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Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 24-0427 Date: June 3, 2024
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Story; Velasco Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: EXTEND OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION

Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires the Colorado State Forest Service to continue its enhanced wildfire awareness outreach campaign through 2027. It increases state and local expenditures in FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$40,000 from the General Fund to the Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Fund for use by the Colorado State Forest Service.

Fiscal Note Status: This final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 24-1024

Table with 4 columns: Category, Sub-category, Budget Year FY 2024-25, Out Year FY 2025-26. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (Cash Funds, Total Expenditures), Transfers (General Fund, Cash Funds, Net Transfer), and Other Budget Impacts (General Fund Reserve).

1 The transfer under this bill is made via an appropriation from the General Fund.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) in the Department of Higher Education to continue its enhanced wildfire awareness outreach campaign through FY 2026-27, as well as other outreach efforts to increase awareness of wildfire risk mitigation by residents in the wildland-urban interface. The bill extends the requirement that the state forester report annually on outreach efforts to the General Assembly. Finally, the bill requires that the General Assembly appropriate \$40,000 in FY 2024-25 to the Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Fund for ongoing wildfire awareness campaigns and outreach efforts.

Background

[Senate Bill 22-007](#) required the CSFS to convene a working group and implement an enhanced wildfire awareness month outreach campaign in 2023 and 2024. It transferred \$800,000 from the General Fund to the Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Fund to implement the campaign.

State Transfers

For FY 2024-25, the bill transfers \$40,000 from the General Fund to the Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Fund. This transfer occurs via an appropriation included in the bill. It is assumed any future transfers will also be made via appropriations from the General Fund, as determined by the General Assembly through the annual budget process or future legislation.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures by \$40,000 in FY 2024-25, paid from the Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Fund. The CSFS will use the appropriated funds over the next three fiscal years for the outreach campaign and distribution of outreach materials, including printing costs, event fees, travel, and website maintenance. The CSFS will also hire hourly student interns to assist in the wildfire awareness month campaign. The Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Fund is continuously appropriated to the CSFS and no additional appropriation from the fund is required.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

Local Government

Local governments and special entities that participate in the outreach campaign or dissemination of outreach materials may have increased workloads and costs.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 20, 2024, and takes effect on August 7, 2024, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires and includes a General Fund appropriation of \$40,000 to the Healthy Forests and Vibrant Communities Fund.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Forest Service	Natural Resources
Public Safety		

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit: leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes.