

# Department of Natural Resources SMART Act Hearing

Joint Agriculture Committees  
January 18, 2022

# Department of Natural Resources Mission & Vision

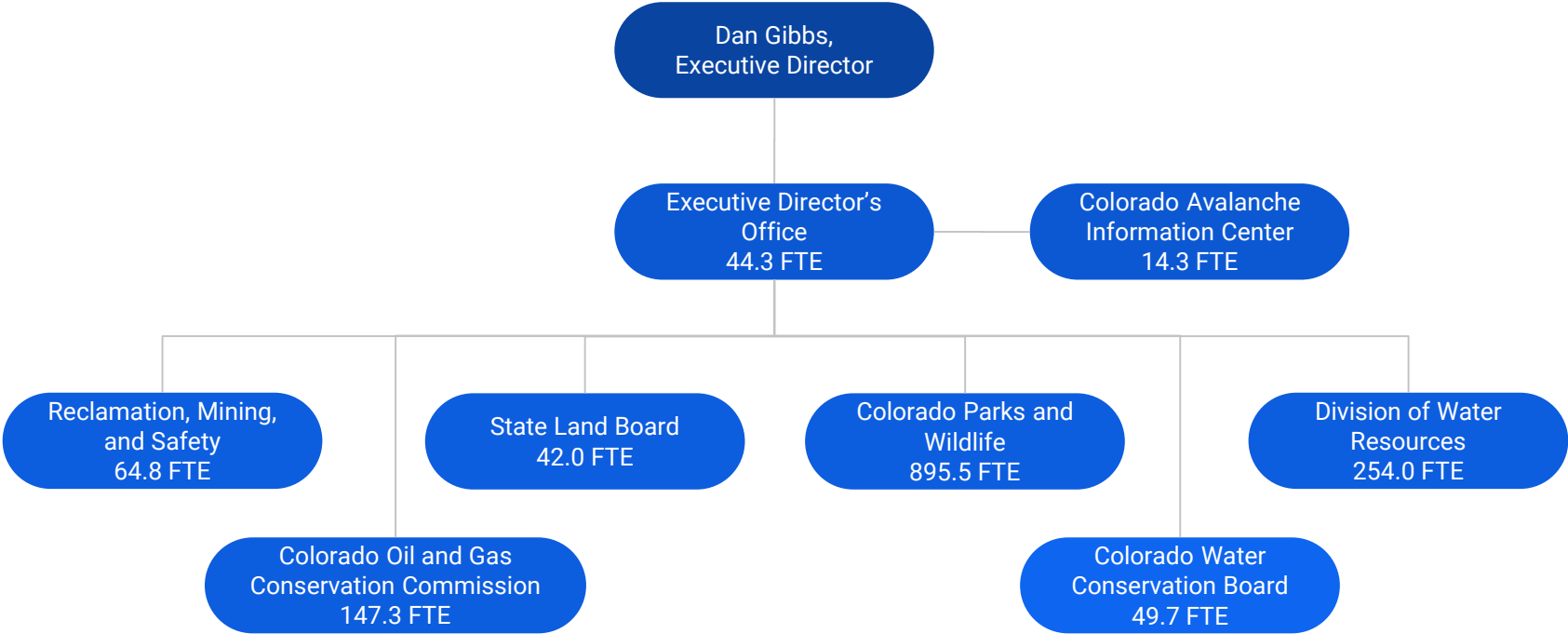
The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is:

**To manage and conserve Colorado's natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of people today and tomorrow.**

DNR's vision:

**Colorado will be a national leader in promoting the responsible use and conservation of natural resources for this and future generations.**

# DNR Organizational Chart



# FY 2021-22 Operating Appropriations by Division



**Total Funds = \$334.0 million**

General Fund = \$37.3 million

Cash Funds = \$262.3 million

Reapprop Funds = \$7.5 million

Federal Funds = \$26.8 million

**1,522.4 FTE**



**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Natural Resources



# Wildly Important Goals FY21-22

1. Sustainable Funding for Parks & Wildlife
2. Balance Outdoor Recreation and Conservation
3. Wildfire Risk Reduction
4. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

