

Property Acquisitions & Improvements



OVERVIEW OF FY 2025-26 CAPITAL REQUEST

Overview of Funding Request

- CPW requests \$12.1 million in cash spending authority for property acquisitions and improvements for FY 2025-26.
- The request will be funded from the Wildlife Cash Fund, primarily using habitat stamp revenue.
- This request will be used to conserve or improve wildlife habitat and acquire land and water for wildlife-related recreation, or interests in land and water, as statutorily authorized under Section 33-1-105, C.R.S.

Background

Habitat loss is one of the leading issues impacting the survival of fish and wildlife for future generations. Habitats in Colorado face many challenges associated with growing land development, causing fragmentation. CPW staff are helping address these challenges through several initiatives, including funding habitat restoration and improvement projects. CPW is requesting \$12.1 million in cash spending authority for FY 2025-26 for the acquisition of conservation easements, public access easements, fee title properties, and habitat improvements. This request will support vital programs like the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP) Request for Proposals (RFP) and other habitat restoration enhancement projects.



The Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP)

The CWHP is an incentive-based, voluntary program that accomplishes strategic wildlife conservation goals and/or public access goals using conservation easements, public access easements, and in some circumstances, fee title purchases. Priorities for the expenditure of funds generated from the sale of habitat stamps includes protecting big game winter range and migration corridors, acquiring public access to wildlife-related recreation, including fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing, protecting habitat for species of concern, and preserving the diversity of wildlife enjoyed by Coloradans. The CWHP leaves a lasting legacy that ensures Colorado's natural resources and critical wildlife habitat is protected and that there will always be wildlife-related recreational opportunities available. Between 2006 - 2024, CPW has invested approximately \$205,187,000 across the state to secure conservation easements on 300,500 acres, public access on 156,000 acres, fee title on 35,000, and access along 393 miles of river bank.

Although the appropriation has been at \$25.0 million for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25, CPW requests to reduce it back to \$11.0 million, which is the level of its CWHP RFPs. CPW is not in a financial position to support a program of \$25.0 million annually.