

November 2024

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Financial Update

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY
TITLE: FINANCIAL RESERVES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a required minimum level of financial reserves that will be maintained in funds administered by the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW), in order to insure both long and short term financial sustainability.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Reserve: The difference between current assets and current liabilities in a given fund, as of the end of the fiscal year, calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and standards. Synonymous with the terms Working Capital and Fund Balance.

B. Wildlife Cash Fund: The fund created pursuant to 33-1-112, which provides primary funding for general wildlife-related operations and is financed largely through hunting and fishing license fees.

C. Earmarked Funds: Specific sources of funds within the Wildlife Cash Fund that are restricted by statute such that they cannot be used to pay for general wildlife-related operations.

Policy (short form)

To provide for financial contingencies, a minimum reserve range will be maintained in the Wildlife Cash Fund. This minimum range will be \$7 to \$9 million over and above the portion of the Wildlife Cash Fund reserve attributable to earmarked funds.

Earmarked Funds

Earmarked funds:	FY 2023 Amounts (last year's numbers)	FY 2024 Amount (current)
Habitat Stamp	11,767,091	13,230,729
Insurance Proceeds	642	43,208
Mitigation	8,545,133	9,271,261
Lottery Spillover to WL Cash	8,060,579	9,281,839
KCW Spillover		1,823,073
GF Transfers to Wildlife	2,106,151	-
Sporting License Plate	1,874,657	2,398,839
Born to be Wild License Plate		276,493
Unobligated balance of Northern Water Grant (future capital projects)	2,785,459	3,175,341

Capital Obligations

Active capital projects - outstanding WL cash balances		
Large Cap	99,226,824	133,061,890
Small Cap	11,890,660	11,285,514
Equipment	323,684	-
Internal Range	318,410	830,857
Large Cap - Pending projects	36,016,507	-
Water acquisitions - FY 2024 Estimated expenses	8,700,000	700,000

Funds after earmarks

Total outstanding projects balances	156,476,085	145,878,261
Total earmarked funds	35,139,712	39,500,783
FY 24 Ending Cash Balance	202,822,416	195,490,552
WL Cash Balance after projects and earmarked funds	11,206,619	10,111,508

Future obligations and revenue

Future projects		
FY 2026 approved capital projects	37,501,000	26,252,950
FY 2026 water acquisition	700,000	700,000
FY 2026 Revenue minus Expenses Excluding Capital	32,500,000	23,700,000
Projected future balance	5,505,619	6,858,558

