

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Capital Construction Request

Natural Resources Property Acquisition and Improvements

PROGRAM PLAN STATUS

2020-041

Approved Program Plan

Date Approved:

PRIORITY NUMBERS

Prioritized By	Priority	
CPW	1 of 2	
OSPB	4 of 8	Recommended for funding from cash sources.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS AND REQUEST INFORMATION

Fund Source	Prior Approp.	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Future Requests	Total Costs
CF	\$22,000,000	\$11,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$33,000,000
Total	\$22,000,000	\$11,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$33,000,000

ITEMIZED COST INFORMATION

Cost Item	Prior Approp.	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Future Requests	Total Cost
Land Acquisition	\$22,000,000	\$11,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$33,000,000
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contingency	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$22,000,000	\$11,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$33,000,000

PROJECT STATUS

This is an ongoing request. From FY 2010-11 to FY 2017-18, cash funds spending authority was granted separately for wildlife and state park maintenance projects. Cash funds spending authority was not approved by the committee for FY 2018-19. Beginning with FY 2019-20, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in the Department of Natural Resources is requesting cash funds spending authority for both wildlife and state park projects as a single line item. Because CPW merged its wildlife and state parks divisions in 2011, it says combining the requests better reflects the integrated nature of CPW. Also beginning with its FY 2019-20 request, and in accordance with the recommendations from a 2017 state audit, CPW no longer seeks cash funds spending authority for capital construction projects funded through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) or lottery funds. Instead, CPW submits an annual memorandum summarizing projects funded through these sources. This year's memo is attached.

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Capital Construction Request

Natural Resources

Property Acquisition and Improvements

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / SCOPE OF WORK

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), within the Department of Natural Resources, is requesting cash funds spending authority to acquire interests in real property through a competitive bidding process. The purpose of the ongoing request is to protect, preserve, enhance, and manage wildlife and the environment for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of Colorado and its visitors. In addition to protecting critical wildlife habitat for game species, CPW's efforts include protecting the habitat of species of concern, preserving wildlife diversity, and acquiring public access for wildlife-related recreation. The request also allows CPW to option land and water in order to hold property until it can be acquired through the statutorily authorized process or through a separate bill. In addition to acquiring water real estate, CPW acquires water resources in non-real property transactions to maintain water supplies, such as purchasing water, trading and leasing water or storage space, developing water agreements, and adjudicating water rights.

Under the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program, CPW invites property owners to submit proposals through a request for proposals (RFP) process to convey property to CPW. CPW identifies the locations and types of habitat land in which it is interested. Proposals are then reviewed and evaluated by CPW. Proposals are also reviewed by the Habitat Stamp Committee if these proposals involve the use of Habitat Stamp funds. The Parks and Wildlife Commission reviews the proposals, decides which proposals should be pursued, and authorizes CPW to proceed to negotiate a purchase and sale agreement. Before entering into a contract for purchases costing more than \$100,000 or exceeding 25 years in duration, the Parks and Wildlife Commission is statutorily required to present the proposal to the Capital Development Committee (CDC) for its review and comment. The Parks and Wildlife Commission may not complete the transaction without considering the recommendations of the CDC, as long as the CDC comments within 30 days of receiving the proposal. Third-party easements are not reviewed by the CDC.

Request to waive six-month encumbrance deadline. This project includes a request to waive the six-month encumbrance deadline. CPW explains that the RFP process and prioritization take several months to generate a project list that is presented to the Parks and Wildlife Commission in November of each year. Subsequently, the due diligence and negotiations with landowners can take six months to over a year. This waiver is required for fee title acquisitions only.

Cost assumption. The cost assumption is based on available fund balance in the Wildlife Cash Fund that is directly attributable to the Habitat Stamp Program. The project is not required to meet the Art in Public Places or High Performance Certification Program requirements.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

CPW says changes in Colorado's demographics and population growth, with associated impacts caused by development, have and will continue to present the division with challenges in managing wildlife and wildlife habitats. Energy exploration and production have added to these challenges. Protecting, preserving, enhancing, and managing wildlife and their environment is state policy. CPW says land and water acquisitions play an important role in protecting and maintaining the habitat and population of a variety of Colorado's game and non-game species. It also says that wildlife-related recreation is an important part of Colorado's tourism economy. Specific goals associated with this request include:

- minimizing listings under the federal Endangered Species Act;
- ensuring that game species meet specific population targets; and
- ensuring Colorado hunting and fishing opportunities remain attractive to both resident and non-resident hunters and anglers.

