



Colorado General Assembly
Joint Budget Committee

JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFF FY 2023-24 BUDGET BRIEFING SUMMARY

Department of Natural Resources

Executive Director's Office, Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Division of Water Resources

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for developing, protecting, and enhancing Colorado's natural resources for the use and enjoyment of present and future residents and visitors.

FY 2022-23 APPROPRIATION & FY 2023-24 REQUEST

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES						
	TOTAL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	FTE
FY 2022-23 APPROPRIATION:						
HB 22-1329 (Long Bill)	346,673,795	38,428,154	274,317,373	7,894,474	26,033,794	1,554.8
Other legislation	155,156,242	261,197	94,911,459	59,990,401	(6,815)	2.3
TOTAL	\$501,830,037	\$38,689,351	\$369,228,832	\$67,884,875	\$26,026,979	1,557.1
FY 2023-24 REQUESTED APPROPRIATION:						
FY 2022-23 Appropriation	\$501,830,037	38,689,351	\$369,228,832	\$67,884,875	\$26,026,979	1,557.1
R01 COGCC mission change	3,325,126	0	3,325,126	0	0	29.0
R02 CO River policy and technical support	1,868,315	982,752	885,563	0	0	13.9
R03 Wildfire mitigation package	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
R04 Severance Tax for wildfire mitigation	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	0	0	0.0
R05 Inclusive recruitment & retention	399,876	20,315	204,458	175,103	0	2.0
R06 Keep CO Wild support	2,353,138	0	2,353,138	0	0	1.0
R07 Winter recreation and safety	1,108,178	0	1,108,178	0	0	5.5
R08 Resources for state parks	1,821,114	0	1,821,114	0	0	19.0
R09 Resources for wildlife management	715,807	0	715,807	0	0	6.0
R10 CPW business tech staff	464,835	0	464,835	0	0	5.0
R11 Wildlife water & research projects	511,260	0	511,260	0	0	4.0
R12 Financial administration & support	310,467	0	0	310,467	0	2.0
R13 Water plan data & mapping specialist	149,838	0	149,838	0	0	1.0
R14 SLB field ops capacity	101,895	0	101,895	0	0	1.0
R15 Vehicles for water admin staff	34,063	34,063	0	0	0	0.0
R16 True-up CWCB FEMA funding	105,000	0	0	0	105,000	1.0
R17 Water plan legislative placeholder	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Technical adjustments	19,017,466	0	19,017,466	0	0	0.0
Centrally appropriated line items	11,862,678	1,640,160	9,402,893	670,690	148,935	0.0
Impacts driven by other agencies	764,721	112,671	614,115	23,032	14,903	0.0
Annualize prior year budget actions	668,868	43,644	619,622	1,144	4,458	0.2
Indirect cost assessment	391,290	856,196	348,415	(856,196)	42,875	0.0
Annualize prior year legislation	(154,187,997)	(151,718)	(94,036,279)	(60,000,000)	0	2.2
TOTAL	\$398,615,975	\$42,227,434	\$321,836,276	\$8,209,115	\$26,343,150	1,649.9
INCREASE/(DECREASE)	(\$103,214,062)	\$3,538,083	(\$47,392,556)	(\$59,675,760)	\$316,171	92.8
Percentage Change	(20.6%)	9.1%	(12.8%)	(87.9%)	1.2%	6.0%

R01 COGCC MISSION CHANGE: *This decision item will be covered in a separate staff briefing on December 2, 2022.*

R02 CO RIVER POLICY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT: The Department requests an increase of \$1.9 million total funds and 13.9 FTE starting in FY 2023-24. Of this amount, \$982,752 would come from the General Fund and \$885,563 would come from the CWCB Construction Fund. The team consists of 2.0 FTE for the Executive Director’s Office, 4.0 FTE for the CWCB, and 7.9 FTE for Division of Water Resources. The request assumes that all positions would be hired at the base of the second quartile of the relevant salary range.

