



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

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### Commissioners

With the beginning of the new year we have begun a new legislative session and have submitted another round of budget requests to the legislature. As you may recall, our original budget request was submitted on November 1<sup>st</sup> and included a number of change requests to increase budgets in support of outdoor recreation. Those will be under consideration during this session with a decision expected in March and funding available beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The most recent round of requests includes two categories: supplementals and budget amendments. A supplemental addresses budget changes that are needed in the current year, will be under consideration sooner and funding will be available within the next couple of months. Our supplementals include a request to increase appropriated parks cash funds to hire the initial staff for our new state park at Sweetwater Lake. This staffing in the current year will provide resources dedicated to the process of opening and then operating this park. There was also a technical adjustment submitted to extend the time that funding is available to the Department of Revenue for programing costs to implement Keep Colorado Wild.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife also submitted two budget amendments which modify the November 1 request and will be considered on the same timeline. The first request is for funding to add eight additional positions to address the recently released Opportunities to Improve Sensitive Habitat and Movement Route Connectivity for Colorado's Big Game Species Report. The report outlines important policies and strategies to conserve sensitive habitats and movement routes, including 55 specific recommendations. Lastly, there is a technical adjustment to add additional spending authority to the Leased Space budget. We recently resigned a lease which increased the square footage at one of our area offices. Any additional square footage under

All of these requests, as well as a request to increase staff capacity in Executive Director's Gibbs' Office to increase tribal engagement, can be found on the Governor's Office of State planning and budgeting website at: [colorado.gov/governor/OSPB](http://colorado.gov/governor/OSPB)