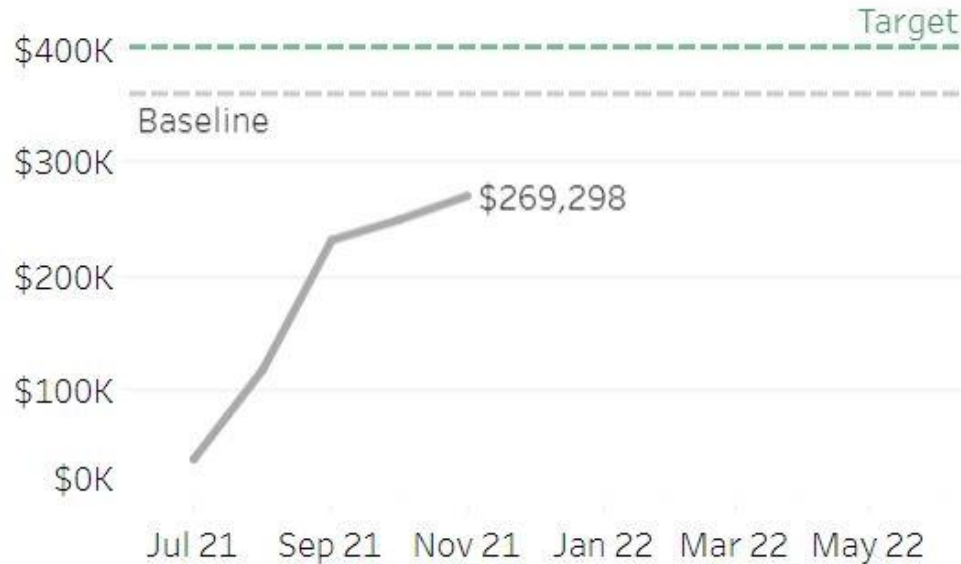


**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Natural Resources



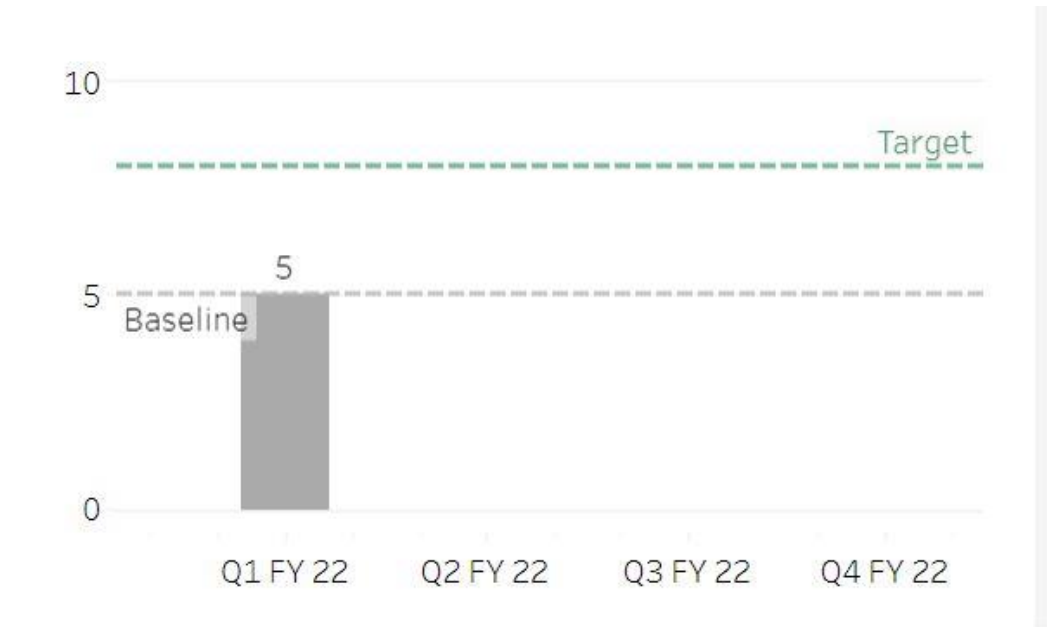
# Sustainable Funding for Parks & Wildlife

Increase private donations from \$360,000 total ending June 30th, 2021 to \$400,000 by June 30th, 2022.



