



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0561	Date:	February 16, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Catlin; McLachlan Sen. Will	Bill Status:	House Ag., Water, & Natural Res.
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Bill Topic: **SUNSET NATURAL AREAS COUNCIL**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

Sunset bill. This bill continues the Natural Areas Council in the Department of Natural Resources, which is scheduled to repeal on September 1, 2024. State fiscal impacts under the bill include only the continuation of the program's current expenditures. The program is continued through indefinitely.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Natural Areas Council in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) repeals on September 1, 2024. The bill continues the council indefinitely.

Background

The Natural Areas Council was created in 1977 to advise and make recommendations to the Parks and Wildlife Commission on the designation and use of natural areas on the Natural Areas Registry. It is made up of seven members, appointed by the commission, State Board of Land Commissioners, and the Governor. Council members do not receive compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses.

The sunset report by the Department of Regulatory Agencies is available [here](#).

Continuing Program Impacts

Based on sunset report, the Department of Natural Resources had minimal expenditures to administer the council in FY 2022-23. Any program expenses are paid from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund, using Great Outdoors Colorado funding that is not appropriated by the General Assembly. If this bill is enacted, minimal expenditures will continue for the program starting in FY 2024-25. If this bill is not enacted, the program will end on September 1, 2024 and any money that would have been spent on the council will be shifted to other allowable uses within the Natural Resources Management Program in DNR starting in FY 2024-25. No change in appropriations is required.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).