

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Colorado's native fish, wildlife, pollinator, and plant species are part of our rich natural heritage and an important legacy to pass on to future generations; and

WHEREAS, one of the greatest threats to the survival and diversity of ecosystems is the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of natural habitats; and

WHEREAS, climate change will exacerbate these threats; and

WHEREAS, intact habitats and intact wildlife corridors that connect those habitats are vital to ensuring Colorado's wildlife populations continue to thrive; and

WHEREAS, protecting wildlife corridors has been shown to improve the herd vitality of big game species that are critical to Colorado's outdoor recreation economy; and

WHEREAS, on the almost 200,000 miles of roads in Colorado there are thousands of reported collisions between large animals and vehicles each year, causing human fatalities, animal fatalities, and millions of dollars in damage; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's lands and open spaces, as well as the wildlife that reside on them, make for a robust outdoor recreation economy that generates \$62.5 billion in economic output, \$9.4 billion in local and state tax revenue, and supports 511,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, working together across federal, state, tribal, and local lands to provide long-term habitat connectivity for migration, dispersal, adaptation to climate change, and genetic exchange is essential to protecting and restoring Colorado's native fish, wildlife, and plant species, as well as human health and safety, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Transportation has already built a number of safe passage structures to keep wildlife and drivers safe; and

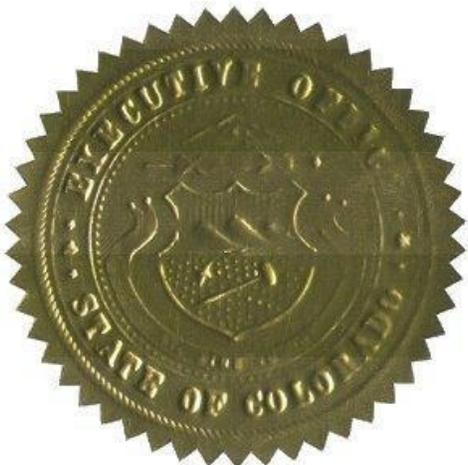
WHEREAS, Colorado's legislature unanimously passed SJR21-021, which recognized the importance of wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim September 29, 2021 as

HABITAT CONNECTIVITY DAY

in the state of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the state of Colorado, this twenty-ninth day of September, 2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Jared Polis
Governor*