

# FACT SHEET

## Colorado Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection Act

### What Livestock Producers and Landowners Need to Know

#### THE ISSUE

Proposed 2025 ballot initiative (#2025-2026 #82) would create sweeping new controls over land use under the banner of conservation, posing significant risks to agricultural operations and property rights.

#### KEY PROVISIONS

- Creates the Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation Commission (WECC), a 9-member unelected board excluding anyone with ties to agriculture, energy, or development.
- Grants WECC enforcement powers: inspections, subpoenas, investigations, and referrals for prosecution.
- Establishes a statewide Wildlife Corridor Network with strict oversight for participants.
- Requires costly infrastructure changes (overpasses, underpasses, fencing) for projects near corridors.
- WECC can override local project approvals.

#### FUNDING CONCERNS

- WECC funds itself through fines, penalties, and impact fees (minimum 0.5% of project cost).
- 20% of fines go to WECC's budget; 30% for land acquisition.
- Fees can be increased at any time based on vague criteria.

#### RISKS TO PRODUCERS

- Loss of local control over land management.
- Potential restrictions on grazing, fencing, and agricultural practices.
- Financial barriers to rural development and infrastructure projects.
- Partnerships with groups promoting rewilding, predator reintroduction, and anti-animal agriculture policies.

#### BOTTOM LINE

This measure concentrates regulatory power in an unelected commission, sidelines agricultural voices, and threatens property rights. Producers should stay informed, engage in the public process, and be ready to advocate for their livelihoods.