



February 4, 2019

[HB19-1006](#)

Wildfire Mitigation Wildland-urban Interface Areas

Position:

Support

Analysis:

This was interim wildfire committee bill that passed out of committee on a 9-1 vote. The bill expands the duties of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control in the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Colorado Forest Service at the Colorado State University. Collectively, the division and the forest service are required to:

- a) coordinate the state's response to wildfires within wildland-urban interface areas (WUIs) and coordinate the establishment and maintenance of fire-adapted communities; and b) improve wildfire response by ensuring that all political subdivisions are able to participate in implementing effective and efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

Short Title:

Wildfire Mitigation Wildland-urban Interface Areas

Sponsors:

B. McLachlan | T. Carver / R. Fields

Summary:

Creates Forest Management Fuels Reduction Projects Grant Program up to \$200K to homeowners assn, collective landowner groups and new housing developments for reducing forest fuels, promote forest health & reduce risk to people & property in the wildland urban interface.

Status:

1/4/2019 Introduced In House - Assigned to Rural Affairs & Agriculture

[HB19-1015](#)

Recreation Of The Colorado Water Institute

Position:

Support

Analysis:

The Colorado Water Institute (CWI), an affiliate of Colorado State University, exists for the express purpose of focusing the water expertise of higher education on the evolving water concerns and problems being faced by Colorado citizens. The CWI was created in 1981 and automatically repealed in 2017 without notice. This bill recreates and reauthorizes the institute through 2029

Short Title:

Recreation Of The Colorado Water Institute

Sponsors:

J. Arndt / J. Ginal

Summary:

This bill ensures the re-creation and continuation of the Colorado Water Institute.

Status:

2/4/2019 Senate Second Reading Passed - No Amendments

[HB19-1026](#)**Parks And Wildlife Violations Of Law**

Position:	Support
Analysis:	This bill addresses issues related to fines (ex. cost of fishing licenses v. cost of fines). It also adds clarifying language regarding the possession of Aquatic Nuisance Species in section 15:A person shall not: possess, import, export, ship, or transport an aquatic nuisance species, except as authorized by the commission by rule.
Short Title:	Parks And Wildlife Violations Of Law
Sponsors:	M. Catlin J. McCluskie / D. Coram K. Donovan
Summary:	This bill changes the amount of certain fines and modifies the disposition of money collected from fines imposed for violations of laws enforced by the division of parks and wildlife in the department of natural resources.
Status:	1/28/2019 House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations

[HB19-1029](#)**Republican River Water Conservation District**

Position:	No Position
Short Title:	Republican River Water Conservation District
Sponsors:	J. Arndt / L. Crowder
Summary:	Expands boundaries of the RRWCD, increase board from 15 to 17 directors and changes quarterly board meeting dates.
Status:	1/23/2019 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources

[HB19-1050](#)**Encourage Use Of Xeriscape In Common Areas**

Position:	Support in Concept
Analysis:	Under current law, a restrictive covenant of a common interest community (i.e., home owner or condominium owner associations) may not prohibit an individual property owner from employing the use of xeriscape or drought-tolerant landscaping. This bill extends this same policy to common areas under the control of the covenant community's governing board, and specifies that special districts are not exempt from the water conservation law concerning xeriscape landscaping.
Short Title:	Encourage Use Of Xeriscape In Common Areas
Sponsors:	B. Titone / K. Priola F. Winter
Summary:	The bill prevents a homeowners association (HOA) from prohibiting the use of drought-tolerant landscaping in common areas of a covenant controlled community and requires that special districts also permit drought-tolerant landscaping on certain types of land within the special district's control.
Status:	2/1/2019 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Local Government

[HB19-1071](#) Colorado Department Of Public Health And Environment Water Quality Control

Position: Monitor

Short Title: Colorado Department Of Public Health And Environment Water Quality Control

Sponsors: H. McKean / R. Zenzinger

Summary: Eliminates the requirement that the state board of health approve a municipality's entrance into a joint operating agreement with an industrial enterprise for work relating to sewerage facilities; and clarifies that the board of directors of a water conservancy district must comply with the rules of the water quality control commission concerning the manner in which water courses of the district are used for waste disposal.

Status: 1/31/2019 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

[HB19-1082](#) Water Rights Easements

Position: Support

Analysis: The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts requested that Rep. Catlin sponsor this bill to clarify that easement owners can place currently open ditch into pipe or line a ditch without amendment or new easement.

Short Title: Water Rights Easements

Sponsors: M. Catlin | D. Valdez / D. Coram

Summary: The bill clarifies that water rights easement holders may maintain, repair, and improve their easement.

Status: 1/31/2019 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

[HB19-1113](#) Protect Water Quality Adverse Mining Impacts

Position: Support

Short Title: Protect Water Quality Adverse Mining Impacts

Sponsors: D. Roberts | B. McLachlan

Summary: Current law does not address reliance on perpetual water treatment as the means to minimize impacts to water quality in a reclamation plan for a mining operation. **Section 1** of the bill requires most reclamation plans to demonstrate, by substantial evidence, an end date for any water quality treatment necessary to ensure compliance with applicable water quality standards.

Current law allows a mining permittee to submit an audited financial statement as proof that the operator has sufficient funds to meet its reclamation liabilities in lieu of a bond or other financial assurance. **Section 2** eliminates this self-bonding option and also requires that all reclamation bonds include financial assurances in an amount sufficient to protect water quality, including costs for any necessary treatment and monitoring costs.
(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)

Status: 2/4/2019 To House Floor

[HJR19-1005](#)**Water Projects Eligibility Lists**

Position: Support

Short Title: Water Projects Eligibility Lists

Sponsors: D. Roberts / K. Donovan

Summary: This is the annual projects approval list for the revolving loan funds administered by the Water & Power Development Authority. The list includes projects eligible and recommended for loans under the Safe Drinking and Clean Water Acts. The River District has always supported this resolution, though no significant effort is necessary to ensure its passage.

