cash Fund. The CPW is a state enterprise and funding in the HPP cash fund is continuously appropriated.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Information Technology

Natural Resources

Personnel