

HB25-XXXX, Expanding Responsible Stewardship on State Trust Lands *Representative McCormick / Senators Roberts and Wallace*

The Colorado State Land Board (SLB) is the trustee for lands granted to the state primarily to benefit public schools and 8 other beneficiaries, including state parks. The SLB is responsible for management, stewardship, and leasing almost 2.8 million surface acres and 4 million subsurface acres across the state. SLB must manage all state trust lands to both generate income and ensure sound stewardship of the natural resources on state trust lands to protect their long-term value. SLB is also accountable for protecting and enhancing the natural features, open space, and wildlife habitat of certain state trust lands.

HB25-XXXX, Expanding Responsible Stewardship on State Trust Lands, seeks to establish a formal working group process to identify opportunities to improve and enhance conservation, agricultural operations, and outdoor recreation on state trust lands.

What HB25-XXXX Does:

The bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to convene a working group with SLB stakeholders and Tribes.

The working group is directed to identify and recommend improving the SLB's long-term stewardship of state trust lands while identifying challenges and opportunities to advance conservation, climate resiliency, wildlife habitat, agricultural leasing programs, and low-conflict recreation. Nothing will impact or reduce funding for public schools or other beneficiaries. The working group is also required to solicit public input and engage third-party interests.

The working group is to report back to the SLB, DNR, Governor, and General Assembly with recommendations on or before July 1, 2026. Following the submittal of recommendations, the SLB is required to consider the recommendations and adopt policies or rules as appropriate.

The Working Group May Not:

Consider recommendations that alter or impair the validity of any existing leases on state trust lands or create new terms or regulations for existing leases.

For more information, please contact: