

#### **BILL 13: CONTINUE WILDLIFE HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM**

Prime Sponsors: Fiscal Analyst:

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Published for: Bill RequestVersion: Interim Fiscal NoteDrafting number: LLS 25-0166Date: September 16, 2024

Fiscal note status: This fiscal note reflects the bill draft as requested by the Water Resources and

Agriculture Review Committee.

### **Summary Information**

**Overview.** The bill continues the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program indefinitely. The program is currently scheduled to repeal July 1, 2027.

**Types of impacts.** The bill is projected to affect the following areas indefinitely:

- State Expenditures
- State Revenue

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

# Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts

	<b>Budget Year</b>	<b>Out Year</b>	<b>Out Year</b>	Out Year
Type of Impact <sup>1</sup>	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28
State Revenue (Cash Funds)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7.9 million
State Expenditures (Cash Funds)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7.9 million
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Change in State Refunds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Impacts beginning in FY 2027-28 represent a continuation of existing revenue and expenditures beyond the program's current repeal date.

# **Summary of Legislation**

The bill continues the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Committee, indefinitely. The program is managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in the Department of Natural Resources. The program and committee are currently set to repeal on July 1, 2027, subject to sunset review by the Department of Regulatory Agencies. The bill also removes the sunset provision.

## **Background**

The <u>Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program</u> provides funding for CPW efforts to work with private landowners, local governments, and conservation organizations to protect fish and wildlife habitat. The funding comes from CPW's habitat stamp sales, which must be purchased in order to buy a hunting or fishing license. For the 2024-25 license season, a single stamp costs \$10.59 and a lifetime stamp costs \$318.08.

The Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp Committee reviews proposed projects for expenditure of Habitat Stamp funds and makes recommendations to the Director of CPW and the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

# **State Revenue and Expenditures**

The program currently generates an average of \$7.9 million in habitat stamp fee revenue annually for CPW. Annual expenditures average approximately the same amount for various habitat conservation projects and administration costs from the Wildlife Cash Fund. Under current law, these impacts will continue through FY 2026-27. The bill will continue these revenue and expenditure impacts indefinitely beginning in FY 2027-28. Revenue to the Wildlife Cash Fund is not subject to TABOR.

#### **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**

**Natural Resources** 

Regulatory Agencies