

Joint Budget Committee Staff FY 2025-26 Budget Briefing Summary

Natural Resources – Part 2 of 2

The divisions included in this summary are the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, the Energy and Carbon Management Commission, and the State Board of Land Commissioners.

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for regulating, protecting, and enhancing Colorado’s natural resources for the use and enjoyment of the State’s present and future residents and visitors. The Department’s FY 2024-25 appropriation represents approximately 1.1 percent of statewide operating appropriations and 0.3 percent of statewide General Fund appropriations.

Summary of Request

Department of Natural Resources (Div. of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, Energy and Carbon Management Commission, State Board of Land Commissioners)

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
FY 2024-25 Appropriation						
HB24-1430 (Long Bill)	\$47,538,351	\$0	\$43,483,129	\$225,000	\$3,830,222	313.0
Other Legislation	274,617	0	274,617	0	0	2.8
Total	\$47,812,968	\$0	\$43,757,746	\$225,000	\$3,830,222	315.8
FY 2025-26 Requested Appropriation						
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	\$47,812,968	\$0	\$43,757,746	\$225,000	\$3,830,222	315.8
R5 Implement IT product owners	233,503	0	233,503	0	0	1.8
R9 SLB working lands internship program	164,818	0	164,818	0	0	0.0
Centrally appropriated line items	1,096,882	0	1,005,054	0	91,828	0.0
Annualize prior year legislation	63,430	0	63,430	0	0	2.1
Indirect cost assessment	60,794	0	97,390	0	-36,596	0.0
Annualize prior year budget actions	-4,624	0	-4,624	0	0	0.4
Total	\$49,427,771	\$0	\$45,317,317	\$225,000	\$3,885,454	320.1
Increase/-Decrease	\$1,614,803	\$0	\$1,559,571	\$0	\$55,232	4.3
Percentage Change	3.4%	n/a	3.6%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%

R5 Implement IT product owners: In the divisions discussed in this document, the request includes \$233,503 cash funds from various cash funds with affected IT systems, and 1.8 FTE to hire two IT product owners. These staff would provide strategic oversight of IT systems and the Department’s website. The discussion and recommendation for this request will be included in the discussion of the Executive Director’s Office.

R9 SLB working lands internship program: In the divisions discussed in this document, the request includes \$164,818 cash funds in FY 2025-26 and ongoing for three seasonal interns. The total requested amount in SLB and the EDO is \$189,812 cash funds. The Land Board hopes to improve land stewardship and create a talent pipeline by hiring seasonal interns to learn how to manage the land. The out-year cost of this request is \$202,112 cash funds.

Centrally appropriated line items: The request includes a net increase of \$1.1 million total funds, including \$1.0 million cash funds for centrally appropriated line items, summarized in the table below.

Centrally appropriated line items						
Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
Salary survey	\$895,866	\$0	\$804,038	\$0	\$91,828	0.0
Step Plan	201,016	0	201,016	0	0	0.0
Total	\$1,096,882	\$0	\$1,005,054	\$0	\$91,828	0.0

Annualize prior year legislation: The request includes a net increase of \$63,430 cash funds and 2.1 FTE to reflect the FY 2024-25 impact of bills passed in previous sessions, summarized in the following table.

Annualize prior year legislation						
Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
SB 23-016 GHG reduction	\$171,160	\$0	\$171,160	\$0	\$0	2.4
SB 24-212 Local gov renewable energy projects	15,535	0	15,535	0	0	0.2
SB 23-285 Energy carbon mgmt	-105,185	0	-105,185	0	0	-0.5
SB 24-229 Ozone mitigation	-12,480	0	-12,480	0	0	0.0
HB 23-1069 Study biochar	-5,600	0	-5,600	0	0	0.0
Total	\$63,430	\$0	\$63,430	\$0	\$0	2.1

Indirect cost assessment: The request includes net adjustments to indirect costs across all divisions.

Annualize prior year budget actions: The request includes a net decrease of \$4,624 cash funds for the out-year cost of prior year budget actions.

Annualize prior year budget actions						
Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
FY24-25 R1 SLB biodiversity program	-\$3,862	\$0	-\$3,862	\$0	\$0	0.3
FY24-25 R13 SLB outdoor rec leasing	-762	0	-762	0	0	0.1
Total	-\$4,624	\$0	-\$4,624	\$0	\$0	0.4

Issues Presented

This is a summary of the briefing issues presented to the Joint Budget Committee by their dedicated non-partisan staff.

Budget Reduction Options: The divisions discussed in this briefing do not receive and have not requested General Fund. There are no General Fund reduction options. Staff has identified one cash fund transfer of \$5.0 million to enhance General Fund revenue.

R-10 Refinance Severance Tax Operational Fund: This issue brief describes the proposed modifications to severance tax distribution, Severance Tax Operational Fund reserve requirements, and Severance Tax Operational Fund core and discretionary program appropriation obligations.

For More Information

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To read the entire briefing: Go to <http://leg.colorado.gov/content/budget/budget-documents> to use the budget document search tool. Select this department's name under *Department/Topic*, "Briefing" under *Type*, and select a *Start date* and *End date* to show documents released in November and December of 2024.