The Department describes the requested FTE as an “interdisciplinary team of technical, policy, and water administration experts focused on the Colorado River system.” The purpose of the team is to “meet Colorado’s interstate [water] obligations while advancing its position on the Colorado River.” For more detail, see Briefing Issue #2 on page 18.

R03 WILDFIRE MITIGATION INVESTMENT PACKAGE [LEGISLATION REQUIRED]: The Department requests that the JBC sponsor legislation for a one-time transfer of \$9.0 million General Fund to multiple cash funds as shown in the table below. This request aims to “reduce overall wildfire risk in Colorado through effective mitigation projects combined with community outreach, education, and incentive efforts that advance the mission of wildfire risk reduction and home hardening.” The Department describes this request as “theory-informed.”

R03 WILDFIRE MITIGATION INVESTMENT PACKAGE PROPOSED TRANSFERS				
DEPARTMENT	FUND	AMOUNT	FUND TYPE	PURPOSE
Natural Resources	Wildfire Mitigation Capacity Development Fund	\$2,000,000	Continuously-appropriated	Support up to two large-scale, high-priority wildfire mitigation projects through the Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP) \$2.0 million would support the hiring of 11 positions for four years in various Colorado State Forest Service office. These positions would develop and implement wildfire mitigation projects on federal lands (leveraging federal funding), possibly facilitating 5,000-15,000 acres of mitigation work per year.
Higher Education	Healthy Forests Vibrant Communities Fund	4,000,000	Continuously-appropriated	\$2.0 million would go to public education and outreach efforts, building off efforts developed in response to S.B. 22-007 (Increase Wildfire Mitigation Outreach Efforts).
Higher Education	Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Fund	1,000,000	Continuously-appropriated	Local and state agency planning & management
Public Safety	Wildland Urban Interface Home Hardening Fund	2,000,000	New fund	Provide funds to make homes more fire-resistant. Priority for existing homes in areas deemed to be moderate or higher risk in wildland-urban interface areas.

R04 SEVERANCE TAX FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION [LEGISLATION REQUIRED]: The Department requests that the JBC sponsor legislation to authorize an annual, on-going \$5.0 million appropriation from the Severance Tax Operational Fund to the Wildfire Mitigation Development Capacity Development Fund. This cash fund supports the Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP). For more detail, see Briefing Issue #3 on page 22. The Department describes this request as “theory-informed.”

R05 INCLUSIVE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION: The Department requests an increase of \$399,876 total funds, including \$20,315 General Fund, and 2.0 FTE starting in FY 2023-24. The request assumes that both FTE would be hired in the second quartile of the salary range.

The purpose of these funds and FTE is to “facilitate an engaged and diverse workforce within the department, and to cultivate an inclusive environment for its employees.” They would do this by, among other things, expanding efforts related to skills-based hiring and retention. The Department describes skills-based hiring and retention as: (1) Broadening job qualification requirements, and (2) “Upskilling” the current workforce for promotional opportunities. The request also describes a desire for a “more coordinated presence within the community college system.”

The request also includes \$119,500 total funds for a new online learning & performance management system. This system would replace a decentralized system of Microsoft Word and PDF files. The Department also aims to use it to provide continuous formal performance feedback, as opposed to the current process of an annual performance review.

R06 KEEP CO WILD SUPPORT: The Department requests an increase of \$2.35 million from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund and 1.0 FTE starting in FY 2023-24. These funds would support the implementation of the Keep Colorado Wild Pass (KCW) on January 1, 2023.¹ Most of the requested funds (\$1.7 million) would support the development, purchase, and distribution of public outreach materials. The table below provides a detailed breakdown of estimated costs related to the outreach effort.

