

Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Doug Vilsack,
*Assistant Director for Parks,
Wildlife and Lands*



COLORADO
Department of
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Department Divisions

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Division of Water Resources
- Colorado State Land Board
- Colorado Avalanche Information Center
- Division of Forestry (Colorado State Forest Service)



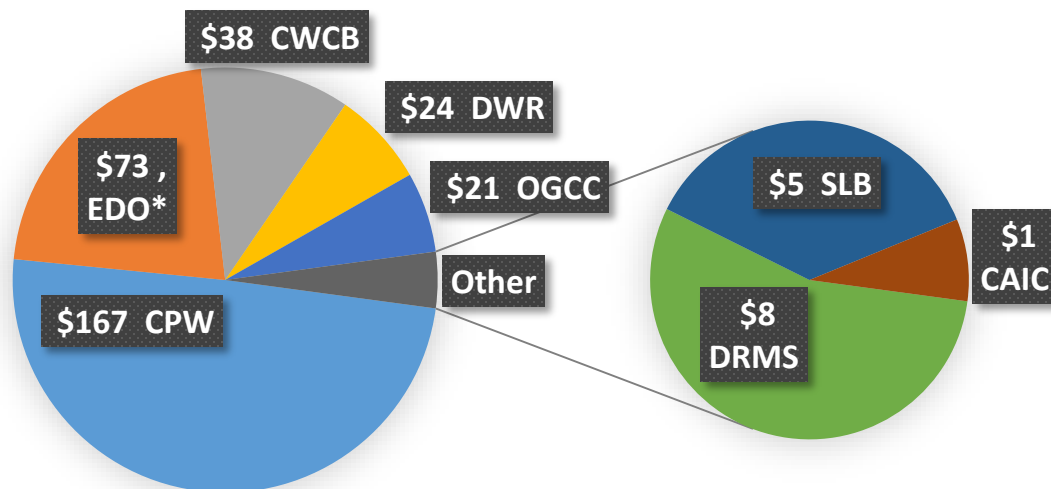
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FY 2019-20 Budget

Division	FTE
Executive Director's Office (EDO)	41.3
CO Avalanche Information Center (CAIC)	11.3
Division of Reclamation and Mining (DRMS)	65.8
Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (OGCC)	147.3
State Land Board (SLB)	42
CO Parks and Wildlife (CPW)	894.5
CO Water Conservation Board (CWCB)	46.7
Division of Water Resources (DWR)	254
Total	1,502.9

Total Appropriation By Division

(\$ shown are in rounded millions)



*The Executive Director's budget includes funding for administrative personal services and operating expenses, department-wide common policies, and annual Species Conservation Trust Fund projects.



DNR Staffing Updates

Appointment and Promotions:

- Executive Director - Dan Gibbs
- Deputy Director - Tim Mauck
- Chief Operating Officer - Lynne Steketee
- Communications Director - Chris Arend
- Chief Planning and Budget Director - Carly Jacobs
- Assistant Director for Wildlife and Lands - Doug Vilsack
- Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Dan Prenzl
- Director of COGCC - Jeff Robbins
- Policy Advisor for Federal Affairs - Vanessa Mazal
- Policy Advisor for Forests and Climate - Angela Boag

Hiring:

- Legislative Liaison



DNR's *Wildly* Important Goals

1. Appoint and confirm interim Oil and Gas Commission and complete initial rulemakings
2. Increase sustainable revenue sources for CPW
3. Increase public access to 1,000,000 acres



Colorado Parks and Wildlife Public Access

Program	Number of Properties	Acres
State Parks	43 ¹	219,000
State Wildlife Areas (SWA)	348	769,000
State Trust Lands	241	490,000
Walk-in Access	900	200,000

Summarized from 2015 data

¹ This includes Lone Mesa State Park which is currently only open for limited big-game hunting opportunities through a special permit and the Fisher's Peak property near Trinidad, CO



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Fishers Peak Colorado's Next State Park



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Wildlife Corridors Executive Order

Follows Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 2018-3362

Directs Colorado Parks and Wildlife to identify:

- Corridors, threats, data gaps, other barriers
- Policy, regulatory and legislative opportunities to conserve seasonal big game habitat and migration corridors based on scientific data