# Balance Outdoor Recreation and Conservation

Increase the number of regional partnerships adopting our shared vision and guidelines from 5 to 8 partnerships by June 30, 2022



# Wildfire Risk Reduction

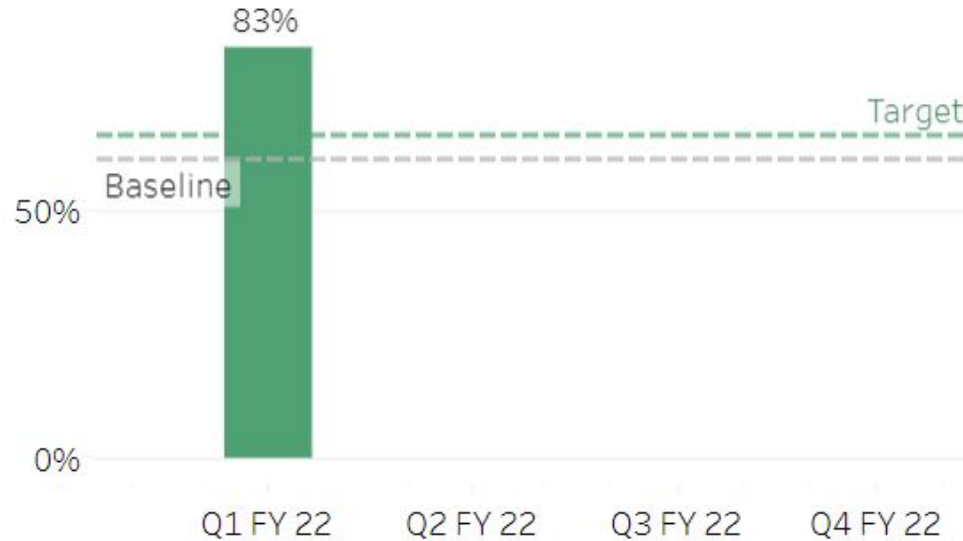
Develop 25 new forest management projects to enhance community wildfire risk reduction planning, based on the 2020 Colorado Forest Action Plan and Shared Stewardship MOU by June 30, 2022





# Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Increase the percentage of DNR job applicants meeting minimum qualifications from 60% to 65% by June 30, 2022



# Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order [2020 175](#), the Department has prepared a plan to improve equity, diversity, and inclusion, including continuing its WIG #4:

- Quarterly Advisory Group meetings with more than 20 organizations
- Training all 350 managers on equitable recruitment and retention
- Broaden candidate pools through relevant job posting qualifications
- Increase from 54% to 60% of employees responding favorably to inclusion questions on the statewide employee engagement survey
- Representation on the Colorado Equity Alliance
- Implementing DPA and HB 21-1110 by DPA