CPW acquires water resources to support wildlife populations, wildlife recreation, and wildlife-related water uses, such as habitat irrigation, fish production at hatcheries, and enabling fishing opportunities in reservoirs.

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Capital Construction Request

Natural Resources Property Acquisition and Improvements

PROGRAM INFORMATION

CPW manages over 350 state wildlife areas (SWA) and 42 state parks. Acquisitions are prioritized based on habitat needs and available funding. During FY 2019-20, the CDC recommended support for the following CPW property transactions:

- Crazy French Ranch Fee Title Acquisition;
- Neiley-Maniscalchi Sam Caudill SWA Fee Title Acquisition;
- Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation Gunnison SWA Fee Title Acquisition;
- Hale South River Ranch Conservation and Perpetual Access Easements;
- Rio Blanco Lake SWA/White River City Improvements, LLC Fee Title Exchange; and
- Dome Rock SWA Campbell Inholding Fee Title Acquisition.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

	Start Date	Completion Date
Design	July 2021	
Construction		
Equipment		
Occupancy		

SOURCE OF CASH FUNDS

The source of cash funds for the project is the Wildlife Cash Fund, created in Section 33-1-112 (1)(a), C.R.S. Revenues are generated for the fund from wildlife hunting and fishing license fees and various other sources. Habitat stamp sales revenue is also deposited in the fund and is the primary source of funding for land and water acquisitions. Anyone aged 18 to 64 must buy a habitat stamp in order to purchase a hunting or fishing license.

OPERATING BUDGET

This project has no impact on state operating costs.

STAFF QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

None.

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Capital Construction Request

Natural Resources
Infrastructure and Real Property Maintenance

PROGRAM PLAN STATUS

2020-040

Approved Program Plan

Date Approved:

PRIORITY NUMBERS

Prioritized By	Priority	
CPW	2 of 2	
OSPB	5 of 8	Recommended for funding from cash sources.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS AND REQUEST INFORMATION

Fund Source	Prior Approp.	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Future Requests	Total Costs
CF	\$11,427,690	\$18,540,500	\$0	\$0	\$29,968,190
HUTF	\$600,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$900,000
Total	\$12,027,690	\$18,840,500	\$0	\$0	\$30,868,190

ITEMIZED COST INFORMATION

Cost Item	Prior Approp.	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Future Requests	Total Cost
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
Professional Services	\$200,000	\$3,565,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,765,000
Construction	\$8,588,690	\$12,566,500	\$0	\$0	\$21,155,190
Equipment	\$3,239,000	\$2,139,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,378,000
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contingency	\$0	\$510,000	\$0	\$0	\$510,000
Total	\$12,027,690	\$18,840,500	\$0	\$0	\$30,868,190

PROJECT STATUS

This is an ongoing request. From FY 2010-11 to FY 2018-19, cash funds spending authority was granted separately for wildlife and state park maintenance projects. Beginning with FY 2019-20, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in the Department of Natural Resources has requested cash funds spending authority for both wildlife and state park projects as a single line item. Because CPW merged its wildlife and state parks divisions in 2011, it says combining the requests better reflects the integrated nature of CPW. Also beginning with its FY 2019-20 request, and in accordance with the recommendations from a 2017 state audit, CPW no longer seeks cash funds spending authority for capital construction projects funded through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) or lottery funds. Instead, CPW submits an annual memorandum summarizing projects funded through these sources. This year's memo is attached.

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Capital Construction Request

Natural Resources

Infrastructure and Real Property Maintenance

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / SCOPE OF WORK

CPW is requesting cash funds spending authority to rehabilitate and improve infrastructure and facilities at several state wildlife areas (SWAs), state fishing units (SFUs), and a state administrative area. This project includes maintenance, enhancement, or replacement of a variety of existing physical assets, including:

