

**Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**BILL 4**

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LLS NO. 14-0246.02 Thomas Morris x4218

**INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL**

**Water Resources Review Committee**

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**House Committees**

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLES.**

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

**Water Resources Review Committee. Section 1** of the bill authorizes the state forester to recognize the formation of forest watershed roundtables. No more than one forest watershed roundtable may be recognized within the geographic region associated with an existing water basin roundtable. Forest watershed roundtables are tasked with advocating for stewardship of forested land, both public and private, to minimize the risk of wildfires and secure favorable conditions of water

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

flows within their respective water basins and the forest watersheds that provide water for users within those basins. Forest watershed roundtables may be formed from community-based groups already in existence or interested in being formed, and must make particular efforts to include participation by representatives of national forests located within the geographic region associated with the forest watershed roundtable or within a watershed that provides water for users within that geographic region.

**Section 2** creates the forest watershed roundtable operation account in the interbasin compact committee operation fund and specifies that the account consists of moneys allocated to it by the director of compact negotiations. A forest watershed roundtable can seek funding from the account if approved by the applicable basin roundtable and the director of compact negotiations. **Section 3** increases the existing annual transfer of severance tax revenues into the interbasin compact committee operation fund from \$745,067 to \$ \_\_\_\_.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-31-316 as  
3 follows:

4 **23-31-316. Forest watershed roundtables.** (1) (a) THE STATE  
5 FORESTER MAY RECOGNIZE THE FORMATION OF ONE OR MORE FOREST  
6 WATERSHED ROUNDTABLES. THE STATE FORESTER SHALL NOT RECOGNIZE  
7 MORE THAN ONE FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE IN THE GEOGRAPHIC  
8 REGION ASSOCIATED WITH ANY SINGLE BASIN ROUNDTABLE CREATED IN  
9 SECTION 37-75-104(3)(b), C.R.S. UPON RECOGNIZING THE FORMATION OF  
10 A FOREST BASIN ROUNDTABLE, THE STATE FORESTER SHALL NOTIFY THE  
11 APPLICABLE BASIN ROUNDTABLE AND THE DIRECTOR OF COMPACT  
12 NEGOTIATIONS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-75-1034(1), C.R.S.,  
13 OF THE FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE'S FORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP.

14 (b) (I) A FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE MAY BE FORMED FROM  
15 COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE OR INTERESTED IN  
16 BEING FORMED. THE PURPOSE OF A FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE IS  
17 TO ADVOCATE FOR THE STEWARDSHIP OF FORESTED LANDS, BOTH PUBLIC

1 AND PRIVATE, WITH THE GOAL OF MINIMIZING THE RISK OF WILDFIRES AND  
2 SECURING FAVORABLE CONDITIONS OF WATER FLOWS WITHIN THE FOREST  
3 WATERSHED THAT PROVIDES WATER FOR USERS WITHIN THE AREA  
4 REPRESENTED BY THE FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE, INCLUDING BY  
5 IDENTIFYING PRIORITY TREATMENT AREAS AND FUNDING PRIORITIES  
6 WITHIN THE FOREST WATERSHED.

7 (II) A FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE SHALL MAKE PARTICULAR  
8 EFFORTS TO INCLUDE PARTICIPATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL  
9 FORESTS LOCATED WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION ASSOCIATED WITH  
10 THE FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE OR WITHIN A WATERSHED THAT  
11 PROVIDES WATER FOR USERS WITHIN THAT GEOGRAPHIC REGION.

12 (2) A FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE IS A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY  
13 FOR PURPOSES OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW, PART 4 OF ARTICLE 6 OF TITLE  
14 24, C.R.S.

15 (3) A FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE MAY SEEK FUNDING FROM  
16 THE FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE OPERATION ACCOUNT IN THE  
17 INTERBASIN COMPACT COMMITTEE OPERATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION  
18 37-75-107, C.R.S., BY SECURING APPROVAL FROM:

19 (a) THE BASIN ROUNDTABLE WITHIN WHICH THE FOREST  
20 WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE IS LOCATED; AND

21 (b) THE DIRECTOR OF COMPACT NEGOTIATIONS APPOINTED  
22 PURSUANT TO SECTION 37-75-1034 (1), C.R.S.

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 37-75-107 as  
24 follows:

25 **37-75-107. Interbasin compact committee operation fund -**  
26 **creation.** (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the interbasin  
27 compact committee operation fund, which shall be administered by the

1 Colorado water conservation board and ~~shall consist~~ WHICH CONSISTS of  
2 all moneys transferred by the treasurer as specified in section 39-29-109.3  
3 (2) (i), C.R.S. All moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the  
4 Colorado water conservation board for the purposes stated in this article.  
5 All moneys in the fund at the end of each fiscal year ~~shall be retained~~  
6 REMAIN in the fund and ~~shall~~ DO not revert to the general fund or any  
7 other fund.

8 (2) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE INTERBASIN COMPACT  
9 COMMITTEE OPERATION FUND THE FOREST WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE  
10 OPERATION ACCOUNT, WHICH THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION  
11 BOARD SHALL ADMINISTER IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COLORADO STATE  
12 FOREST SERVICE. THE ACCOUNT CONSISTS OF ALL MONEYS TRANSFERRED  
13 BY THE STATE TREASURER AS DIRECTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMPACT  
14 NEGOTIATIONS. ALL MONEYS IN THE ACCOUNT ARE CONTINUOUSLY  
15 APPROPRIATED TO THE BOARD FOR THE PURPOSES STATED IN SECTION  
16 23-31-316, C.R.S. ALL MONEYS IN THE ACCOUNT AT THE END OF EACH  
17 FISCAL YEAR REMAIN IN THE ACCOUNT AND DO NOT REVERT TO THE  
18 GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND.

19 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-29-109.3, **amend**  
20 (2) (i) (II) as follows:

21 **39-29-109.3. Severance tax operational fund - repeal.**

22 (2) Subject to the requirements of subsections (3) and (4) of this section,  
23 if the general assembly chooses not to spend up to one hundred percent  
24 of the moneys in the operational fund as specified in subsection (1) of this  
25 section, the state treasurer shall transfer the following:

26 (i) To the interbasin compact committee operation fund created in  
27 section 37-75-107, C.R.S., the following amounts:

1            (II) For the state fiscal year commencing July 1, ~~2009~~ 2014, and  
2 for each state fiscal year thereafter, ~~seven hundred forty-five thousand~~  
3 ~~sixty-seven~~ \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.

4            **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.