Keep Colorado Wild Pass Fee Outreach Materials			
Row	Item	Annual Cost	Source/Calculation
A	Materials in County Clerk and Recorder offices	\$145,185	FY 2022-23 Cost Estimate
B	Materials mailed to Colorado households	\$827,566	FY 2022-23 Cost Estimate
C	Purchased media, public service announcements, web content	\$576,000	FY 2022-23 Cost Estimate
D	Contract with multicultural marketing agency	\$120,000	FY 2022-23 Cost Estimate
E	Spanish translation	\$10,000	FY 2022-23 Cost Estimate
F	Total	\$1,678,751	Sum of Rows

Source: FY 23-24 R06 Keep CO Wild Support

The Department expects to submit an FY 2022-23 supplemental budget request related to this decision item.

R07 WINTER RECREATION AND SAFETY [LEGISLATION REQUIRED]: The Department requests an increase of \$1.1 million cash funds and 5.5 FTE for the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) in FY 2023-24. The request annualizes to \$1.0 million and 7.5 FTE in FY 2024-25. Funding for FY 2023-24 would come from the Severance Tax Operational Fund via a one-time transfer to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center Fund. This transfer requires legislation. Funding for FY 2024-25 and future years would come from KCW Pass revenues deposited into the Colorado Avalanche Information Center Cash Fund.

¹ The KCW Pass is an annual state parks pass that can be purchased for \$29.00 through the annual vehicle registration process beginning January 1, 2023.

The Department is attempting to bridge a funding gap between \$750,000 received through H.B. 21-1326 (General Fund Support DNR Programs) and \$1.0 million from the Keep CO Wild Pass that the CAIC Fund expects to receive in FY 2024-25. The CAIC has been using the \$750,000 from H.B. 21-1326 to: (1) Replace outdated IT infrastructure, (2) Improve forecast methodologies and public communication tools, and (3) Implement a new staffing model. The Department describes this request as “theory-informed.”

R08 RESOURCES FOR STATE PARKS: The Department requests an increase of \$1.8 million from the Parks Cash Fund and 19.0 FTE in FY 2023-24. Of these 19.0 FTE, fourteen are a continuation of staff funded through H.B. 21-1326 (General Fund Support DNR Programs). The five new FTE consists of two park rangers and three park resource technicians. The two park rangers would be located at Lory State Park and Crawford State Park. The technicians would be located at Jackson Lake State Park and Elkhead Reservoir State Park, with the third technician split between Eleven Mile and Spinney Mountain State Parks. The request also includes funding for 17 additional vehicles. It also assumes salaries at the average in each job classification.

R09 RESOURCES FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: The Department requests an increase of \$715,807 from the Wildlife Cash Fund and 6.0 FTE in FY 2023-24. The request includes 3.0 wildlife managers, 2.0 biologists, and a property maintenance technician with salaries at the average for each job classification. It also includes funding for fourteen additional vehicles.

R10 CPW BUSINESS TECH STAFF: The Department requests an increase of \$464,835 from the Wildlife Cash Fund and 5.0 FTE in FY 2023-24. This includes two technicians to support daily activities, including hardware, software, applications, stakeholder meetings, and an increasing workload supporting a hybrid workspace. The request also includes a business analyst and project manager to support business technology changes, improvements, new development, and ongoing maintenance. Finally, the request includes a capital asset data technician responsible for tracking and maintaining updated records required for all of CPW’s facilities and infrastructure projects, including underground utilities. The request assumes salaries at the average for each job classification.

R11 WILDLIFE WATER & RESEARCH PROJECTS: The Department requests an increase of \$511,260 from the Wildlife Cash Fund and 4.0 FTE in FY 2023-24. Two FTE will focus on wildlife research, one will focus primarily on research related to public involvement in CPW’s work, and another will focus on Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plans used in the federal water project permitting process. The request assumes salaries at the average for each job classification.

R12 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET SUPPORT: The Department requests an increase of \$310,467 reappropriated funds and 2.0 FTE for FY 2023-24. The request includes funds for a new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and a Budget and Policy Analyst III position. The CFO would oversee DNR’s accounting, procurement, and budget offices with a salary in the third quartile. The new Budget and Policy Analyst would bring DNR’s budget staff up to 4.0 FTE with a salary at the base of the second quartile.

