



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Financial and Capital Services  
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Denver, CO 80216

### Commissioners:

In a normal year, the General Assembly would be wrapping up their business as we head into May. However, that is not the case this year and they are still going strong introducing, debating, and passing legislation. There are a couple of developments in recent weeks that have financial implications for Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

- The closing date for accounting period 9 (March) was delayed. This has delayed the production of third quarter financial reports. However, Colorado Parks and Wildlife continues to see strong revenues and the reports will be available soon.
- On March 19<sup>th</sup> the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting along with Legislative Council staff presented their economic forecasts. Though there was a good deal of encouraging news, Severance Tax continues to underperform.
  - CPW receives severance tax in a several ways to support operations, to pay indirect costs, to fund projects in the Species Conservation Trust Fund, and to fund the Aquatic Nuisance Species program.
  - Senate Bill 21-220 was sent to the Governor in the middle of April. This reversed transfers that were made earlier in the year to the Species Conservation Trust Fund and the Aquatic Nuisance Species. However, it should not impact operations.
  - Colorado Parks and Wildlife has taken technical measures to deprioritize the use of Severance Tax to support operations temporarily.
  - The Joint Budget Committee discussed various changes to Severance Tax and asked that a bill be drafted. One of the changes discussed involved moving Species Conservation and Aquatic Nuisance Species to a higher funding priority within the fund.
- Senate Bill 21-249, the Keep Colorado Wild Pass Act," has been introduced. This represents a substantial change to how annual passes would be sold to Colorado residents. This change represents a great opportunity but also a risk.
- The Joint Budget Committee finalized the Long Bill, included in the bill is \$1.1 million of General Fund for the effort to reintroduce wolves.

