



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1332: STATE TRUST LANDS CONSERV & REC WORK GROUP

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. McCormick
Sen. Roberts; Wallace

Fiscal Analyst:

Josh Abram, 303-866-3561
josh.abram@coleg.gov

Published for: House Appropriations**Drafting number:** LLS 25-1047**Version:** First Revised Note**Date:** April 22, 2025

Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Agriculture, Water, and Natural Resources Committee.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill creates the State Trust Lands Conservation and Recreation Work Group in the Department of Natural Resources to study opportunities to advance conservation, climate resilience, biodiversity, and recreation on state trust lands.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas in FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 only:

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$393,506 to the Department of Natural Resources.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact¹	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$428,446	\$124,347
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	1.6 FTE	1.0 FTE

¹ Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the table below.

Table 1A
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Cash Funds	\$393,506	\$102,509
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$34,940	\$21,838
Total Expenditures	\$428,446	\$124,347
Total FTE	1.6 FTE	1.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) convene a State Trust Lands Conservation and Recreation Work Group to study opportunities to advance conservation, climate resilience, biodiversity, and recreation on state trust lands.

The workgroup consists of voting members with subject matter expertise and members representing stakeholder groups appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership.

The workgroup must be appointed by September 2025, meet at least four times, issue an interim report by March 2026, and make final recommendations by September 2026 to the Governor, the General Assembly, the State Land Board (SLB), and the executive director of the DNR. The workgroup must be assisted by a professional facilitator, solicit public input, and engage subject matter specialists as needed including experts on the economy, landscape ecology, and climate resilience.

By February 2026, the SLB must review all existing parcels to determine if the lands are managed primarily to preserve long-term returns, review and update all existing stewardship trust management plans to achieve conservation purposes and required corrective actions, and report this and other pertinent information to the work group.

By February 2027, the SLB must consider the work group's recommendations and adopt an administrative policy or rules governing the implementation of conservation leases and related instruments on state trust lands, and a process to substantiate how the board balances revenue generation with conserving the long-term value of state trust lands.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the DNR by about \$430,000 in FY 2025-26, and \$125,000 in FY 2026-27 only. These costs, paid from the State Land Board Trust Administration Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Natural Resources

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Personal Services	\$161,966	\$101,229
Operating Expenses	\$2,048	\$1,280
Capital Outlay Costs	\$13,340	\$0
Professional Facilitator	\$200,000	\$0
Travel Reimbursements	\$16,152	\$0
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$34,940	\$21,838
Total Costs	\$428,446	\$124,347
Total FTE	1.6 FTE	1.0 FTE

Staff

The DNR will have an absorbable workload impact in the current FY 2024-25 to begin the procurement process for a professional facilitator.

In FY 2025-26, the department requires 2.0 FTE Program Managers to conduct an analysis of all existing leases on Long-term Stewardship Trust parcels to determine primary purposes of those leases and review and update all existing management plans, and to conduct additional required research in support of the workgroup’s statutory charge. Staff reduces to 1.0 FTE in FY 2026-27 to provide final assistance with policy development and workgroup recommendations, and to assist the commissioners in adopting rules.

Personal services include standard operating and capital outlay and have been prorated in FY 2025-26 for the bill’s effective date.

Professional Facilitator

The DNR will contract with a professional facilitator to assist the workgroup with all statutory requirements, analyses, and the production of interim and final reports. Based on recent projects of similar complexity completed by the department, this cost is estimated at 800 hours of contracted service at \$250 per hour.

Travel Reimbursements

The workgroup consists of roughly 20 members attending a minimum of four meetings. It is assumed that on average, six members of the workgroup will attend meetings in person and the remaining members will attend virtually. Costs for in person attendance include lodging, per-diem, and mileage.

Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, leased space, and indirect cost assessments, are shown in the expenditure table above.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$393,506 from the State Land Board Trust Administration Cash Fund to the Department of Natural Resources, and 1.6 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture

Natural Resources

Education