# Cabinet Wildly Important Goal

1. Comprehensive Water Planning - CWCB and DNR to complete draft of Colorado Water Plan Update by June 2022



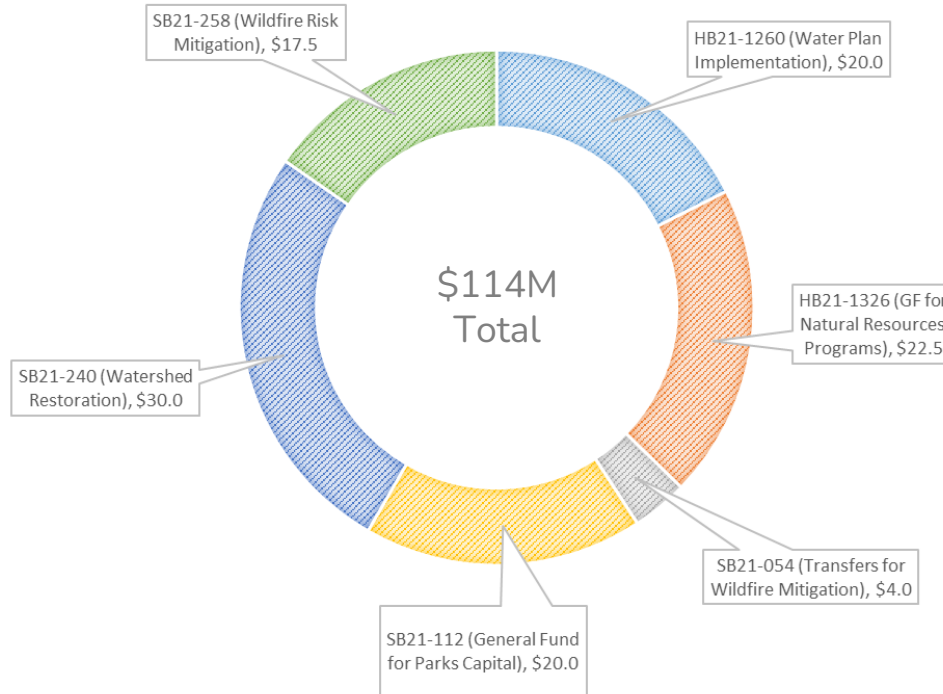
**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Natural Resources

# More information

To view monthly updates on Wildly Important Goals and corresponding lead measures, please visit the [Governor's Dashboard](#).

For more information on additional DNR goals, view our FY 2021-22 Performance Plan at: [operations.colorado.gov/performance-management/departments-performance-plans](https://operations.colorado.gov/performance-management/departments-performance-plans)

# Stimulus Funding Implementation



# Stimulus Funding Implementation

## SB21-258 - Wildfire Mitigation

- \$17.5 million Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP)
- Program underway: \$4.5M obligated thus far

The new program at DNR is supporting fuels reduction efforts in the wildland urban interface and workforce development in two ways:

- First, by funding work done by the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA), other conservation corps, and the State Wildland Inmate Fire Teams (SWIFT) within the Department of Corrections
- Second, by awarding funds for landscape scale strategic wildfire mitigation projects.

