



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441  
F (303) 866-4474

John Hickenlooper, Governor

Robert Randall, DNR Executive Director

James Eklund, CWCB Director

**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Michelle Garrison, Interstate, Federal & Water Information Section

**DATE:** March 23, 2017

**AGENDA ITEM: 30. Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Funding Update (informational item)**

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Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff presented information regarding Colorado's Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program at the January 2017 Board meeting. The ANS Program historically received funding from Tier 2 Severance Tax revenue. With the loss of that funding source CPW is investigating more stable long-term funding mechanisms for the ANS Program, including fees and license increases. Alternative funding sources are expected to take at least 2 years to develop and fully establish.

The ANS Program provides important statewide protection to water supply infrastructure and water-based recreation opportunities. CPW is working with partners including water supply providers and reservoir operators, recreation interests, Federal agencies and the CWCB to continue this vital program during the funding shortfall. Emergency short-term funding and in-kind contributions are needed for 2017 and 2018 operation of the ANS Program.

CWCB staff will present an update on provision of short-term emergency assistance for the ANS Program. Species Conservation Trust Fund money previously authorized for nonnative species control is being explored as a possible short-term funding source.