R13 WATER PLAN DATA & MAPPING SPECIALIST: The Department requests an increase of \$149,838 from the CWCB Construction Fund and 1.0 FTE for FY 2023-24. This specialist would work in the CWCB’s Water Supply Planning Section and “perform technical Geographic Information System (GIS) data analysis and watershed mapping related to conservation, agriculture, and equity.”

R14 SLB FIELD OPS CAPACITY: *This decision item will be covered in a separate staff briefing on December 2, 2022.*

R15 VEHICLES FOR WATER ADMIN STAFF: The Department requests an increase of \$34,063 General Fund to lease 24 new electric vehicles that will be phased in over three fiscal years. Costs will rise to \$88,332 General Fund in FY 2024-25 and \$136,643 General Fund in FY 2025-26. Full-time field staff will utilize these vehicles rather than their own personal vehicles. The request includes funds for all-wheel or four-wheel drive vehicles, plus the costs of home charging stations.

R16 TRUE UP CWCB FEMA FUNDING: The Department requests an increase of \$105,000 federal funds and 1.0 FTE in FY 2023-24 to reflect updated federal funding levels. The request also includes a net-zero transfer of \$70,000 cash funds from the Severance Tax Operation Fund between line items.

R17 WATER PLAN LEGISLATIVE PLACEHOLDER: The Department requests that the JBC approve a one-time \$5.0 million General Fund placeholder for the Water Plan Grant Program in FY 2023-24. The Department proposes that the transfer occur in the annual CWCB Projects Bill, so the JBC does not have to sponsor legislation related to this placeholder.

TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS: The request includes an increase \$19.0 million cash funds related to informational fund adjustments in line items for Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

CENTRALLY APPROPRIATED LINE ITEMS: The request includes an increase of \$11.9 million total funds for centrally appropriated line items.

CENTRALLY APPROPRIATED LINE ITEMS						
	TOTAL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	FTE
Salary survey	\$7,824,733	\$1,124,437	\$6,252,440	\$275,313	\$172,543	0.0
Payments to OIT	1,754,038	74,158	1,818,492	(82,086)	(56,526)	0.0
Health, life, and dental	1,669,002	(154,890)	1,135,843	672,026	16,023	0.0
Legal services	1,582,632	540,954	1,054,494	(22,908)	10,092	0.0
Digital trunk radio payments	686,838	0	686,838	0	0	0.0
AED	391,664	8,432	334,680	39,850	8,702	0.0
SAED	391,664	8,432	334,680	39,850	8,702	0.0
Vehicle lease payments	112,479	(1,778)	95,048	(4,820)	24,029	0.0
Risk management and property funds	37,250	(5,425)	42,896	492	(713)	0.0
PERA Direct Distribution	(1,999,288)	79,467	(1,996,970)	(81,785)	0	0.0
Workers' compensation	(243,403)	0	(228,332)	1,148	(16,219)	0.0
Capitol Complex leased space	(242,401)	(18,492)	(44,949)	(166,600)	(12,360)	0.0
CORE adjustment	(75,044)	(2,582)	(68,294)	(578)	(3,590)	0.0
Leased space	(24,255)	(10,777)	(11,938)	151	(1,691)	0.0
Short-term disability	(2,630)	(1,776)	(1,434)	637	(57)	0.0
Shift differential	(601)	0	(601)	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	\$11,862,678	\$1,640,160	\$9,402,893	\$670,690	\$148,935	0.0

IMPACTS DRIVEN BY OTHER AGENCIES: The request includes a net increase of \$764,721 total funds for non-prioritized decision items driven by other agencies.

IMPACTS DRIVEN BY OTHER AGENCIES						
	TOTAL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	FTE
OIT Budget package	\$701,249	\$98,627	\$575,411	\$17,687	\$9,524	0.0
DPA Capitol complex staffing	28,576	9,064	10,000	4,307	5,205	0.0
DPA COE common policy	28,267	4,480	22,907	880	0	0.0
DPA Transfer perf. budgeting to DPA	6,629	500	5,797	158	174	0.0
TOTAL	\$764,721	\$112,671	\$614,115	\$23,032	\$14,903	0.0

ANNUALIZE PRIOR YEAR BUDGET ACTIONS: The request includes a net increase of \$231,960 total funds for prior year budget actions.