Status: 2/4/2019 Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

[SB19-016](#)**Severance Tax Operational Fund Distribution Methodology**

Position: Support

Analysis: This bill passed unanimously out of the Interim Water Resources Review Committees last the summer and clarifies some of the longstanding issues that have existed with "Tier II" funding programs. The bill should help in reliably securing full funding for "Tier II" programs of interest to the River District. Also, notably, these changes are consistent with the recommendations offered by the Water Congress from a special, fiscal review led by the River District.

Short Title: Severance Tax Operational Fund Distribution Methodology

Sponsors: K. Donovan | D. Coram / D. Esgar | L. Saine

Summary: This bill changes the timing and budgeting of severance tax revenue to several grant programs administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The bill does not change the funding amount for individual programs over time but delays the transfers until severance taxes have been collected for the previous fiscal year. The bill also renames the Tier I severance tax programs as Core Departmental Programs and the Tier II programs as Natural Resources and Energy Grant Programs. The bill also consolidates three transfers made to Natural Resources and Energy Grant Programs on July 1, January 4, and April 1 of each fiscal year into a single transfer made annually on August 15 in the year following the severance tax collection.

Status: 1/4/2019 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Ag

[SB19-020](#)**Wildland Fire Airspace Patrol System**

Position:	Support
Analysis:	In 2018, Colorado experienced 5 different instances in which aerial firefighting efforts were grounded due to drones operating in the area of a fire. This bill passed unanimously out of the Interim Wildfire Matters Review Committee last summer.
Short Title:	Wildland Fire Airspace Patrol System
Sponsors:	D. Coram R. Fields / B. McLachlan
Summary:	Directs the Center of Excellence (COE) to study and, if feasible, implement a system to patrol the airspace above a wildland fire. The patrol system must be capable of determining whether the airspace above wildland fires is clear of obstacles, including private unmanned aircraft systems (drones) that may interfere with aerial firefighting.
Status:	1/4/2019 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Ag

[SB19-037](#)**Wildfire Mitigation**

Position:	Support
Analysis:	This bill would permit a board of county commissioners to remove wildfire fuel materials from state or federal land within or close to the county's territorial boundary. The commissioners would be allowed to use county staff or an outside contractor to remove fuel materials if those materials pose a substantial threat of causing or aggravating a wildfire, or where the state or federal government has failed to create a defensible space. The River District should not engage in the question this bill raises of state legislation affecting federal authorities.
Short Title:	Wildfire Mitigation
Sponsors:	R. Woodward
Summary:	The bill confers additional powers to boards of county commissioners with respect to mitigating wildfire danger on state or federal land within or close to their territorial boundaries. The bill appropriates \$10.0 million to the Colorado State Forest Service for the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation grant program in FY 2019-20.
Status:	1/28/2019 Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Postpone Indefinitely

[SB19-040](#)**Establish Colorado Fire Commission**

Position: Oppose

Analysis: This is another bill that came out of the Interim Wildfire Committee (passed 8-2). The commission would consist of 19 voting members and 5 non-voting members, three non-voting members from federal, state, and local entities; and two non-voting members representing water providers one from the east slope and one from the west slope.

Short Title: Establish Colorado Fire Commission

Sponsors: D. Hisey

Summary: The bill establishes the Colorado fire commission in the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety. The commission's purpose is to enhance public safety in Colorado through an integrated statewide process focused on the fire service's capacity to conduct fire management and use, preparedness, prevention, and response activities to safeguard lives, property, and natural resources, and increase the resiliency of local and regional communities.

Status: 1/4/2019 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Ag

[SB19-070](#)**Department Of Natural Resources Language Update**

Position: Support

Analysis: Current law authorizes the department of natural resources to "receive or reject gifts and devises of money or property" to be credited to the Colorado natural resources foundation fund. The bill repeals this authorizing language and updates it with authorizing language that is current and consistent with language used throughout the statutes.

Short Title: Department Of Natural Resources Language Update

Sponsors: J. Tate / J. Arndt

Summary: This bill updates existing statutory language authorizing the department of natural resources to receive donations to be credited to the Colorado natural resources foundation fund.

Status: 1/31/2019 Introduced In House - Assigned to Energy & Environment

[SJM19-001](#)**Memorial For Arkansas Valley Conduit**

Position: No Position

Short Title: Memorial For Arkansas Valley Conduit

Sponsors: L. Crowder / D. Esgar

Summary: Memorializes the United States Congress to fulfill the commitment of the federal government to provide funding for the Arkansas Valley Conduit project. Passed Interim Water Resources Review Committee unanimously.

Status: 1/23/2019 Introduced In House - Assigned to Rural Affairs & Agriculture

[SJM19-002](#)

Corps Of Engineers To Dredge Lower Arkansas River

Position:

No Position

Short Title:

Corps Of Engineers To Dredge Lower Arkansas River

Sponsors:

L. Crowder | D. Coram / D. Esgar | M. Catlin

Summary:

Memorializes the United States Congress to enact legislation directing the United States Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction and cooperation with the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, to dredge a portion of the Arkansas River. Passed out of Interim Water Committee on a 7-3 vote.

Status:

1/23/2019 Introduced In House - Assigned to Rural Affairs & Agriculture