



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

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Commissioners

Since our last meeting, we have seen the end of the state fiscal year and the end of the legislative session. It was a busy year for CPW, not only in the field but also in the legislature as well, and I would like to highlight a couple of key issues.

Technically, the state fiscal year ended on June 30th but the work to wrap up the year continues. Invoices continue to come in for goods or services received during the year and are being entered into the system. While CPW will wrap up our duties in closing the books in August, the state books will remain open for several months. This means that “final” numbers cannot be reported at this time, but initial numbers should be available at our September meeting. Recognizing that not all financial activity has been recorded, it looks like it was another strong year for CPW. Both the wildlife side and the parks side of the agency saw continued increases in use due to COVID, and at the same time saw supply chain disruptions that complicated procurement at the end of the year, a time when we typically see increased spending. This will likely result in both sides of the agency booking substantial revenue to fund balance. In response to this elevated, and ongoing, revenue generation the agency has advanced a number of proposals to utilize that fund balance in future years. Those proposals have been reviewed by the Department and approved proposals will be reviewed by the Governor’s budget office. On November 1st, approved budget requests will be transmitted to the General Assembly for consideration.

The 2021 Legislative session was also busy and successful with a number of substantive bills being passed and some significant budget changes being implemented. The most noticeable change is the Keep Colorado Wild annual pass which will drastically change how we run, and fund, our state park system. Work to implement this bill has begun and will require effort and planning at all levels of the agency to implement successfully. Other substantial changes include a back country search and rescue study, the creation of the outdoor equity grant program, \$22 million of General Fund support for CPW (in one bill, total General Fund is greater), restoration of the OHV funds that were transferred to the General Fund last year, an ANS pilot program for roadside checks, and General Fund support for the implementation of proposition 114.

As a reminder, CPW is an enterprise agency under TABOR and will lose that status if more than 10% of revenue comes from “state and local grants.” With the changes implemented this year, in FY 2020-21 (the just closed fiscal year) approximately 8.5% of CPW’s revenue will be from those sources.



FY 2019-20 Approved Budget and Legislative Items

Year/Number	Name	Type of Action	Description	Total FY 2021-22 funding, approved in 2021 session
SB 21-249	Keep Colorado Wild Annual Pass	Special Bill	Creation of an optional discounted parks and public lands access pass that is purchased at the time a motor vehicle is registered, using the pass fees to finance a number of goals of the division of parks and wildlife related to increased conservation of, safety at, and access to state parks and public lands.	\$504,646
SB 21-245	Backcountry Search and Rescue in Colorado	Special Bill	CPW must conduct a study and develop recommendations on the issues related to backcountry search and rescue (SAR) also conduct outreach and training, which may include creating a grant program for local governments or nonprofit organizations that provide SAR services,	\$216,070
HB 21-1116	Free State Park Access for Purple Heart Recipients	Special Bill	Allows Colorado residents who display a purple heart special license plate free entrance to any state park or recreation area, not including campgrounds, on any day of the year that such park or area is open. Also allows a Colorado resident to acquire a free transferable annual state parks pass by presenting the same documents required for a purple heart special license plate.	\$0
HB 21-1318	Outdoor Equity Grant Program	Special Bill	Creation of the new Outdoor Equity Grant Program, new cash fund, funding program from lottery money, Also allows percentage of remaining funds to be transferred to parks and wildlife cash funds.	\$730,674
HB 21-1326	General Fund Transfer Support DNR Programs	Special Bill	Transfers \$22 Million General Fund to CPW in FY 2020-21. CPW funds are available for use until FY 2023-24.	\$22,000,000
SB 21-205	Increase OHV Direct Services spending authority	JBC Action	Increase Trails grant program by \$2 Million annually.	\$2,000,000
FY 2021-22 R-02	Fishers Peak Staff and Operating Support	Budget Request	2 FTE, temp staffing, utilities, supplies and fleet vehicles for Fishers Peak	\$178,879
FY 2021-22 R-03	Habitat Connectivity and Transportation Coordinator	Budget Request	FTE to represent CPW as the overall statewide expert on wildlife migration corridors.	\$91,879
FY 2021-22 R-05	True-Up OHV Revenue and Costs	Budget Request	Net zero technical adjustment to increase contribution from OHV Fund to State Park Operations line item.	\$0
SB 21-205	General Fund for Implementation of Prop 114- Wolf Reintroduction	JBC Action	\$1.1 Million for wolf reintroduction	\$1,100,000
HB 21-1106	Safe Storage of Firearms	Special Bill	Requires firearms be responsibly and securely stored when they are not in use and create an offense.	\$0
HB 21-1110	Colorado Laws for Persons with Disabilities	Special Bill	Strengthens protections against discrimination for persons with disability.	\$0
SB 21-026	Eligibility of Discharged LGBT Veterans	Special Bill	Section 15 makes changes to Title 33, amending 33-6-107, C.R.S. to allow a discharged LGBT veteran to be obtain a hunter education certificate without attending a hunter education course if the veteran successfully passes a test-out option.	\$0
SB 21-078	Lost or Stolen Firearms	Special Bill	The bill requires an individual who owns a firearm to report the loss or theft of that firearm to a law enforcement agency within 5 days after discovering that the firearm was lost or stolen	\$0
SB 21-078	Policies for Peace Officer Credibility	Special Bill	The bill creates the peace officer credibility disclosure notification committee (committee). The committee is required to create a statewide model for peace officer credibility disclosure notifications (statewide model) by December 1, 2021. The statewide model must include policies and procedures that law enforcement agencies and district attorney's offices are required to adopt and implement on or before January 1, 2022.	\$0
HB 21-1100	Electronic Filing of Documents with Governmental Entities	Special Bill	requires the office of information technology (office) in partnership with each principal department of the state to file a report by October 15, 2021, with the joint technology committee (committee) concerning the department's electronic filing capacity.	\$0
SB 21-135	Prohibition- Traveling Animal Act	Special Bill	The bill creates the "Traveling Animal Protection Act" (Act), which prohibits the use of certain animals in a traveling animal act. A person who violates the Act commits a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 per violation.	\$0
HB 21-1226	More Robust Check Station- ANS	Special Bill	Directs CPW to research methods other states are using, authorizes a peace officer to stop and inspect, and prohibits a person from knowingly or willfully refusing to stop at a check station.	\$0
HB 21-1236	State Information Technology	Special Bill	The bill modifies the laws that create the joint technology committee (JTC), the Colorado cybersecurity council (council), and the office of information technology (office), to reflect the current information technology (IT) environment and direction in the state	\$0
SB 21-176	Strengthening Worker Protections	Special Bill	Enacts laws for purposes of addressing discriminatory or unfair employment practices	\$0
HB 21-1250	Measures to Address Law Enforcement Accountability	Special Bill	Makes changes to clarify information from SB 20-217	\$0
SB 21-271	Misdemeanor Reform	Special Bill	Adoption of COGCC recommendations. Changes some penalty fines for CPW?	\$0
SB 21-225	Repay Cash Funds for 2020 Transfers	Special Bill	Transfers \$5 Million from General Fund to OHV Fund	\$0