- building a central training center in Denver for district wildlife and park manager trainees (\$3,157,000);
- replacing fencing and a gate at the 6060 Broadway facility (\$361,000);
- final design on the Alberta Park Dam (\$601,000);
- constructing storage and a shop at the Andrick Ponds State Wildlife Area (SWA) (\$252,000);
- installing new vault toilets at various SWAs in Area 12 (\$148,000);
- replacing the parking lot at the Area 18 office (\$217,000);
- replacing a maintenance tractor and attachments at Banner Lakes SWA (\$201,000);
- constructing a new shop at Bel Aire SWA (\$181,000);
- repairing a water line at the Bellvue-Watson Fish Hatchery (\$662,000);
- refurbishing habitat at Bosque del Oso SWA (\$662,000);
- purchasing habitat maintenance heavy machinery for Bosque del Oso SWA (\$126,000);
- replacing vault toilets at Cherokee State Park SWA (\$204,000);
- the CPW equipment program (\$1,000,000);
- CPW shooting range construction and maintenance (\$1,000,000);
- replacing the warehouse and shop in Craig (\$698,000);
- installing a liquid oxygen system at the Crystal River Hatchery (\$241,000);
- constructing a new shop at the Frisco Creek Wildlife Facility (\$601,000);
- modernizing hatcheries (\$782,000);
- enclosing ponds at the John W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (\$100,500);
- constructing a well at the John W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (\$253,000);
- improving roads at the Lake Deweese SWA (\$181,000);
- constructing a new shop at the Lamar Service Center (\$261,000);
- demolishing and rebuilding residences at Miller Ranch SWA (\$650,000);
- refurbishing a well at the Mount Shavano Fish Hatchery (\$1,202,000);
- replacing plumbing at the Pitkin Fish Hatchery (\$127,000);
- improving roads at the Pueblo Reservoir SWA (\$451,000);
- purchasing a road grader for the Pueblo Reservoir SWA (\$150,000);
- constructing a machinery shed and shop at Radium SWA (\$289,000);
- purchasing heavy equipment for the Southwest Region (\$475,000);
- purchasing farming equipment for Tamarack SWA (\$187,000);
- study and design work for Tarryall SWA (\$1,202,000);
- restoring a bunkhouse at West Rifle Creek SWA (\$300,000); and
- performing regular maintenance on CPW's 110 dams around the state (\$1,070,000).

The project also includes funding for miscellaneous road projects (\$300,000 HUTF) and contingency funding for CPW's wildlife-related projects (\$510,000).

Cost assumption. The cost assumption is based on CPW staff estimates and previous maintenance project costs. The project is not required to meet the Art in Public Places or High Performance Certification Program requirements.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

According to CPW, funding for ongoing maintenance needs at its facilities statewide is essential to meeting its critical customer service goals. CPW explains that a reduction in customer service could lead to fewer hunting and fishing recreation opportunities. Reduced hunting and fishing recreation would not only negatively impact revenues, but may impact state and local economic tourism benefits associated with these activities. Hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing activities provide a total economic impact to the state of approximately \$5 billion annually and support an estimated 46,500 jobs in Colorado. CPW also emphasizes that delays in funding these projects could result in further deterioration, loss in property values, and increased safety hazards. Failure to repair or improve dams may require lowering water storage levels, impacting fisheries and recreational opportunities at reservoirs. Dangerous dams may need to be breached to reduce public safety hazards, resulting in a loss of fisheries, as well as wildlife and aquatic habitat.

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Capital Construction Request

Natural Resources

Infrastructure and Real Property Maintenance

PROGRAM INFORMATION

CPW manages more than 1,400 facilities at over 350 SWAs and 42 state parks. The division is also responsible for 110 dams, and operates 19 fish hatcheries that breed, hatch, and stock 90 million fish per year. The projects included in this request are selected based on mission priorities, the nature of the work, and the impact of delaying or not repairing infrastructure. In FY 2018-19, CPW sold more than 1.73 million hunting and fishing licenses and state park visitation exceeded 17.4 million visitor days.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

	Start Date	Completion Date
Design	July 2021	
Construction		
Equipment		
Occupancy		

SOURCE OF CASH FUNDS

The source of cash funds for the project is the Wildlife Cash Fund (\$18,540,500), created in Section 33-1-112 (1)(a), C.R.S., and the Highway Users Tax Fund (\$300,000), created in Section 43-4-201 (1)(a), C.R.S., and appropriated to CPW per Section 33-10-111 (4), C.R.S. The Wildlife Cash Fund generates revenue from hunting and fishing license fees and various other sources.

OPERATING BUDGET

The project has no impact on state operating costs. CPW expects about \$17,500 in increased operating costs from the project, which it will absorb within existing resources. The division expects this increase to be offset over time, since many of the individual projects in the request are maintenance-related.

STAFF QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

None.