Directs Colorado Department of Transportation to:

- Consider big game migration into all levels of its planning process in order to enable safe wildlife passage and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions

CDOT and DNR coordinate and leverage agencies' expertise to achieve goals of Executive Order

Security of the Colorado River

- New Colorado River Commissioner: Becky Mitchell
- Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans Working
- Colorado River Demand Management Feasibility Investigation



Implementing Colorado's Water Plan

- Water Plan Technical Update recently approved by CWCB
- C-9 Basin Roundtable Summit
- \$30M Allocated to Water Plan Last Session
- Appointment of Russ George as the IBCC Chair



Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

- SB 19 181 Signed into law, April 16, 2019
- Major overhaul of Colorado oil and gas law
- Puts health, safety & environment first
- Allows local governments increased oversight over oil & gas operations



Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

New Commission seated May 17, 2019

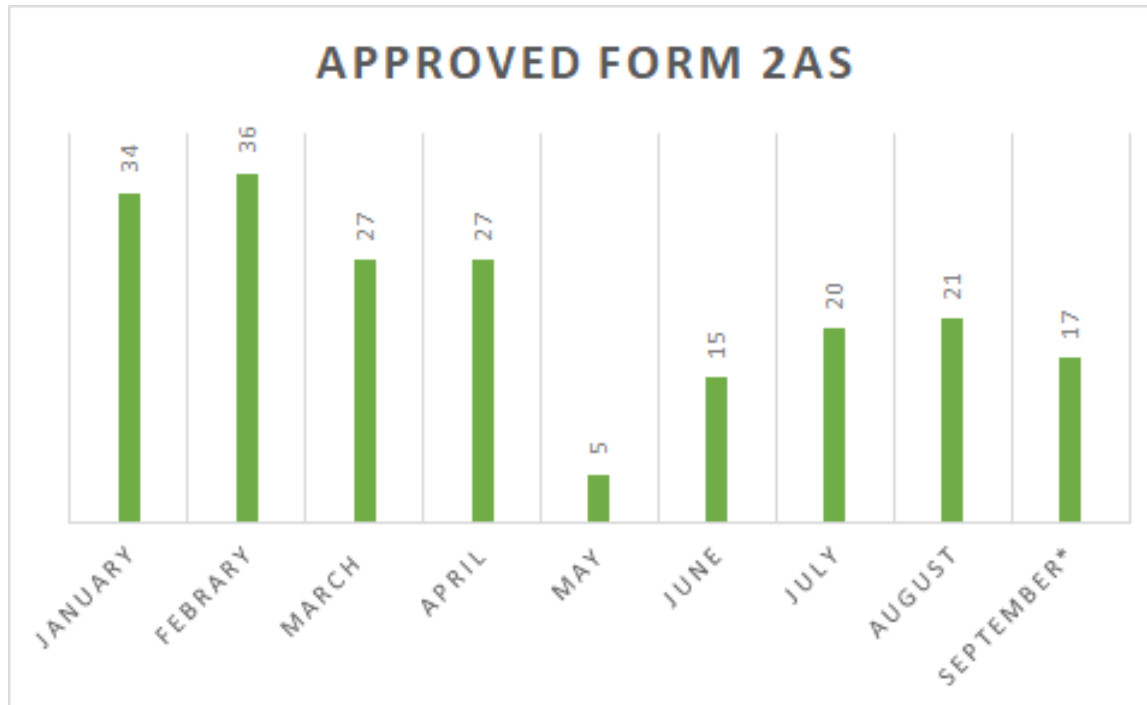
Aggressive Rulemaking Calendar for the “first four”:

- Flowlines: November 20-21, 2019
- Mission Change (Public Health, Environment, Wildlife): February 26-27, 2020
- Cumulative Impacts: March 25-26, 2020
- Alternative Location Analysis: April 22-23, 2020



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Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission



