

# HB26-1132: CONCERNING INCREASING POLLINATOR HABITAT ON STATE LANDS

**Sponsors: Representative Meg Froelich & Senator Cathy Kipp**

The 2024 CO Native Pollinating Insects Health Study identifies habitat loss and a lack of diverse native plants as primary causes of pollinator decline, as native plants provide essential habitat and food sources on which pollinators depend. By establishing standards for the use of native plants on state-owned lands, the bill **addresses the Study's recommendation to expand and connect high-quality pollinator habitat at scale.** Colorado leads in pollinator conservation, and this bill advances efforts to build resilient, healthy landscapes while strengthening native plant supply chains statewide.

The bill **encourages state agencies to prioritize the use of native plant materials** when available and financially viable, while recognizing the need to balance pollinator habitat goals with other land-management priorities, including wildfire mitigation, climate resilience, noxious weed control, agricultural production, and public safety to ensure that native plants are integrated responsibly into state projects.



The bill **promotes coordinated purchasing across state agencies** to leverage collective buying power, reduce costs, and increase market confidence for growers. It **supports collaboration with state and private nurseries, and public-private partnerships** to expand the availability and diversity of native plant materials. The bill also **requires agencies to establish training programs in native plant identification and pollinator-friendly land management practices.**



Finally, the bill **directs Colorado State University Extension to conduct a comprehensive study of native plant availability, supply chains, and demand,** contingent on available grant funding, to inform future policy and market development. Together, these provisions position Colorado to lead by example, while restoring pollinator habitat and ensuring the state remains truly "Colorful Colorado."