# Stimulus Funding Implementation

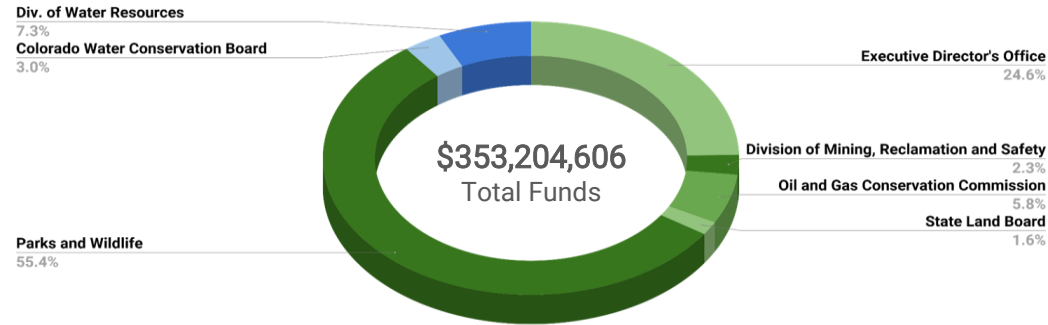


# Stimulus Funding Implementation



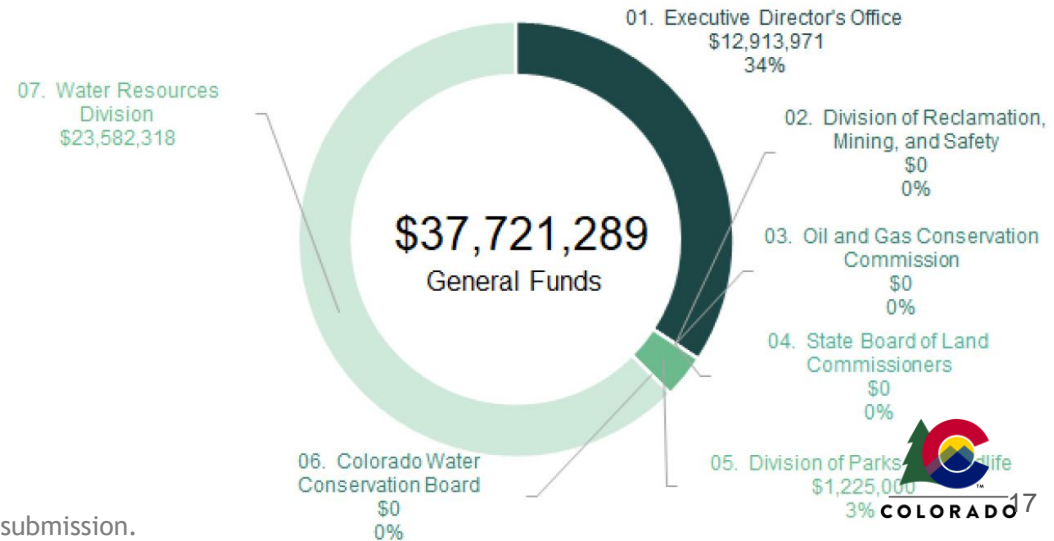


# DNR FY 2022-23 Budget Request



## FY 2022-23 Budget Snapshot

FY 2022-23 Total Funds: \$353.2M\*  
 FY 2022-23 General Fund: \$37.7M  
 FY 2022-23 FTE: 1549.5



# FY 2022-23 Budget Request: Outdoor Rec & Conservation

- Support Increased Outdoor Recreation and Conservation
  - \$5.9 million and 15.5 FTE
- Implementing Big Game Policy Report Recommendations
  - \$1.2 million and 8.0 FTE
- Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships
  - \$862,000 and 1.0 FTE
- Staff and Operating for State Park and Sweetwater Lake
  - \$427,000 and 3.0 FTE

# FY 2022-23 Budget Request: Water

- Project Development and Staff Support for Water Plan Grants
  - \$700,000 and 6.0 FTE
- Water Operations Accounting Support
  - \$333,000 and 3.0 FTE
- State Land Board Water Resources Manager
  - \$130,000 and 1.0 FTE



# FY 2022-23 Budget Request: Engagement & Outreach

- Staff Capacity to Increase Tribal Engagement
  - \$145,000 and 1.5 FTE
- Assistant Director for Energy Innovation
  - \$160,000 and 1.0 FTE
- Spending Authority for the Colorado Wildlife Council
  - \$800,000

# ARPA High Impact Proposals Submitted to ERRTF

- **\$15 million for Groundwater Sustainability and Compact Compliance in the Rio Grande and Republican River basins**
  - This funding will leverage existing federal programs to address the imminent threat of mandatory, uncompensated, permanent agricultural dry-up in the Republican and Rio Grande River Basins
  - It will also help sustain economic productivity, enhance resilience to drought and other natural hazards, encourage positive environmental outcomes, and conserve water for future generations.
- **\$22.8 million for broadband, water, and sewer projects at rural State Parks**
  - This request includes \$20.2M to provide high-quality broadband internet access to at least 24 state parks and one recreation area where high speed connectivity is not currently available.
  - This request will also improve broadband service to unserved or underserved rural areas by allowing communities to connect and build on the lines to provide high-quality internet to homes and schools.
  - This request also includes \$1.8M for four high-priority water and sewer projects at three state parks to address health and safety issues to allow Coloradans and visitors to recreate safely.

