



Fiscal Impact Statement

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

INITIATIVE 13: END WOLF REINTRODUCTION

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

Date: April 24, 2025

Summary Information

Overview. The measure establishes December 31, 2026, as the end date for reintroductions of gray wolves.

Types of impacts. The measure is projected to affect the following areas:

- State Expenditures

Disclaimer. This initial fiscal impact statement has been prepared for an initiative approved for petition circulation by the Secretary of State. If the initiative is placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff may revise this estimate for the ballot information booklet (Blue Book) if new information becomes available. Any appropriations required to implement this measure will be addressed through the annual or supplemental budget process if this measure is approved by voters.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Measure

If approved by voters, this measure requires Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to end reintroductions of gray wolves by December 31, 2026.

Background

In 2020, Colorado voters passed Proposition 114, which required CPW to restore gray wolves to the state. Proposition 114 also required the state to assist livestock owners in preventing and resolving conflicts between gray wolves and livestock and pay fair compensation to livestock owners for any losses caused by wolves.

In 2021, the state legislature passed a bill which specified allowable fund sources that the General Assembly may use for the state's wolf reintroduction work. These funds include the General Fund and other cash funds within CPW that are not funded through licensing fees.

To implement the restoration of wolves, in accordance with state law, CPW developed the Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. The plan dictates that CPW will transfer 30 to 50 wolves over a three to five year timeframe. Since December 2023, CPW has conducted two wolf pack releases, and as of April 2025, there are approximately 30 wolves in Colorado. Two packs are actively denning, and the population is expected to continue to grow.

Assumptions

This fiscal analysis assumes CPW will continue to reintroduce wolves through December 31, 2026, which will allow for three to four additional pack releases to Colorado. It is also assumed that the wolf population will continue to grow after the reintroductions end.

State Expenditures

The measure is not expected to increase or decrease near-term state expenditures. CPW, in the Department of Natural Resources, will continue to reintroduce wolves through the end of 2026. After this date, CPW will continue to have costs to manage the gray wolf population that is present in Colorado. These costs include, but are not limited to, coordinating with state and federal agencies, monitoring gray wolf presence, responding to and investigating depredation claims, providing non-lethal conflict minimization materials, and standing up a range riding program.

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 pay depredation claims.

Initiative 13

The Department of Agriculture will continue to incur costs to coordinate with CPW and 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.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2026 general election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture

Natural Resources