

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0815
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Fischer
 Sen. Schwartz

Date: June 27, 2013
Bill Status: Signed into Law
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TITLE: CONCERNING THE SPECIES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15
State Revenue		
State Transfers Transfer from the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund to the Species Conservation Trust Fund - reduction	(\$2,600,000)	
State Expenditures Cash Funds Species Conservation Trust Fund	\$4,000,000	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 5, 2013.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: See State Appropriations section.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill reduces from \$6.6 million to \$4 million the FY 2013-14 transfer of money from the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund to the Capital Account of the Species Conservation Trust Fund (SCTF) to fund programs submitted by the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources. These programs are intended to conserve native species that are listed as threatened or endangered under state or federal law, are candidate species, or are likely to become candidate species as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The bill also appropriates \$4 million from SCTF.

Background

The Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund receives 25 percent of severance tax receipts. Current law provides a mechanism for balancing spending from the Operational Account by making reductions to the account's Tier 2 programs when insufficient funds exist to fully fund the programs and the account's statutory reserve requirement. Tier 2 programs include water-related programs, agriculture-related programs, clean and renewable energy development, soil

conservation, the control of invasive species, low-income energy assistance, and the SCTF. The reductions to Tier 2 programs are made on a proportional basis. For example, if the funding for Tier 2 programs needs to be reduced by 10 percent to ensure the Operational Account is balanced, each Tier 2 program's funding level is reduced by 10 percent.

State Transfers

For FY 2013-14, the bill reduces the transfer amount from \$6,600,000 to \$4,000,000 from the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund to the Species Conservation Trust Fund. This amount may be proportionally reduced if insufficient funds exist to balance the Operational Account of the Severance Tax Trust Fund.

State Expenditures

In FY 2013-14, the bill provides \$4,000,000 from the SCTF to the Department of Natural Resources for the projects summarized in Table 1.

Project	FY 2013-14
Selenium Management Program	\$500,000
White River Management Plan	250,000
Instream Flow Water Acquisition	500,000
Fountain Creek Fish Passage Project	250,000
Native Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat Management and Propagation	10,000
Native Terrestrial Wildlife Research, Monitoring and Evaluation	816,000
Native Aquatic Wildlife Habitat, Population Management and Propagation	500,000
Native Aquatic Wildlife Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation	324,000
Wildlife Disease Management and Landscape Adaptation	350,000
Natural Areas - Rare Plant Conservation Program and Species Conservation	\$500,000
Total Expenditures	\$4,000,000

State Appropriations

The bill provides the authorization necessary for the projects listed in Table 1. No further appropriations are required.

Departments Contacted

Natural Resources