# Legislative Agenda

The Department respectfully requests the General Assembly consider legislation on the following:

- Reauthorization of the Habitat Partnerships Program
- Reauthorization of Nongame Species Tax Checkoff
- [PLACEHOLDER] Implementation of Backcountry Search and Rescue Working Group Recommendations
- Protect Sensitive Wildlife Data
- Annual Species Conservation Trust Fund Bill
- Annual Water Projects Bill

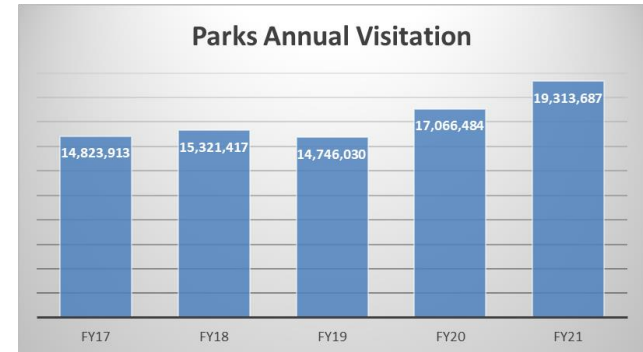
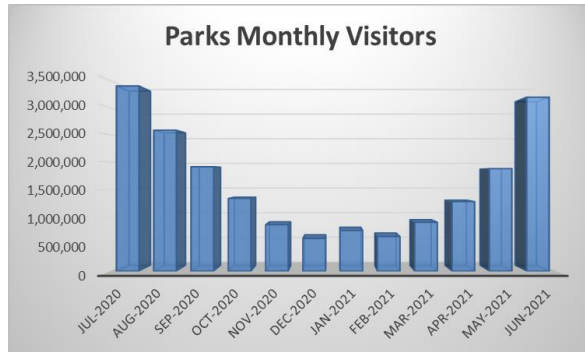
# Regulatory Agenda

## Upcoming Rulemakings of Note

- Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety new rules for perpetual water treatment and repeal of self-bonding per HB 19-1113. DRMS is also updating rules to allow for e-filing of applications and notice processes.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife will set the cost of the Keep Colorado Wild Pass
- Division of Water Resources - NEW Measurement Rules for the West Slope Water Divisions

# Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Director Dan Prenzlow

- Continued high use of outdoor recreation
  - 17% increase in Parks Passes and Entry fees
  - 34% increase in camping permits and user fees
  - Steady participation in Hunting and Fishing (3.5% increase in revenue)





# Colorado Parks and Wildlife

## Future Generations Act 2022 Report

- Increased Hunter Ed participation
- Increased Hunting Access
- Working to balance recreation and conservation
- Expanding Cameo Shooting Complex
- Request to modernize a hatchery
- Increasing park capacity



# Colorado Parks and Wildlife

## SB 21-112: Concerning a General Fund transfer to Capital Construction Fund for State Parks

- \$20 million to fund projects at 12 State Parks
- Two projects waiting for clearances
- Nine projects in progress
- One project complete



# Colorado Parks and Wildlife

## HB21-1326 concerning 2020-21 General Fund Transfer Support Department of Natural Resources Programs

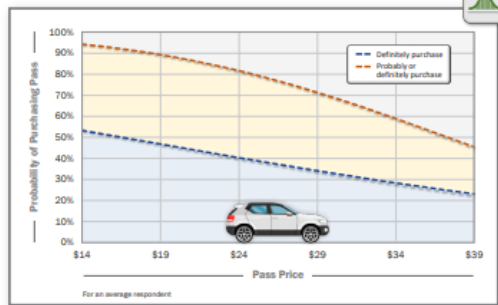
- \$14 million for infrastructure and state park development
  - \$10 million reserved for initial development as Sweet Water lake
  - \$4 million for first phase of campground expansion at Sweitzer and Highline
- \$3.5 for state park operations in the lead up to Keep Colorado Wild
- \$1 million for Outdoor Equity grant program
- \$3.5 million for the State Wildlife Action Plan
- \$750,000 for the Colorado Avalanche Information Center
- \$2.25 million for Backcountry Search and Rescue (DOLA)