ANNUALIZE PRIOR YEAR BUDGET ACTIONS						
	TOTAL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	FTE
Minimum wage adjustment	\$436,908	\$3,155	\$422,272	\$6,235	\$5,246	0.0
FY23 R07 Internet protocol phones	402,653	57,541	336,203	8,909	0	0.0
FY23 BA03 Sweetwater Lake	108,297	0	108,297	0	0	0.0
FY23 R10 Records access system	8,483	0	8,483	0	0	0.0
FY23 R01 Outdoor rec. and conservation	(132,750)	0	(132,750)	0	0	0.0
FY23 BA02 Big game policy report	(56,000)	0	(56,000)	0	0	0.0
FY23 R02 Staff for water plan	(42,000)	0	(42,000)	0	0	0.0
FY23 R04 Water accounting staff	(15,255)	(15,255)	0	0	0	0.2
FY22 R01 Fishers Peak funding	(8,203)	0	(8,203)	0	0	0.0
FY23 R06 Assistant director energy inno.	(7,000)	0	0	(7,000)	0	0.0
FY23 BA01 Tribal liaison	(7,000)	0	0	(7,000)	0	0.0
FY23 R5 SLB water res	(7,000)	0	(7,000)	0	0	0.0
FY23 R03 Outdoor regional partnerships	(7,000)	0	(7,000)	0	0	0.0
Annualize prior year salary survey	(5,265)	(1,797)	(2,680)	0	(788)	0.0
TOTAL	\$668,868	\$43,644	\$619,622	\$1,144	\$4,458	0.2

INDIRECT COST ASSESSMENT: The request includes a net increase in the Department's indirect cost assessment.

ANNUALIZE PRIOR YEAR LEGISLATION: The request includes a net decrease of \$154.2 million total funds for the impact of prior year legislation.

ANNUALIZE PRIOR YEAR LEGISLATION						
	TOTAL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS	FTE
HB21-1318 Outdoor equity program	\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	0.0
HB22-1348 Oversight chem oil gas	232,221	0	232,221	0	0	3.2
HB22-1361 Oil & gas reporting	61,500	0	61,500	0	0	0.0
SB22-206 Disaster prep and recovery	2,868	2,868	0	0	0	0.1
SB22-028 Groundwater compact	(120,000,000)	0	(60,000,000)	(60,000,000)	0	0.0
HB22-1316 CWCB projects	(17,080,000)	0	(17,080,000)	0	0	0.0
HB22-1379 Wildfire prevention	(15,000,000)	0	(15,000,000)	0	0	0.0
HB22-1151 Turf replacement	(2,000,000)	0	(2,000,000)	0	0	(0.8)
SB22-168 Search & rescue	(1,000,000)	0	(1,000,000)	0	0	0.0
SB22-199 Native pollinating insects	(148,304)	(148,304)	0	0	0	(0.3)
SB22-114 Fire suppression ponds	(6,282)	(6,282)	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	(\$154,187,997)	(\$151,718)	(\$94,036,279)	(\$60,000,000)	\$0	2.2

SUMMARY OF ISSUES PRESENTED TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

INFORMATIONAL ISSUE ONE-TIME FUNDING AUTHORIZED IN RECENT LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: This brief focuses on significant one-time funding allocated to the Department of Natural Resources during the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions.

INFORMATIONAL ISSUE #2 R02 COLORADO RIVER POLICY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT: This brief provides an abridged explanation of the request in order to provide the Committee with an opportunity to pose questions to the Department.

ISSUE #3 R04 SEVERANCE TAX FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION: This brief provides additional detail about the request and the proposed funding source.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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