



Fiscal Summary

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Measure: Initiative 35 – END WOLF REINTRODUCTION

Analyst: Alexa Kelly, alexa.kelly@coleg.gov, 303-866-3469

Date: March 18, 2025

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 35

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at leg.colorado.gov/bluebook. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State Expenditures

To the extent the measure eliminates future reintroduction efforts of wolves after December 31, 2026, costs will potentially decrease by an indeterminate amount. However, the measure is not expected to increase or decrease near-term state expenditures. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in the Department of Natural Resources will continue to introduce wolves through the end of 2026. After this date, CPW will continue to have costs to manage the gray wolf population established in Colorado. Costs for compensation for depredation caused by wolves is also expected to remain consistent with current costs, assuming the wolf population remains stable. In FY 2024-25, the General Assembly appropriated \$525,000 to go towards paying depredation claims.

The Department of Agriculture will continue to incur costs to provide technical assistance and supplies to farmers and ranchers on non-lethal techniques to reduce wolf depredation. In FY 2024-25, the General Assembly appropriated about \$581,000 for this purpose.

Economic Impacts

This measure will have a minimal direct economic impact on the state. It may reduce negative impacts on the agricultural sector by limiting the number of gray wolves reintroduced to Colorado and subsequently reducing future interactions with livestock.