# Colorado Parks and Wildlife

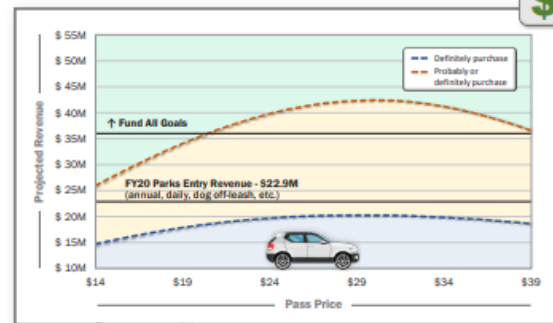
## SB21-249 Keep Colorado Wild Pass Implementation Update

- Commission reviewed pricing study
- Continue to work with stakeholders
- Department of Revenue anticipates beginning programming soon

Probability of Purchasing a Wild Pass for One Vehicle



First Vehicle Wild Pass Revenue



# Colorado Parks and Wildlife

- **SB 21-245: Concerning Backcountry Search and Rescue in Colorado**
  - Presented by Heather Dugan and Doug Vilsack
- Study methodology
  - BSAR Workgroup
  - Surveys
  - Interviews
  - Independent research
- Conclusions and recommendations



# Colorado Water Conservation Board

**Presenter:** Becky Mitchell,  
Director

**Mission:** To conserve,  
develop, protect, and manage  
Colorado's water for present  
and future generations.



# Colorado Water Conservation Board

## Cabinet-Level Wildly Important Goal on Water

Complete the 2022 Colorado Water Plan update by December 2022, which will produce recommended actions in four strategic focus areas: cities, streams, agriculture, and planning.

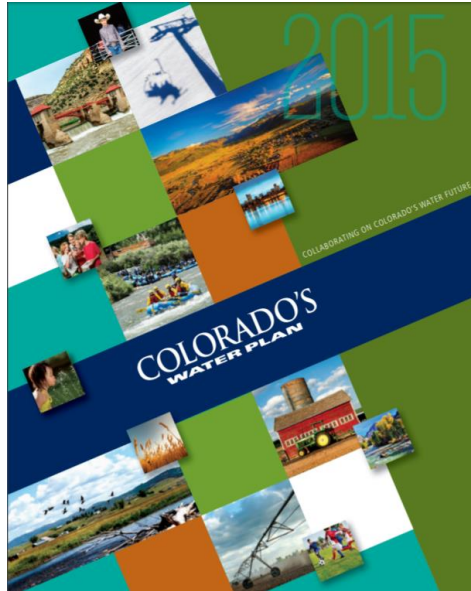
# Colorado Water Conservation Board

## 2022 Water Plan Update

- Action areas: Cities, Streams, Agriculture, and Planning
- Timeline:
  - Scoping Phase (October 2020 - June 2021)
  - Drafting Phase (July 2021 - March 2022)
  - Finalization Phase (April 2022 - December 2022)
- Coordination with Agriculture Committees and the Interim Committee will incorporate legislative feedback



# Colorado Water Conservation Board



## Key Metrics

- Acre-feet created with state financial support:
  - **FY22 target is 37,309 acre-feet**
- Acre-feet conserved as reported through conservation plans and the 1051 database:
  - **FY22 target is 52,000 acre-feet**
- Miles of stream protected:
  - **FY22 target is 9,896 miles**
- New water sharing agreements:
  - **FY22 target is 21 projects**

# Colorado Water Conservation Board

## Agency Priorities for 2022

- **R-02 - Project Development and Staff Support for Water Plan Grants:** 6.0 FTE related to the Water Plan Grant Program beginning in FY23 and funded by the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund
- **Groundwater Recovery:** \$15 million in groundwater recovery in the water-scarce Republican and Rio Grande River Basins.
- **CWCB 2022 Projects Bill**
- **2022 Species Conservation Trust Fund Bill**