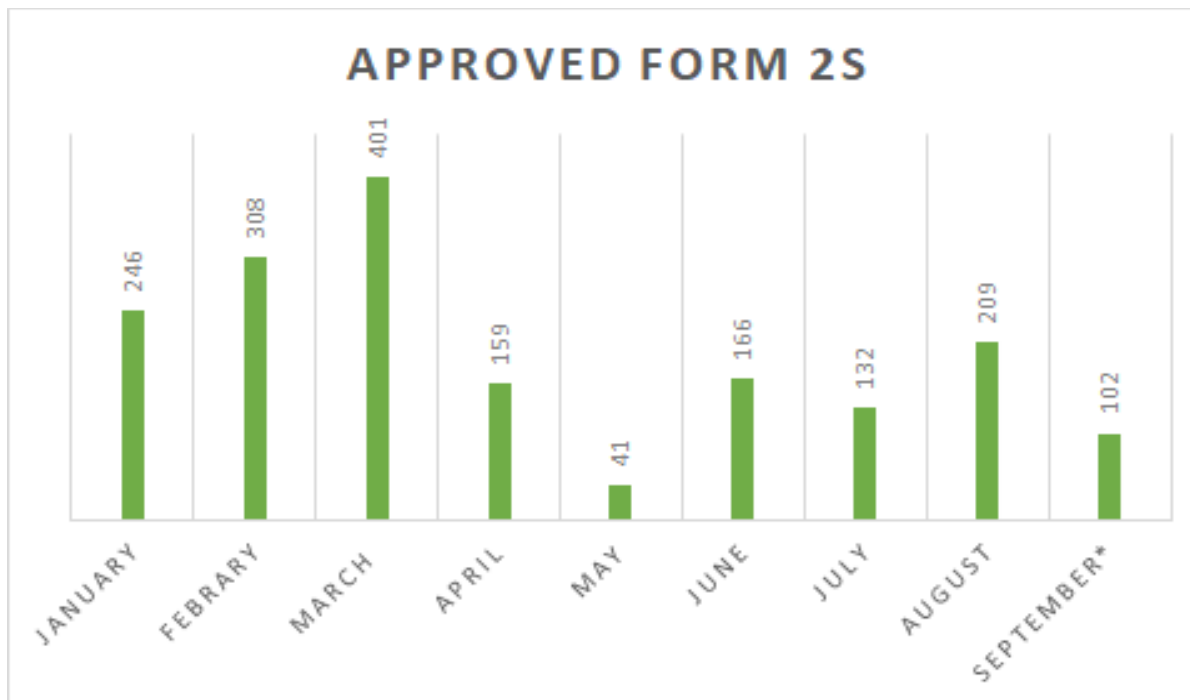
Approved surface location permits, January - September 2019

* September numbers as of 9/19/2019



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Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission



Approved Permits to Drill, January - September 2019

* September numbers as of 9/19/2019



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CO Avalanche Information Center

Historic 2019 Avalanche Season

- 4273 avalanches recorded
- 157 D3 or larger - D3 is large enough to destroy a house (5 level scale)
 - This is twice the number D3-D5 avalanches recorded in the previous 8 years
- 135 people caught in avalanches, 8 people killed (10 year average is 6)
- Power, gas infrastructure, buildings damaged or destroyed in 6 counties



Federal Coordination: Shared Stewardship with USFS

- USFS implementing Shared Stewardship Investment Strategy outlining plans to work more closely with states
- USFS and DNR signed MOU in November
- Framework to accomplish mutual goals and respond to challenges facing communities, landscapes, natural resources and cultural resources of the State.



Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative

- A USFS-led initiative to address challenges and identify potential solutions that will lead to restoration of critical landscapes in the Rocky Mountains.
- Currently seeking projects in three regions in Colorado, including Central I-70 and the SW parts of the State.
- Anticipated that the identified project will be at a landscape-level, include a 10-year timeline and have significant partner support.
- Potential new federal funding.



DNR: A lot more going on...

- 88,000 acres for Big-Game Walk-in Program
- Himes Creek – San Juan lineage Colorado River Cutthroat Trout
- Response to federal processes:
 - Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP)
 - Quarterly BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sales
 - Waters of the US
 - Eastern CO RMP
 - Rio Grande National Forest Plan
 - USFS Revised NEPA Regulations
- Developing Criteria for Next State Park
- COTREX Trails App – trails.colorado.gov



Contact Information

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Questions?