# Stimulus Funding Implementation

## State Stimulus Funding

- **SB21-054:** \$4 million for Watershed Restoration Grant Program to support post-2020 fire recovery & mitigation
  - Funding fully awarded
- **SB21-240:** \$30 million for Watershed Restoration Grant Program for wildfire recovery
  - \$18M already awarded, surpassing statutory goal of \$10M awarded by July 31, 2022
- **HB21-1260:** \$15 million for the Water Plan Grant Program and \$5 million for Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants
  - 34 projects already supported across Colorado

# Division of Water Resources

**Kevin Rein, P.E.;** State  
Engineer, Director

## Mission:

- administer the waters of the State
- ensure that dams and water wells are properly constructed and safe,
- provide information about water resources to the public.



# Division of Water Resources

## 2022 Outlook:

- Budget Request
- Other Activities



# Division of Water Resources

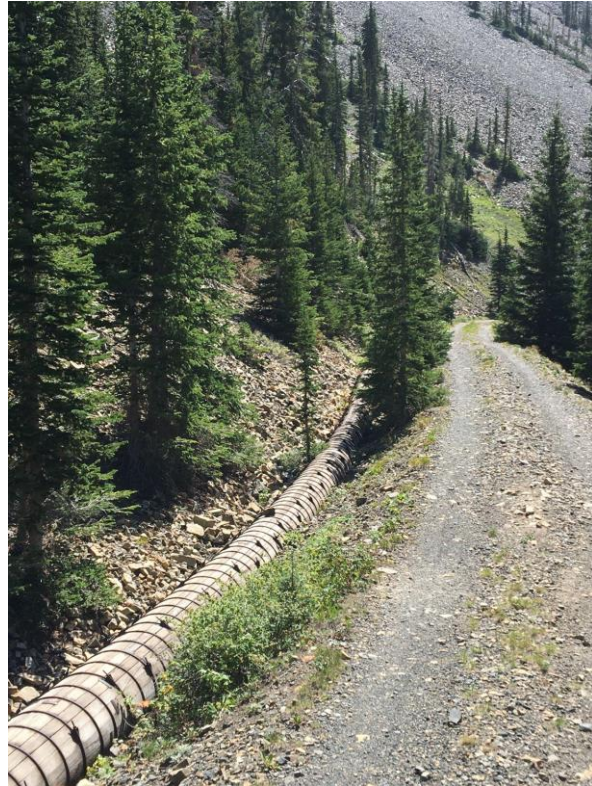
## Water Operations Accounting Support (R-04)

- \$333,000 General Fund and 3.0 FTE
- Adds water accounting coordinators in over-appropriated basins to maximize the beneficial use of water, ensure water is distributed equitably, and decrease risk of future lawsuits.

# Division of Water Resources

## 2022 Outlook:

- Continue with Measurement Rules on West Slope
- Continued focus on compact compliance,
- Assist water users with rules compliance
- Develop and implement tools to enhance effective water administration



# State Board of Land Commissioners

- Bill Ryan, Director.
- FY20-21 School Trust Revenues: \$116 million.
- Projected FY 20-21 Revenues: \$105 million.
- 10% anticipated decline a result of lower oil & gas prices and production.
- Renewable energy from Trust lands can power 150,000 homes





# Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

## Active Mines: Mineral Program

- 1351 actively producing sites, 17 in reclamation
- 191,000 permitted acres, 700 reclaimed and released
- Holds \$780 million in financial warranties for reclamation

## Active Mines: Coal Program

- 7 actively producing sites, 21 sites in reclamation
- 164,000 permitted acres, 1,941 reclaimed and released
- Holds \$230 million in financial warranties for reclamation

## Inactive Active Mines

- Safeguarded 350 hazardous mine openings
- Injected \$4.8M into local economies for abandoned mine reclamation
- Recent infrastructure funding will be focused on addressing Colorado's highest priority coal mine fire sites



# Questions