

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE**  
2                   **PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF WILDLIFE**  
3                   **CORRIDORS**

4                   2020 GENERAL SESSION

5                   STATE OF UTAH

6                   **Chief Sponsor: Mike Schultz**

7                   Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

8	Cosponsors:	Timothy D. Hawkes	Keven J. Stratton
9	Carl R. Albrecht	Phil Lyman	Christine F. Watkins
10	Joel K. Briscoe	Michael K. McKell	Logan Wilde
11	Scott H. Chew	Derrin R. Owens	
12	Susan Duckworth	Douglas V. Sagers	
	Joel Ferry		

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14                   **LONG TITLE**

15                   **General Description:**

16                   This resolution relates to protecting wildlife and improving motorist safety.

17                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

18                   This resolution:

- 19                   ▶ acknowledges that healthy wildlife and landscapes are crucial to Utah's quality of
- 20 life and economy;
- 21                   ▶ acknowledges that protecting fish and wildlife corridors will improve herd vitality
- 22 of big game species and preserve connectivity of fisheries;
- 23                   ▶ acknowledges and respects the rights of private landowners;
- 24                   ▶ acknowledges that the United States is losing biodiversity;
- 25                   ▶ acknowledges that wildlife-vehicle collisions pose serious safety risks to motorists
- 26 and wildlife and that states, including Utah, that implement wildlife crossings to
- 27 improve motorist safety and protect wildlife corridors have seen a decrease in

28 wildlife vehicle collisions;

29       ▶ acknowledges current efforts to protect wildlife corridors and road safety;

30       ▶ acknowledges the need for the protection and restoration of migratory routes for

31 wildlife through the Division of Wildlife Resources' Utah's Wildlife Migration

32 Initiative;

33       ▶ acknowledges that the federal government has initiated programs and awarded  
34 grants to protect wildlife corridors for big game animals;

35       ▶ expresses the state's continued support for fish and wildlife corridors and road  
36 safety; and

37       ▶ encourages studies related to wildlife migration corridors within the state.

38 **Special Clauses:**

39       None



41 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

42       WHEREAS, healthy plant and animal life are necessary to the quality of life in Utah  
43 and to maintain vibrant and balanced landscapes to support outdoor recreational activities such  
44 as hunting, fishing, animal watching, and similar activities;

45       WHEREAS, the Office of Outdoor Recreation reports that outdoor recreation  
46 contributes more than \$5.5 billion to the economy, employs more than 75,000 people, and is  
47 the primary driver behind the tourism industry;

48       WHEREAS, protecting fish and wildlife migration corridors has been shown to  
49 improve herd vitality of big game species, and preserving connectivity is crucial to the  
50 long-term resiliency of Utah's fisheries, both being critical in supporting Utah's outdoor  
51 recreation economy;

52       WHEREAS, the rights of private landowners are recognized and respected and private  
53 landowners should not be forced to participate in any state or local initiatives regarding the  
54 protection of wildlife corridors, but instead the state and local governments should incentivize  
55 private landowners to participate;

56 WHEREAS, 1 in 5 species is at risk of extinction in the United States and Utah is home  
57 to many threatened or endangered species and to sensitive species;

58 WHEREAS, over the 14-year period from 1992 thru 2005, the Utah Highway Patrol  
59 reported to the Utah Department of Transportation's Traffic and Safety Office that:

- 60 • nearly 30,500 wildlife-vehicle collisions occurred during that period,  
61 most reported being deer, elk, and moose;
- 62 • the number of reported injury accidents during this period was 2,030;
- 63 and
- 64 • the injury accidents include 18 reported deaths due to accidents with  
65 wildlife;

66 WHEREAS, states, including Utah, that implement wildlife crossings to improve  
67 motorist safety and protect wildlife corridors have seen a decrease in wildlife vehicle collisions  
68 by 40% to 90%;

69 WHEREAS, the Division of Wildlife Resources and the Utah Department of  
70 Transportation through the creation of a Wildlife Conflict Prevention Team are incorporating  
71 wildlife migration patterns, crash data, and wildlife carcass data in highway corridor planning  
72 to improve roadway safety for wildlife and motorists;

73 WHEREAS, the Utah Department of Transportation continues to install wildlife  
74 fencing, has constructed a wildlife overpass and 50 wildlife underpasses statewide, continues to  
75 identify potential locations for additional wildlife crossings, and has implemented new  
76 monitoring technology to assess the effectiveness of existing crossings and better warn  
77 motorists when wildlife is present;

78 WHEREAS, there is a need for the protection and restoration of migratory routes for  
79 wildlife through the Division of Wildlife Resources' Utah's Wildlife Migration Initiative; and

80 WHEREAS, the current administration has initiated programs and awarded grants to  
81 protect wildlife corridors for big game animals through United States Department of Interior,  
82 Secretarial Order 3362:

83 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the

84 Governor concurring therein, urges continued state investment in wildlife connectivity and  
85 encourages state and local governments to adopt policies to protect and restore intact fish and  
86 wildlife connectivity and migration corridors and promote road safety.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor encourage the  
88 Division of Wildlife Resources, universities, and others with expertise in the wildlife area to  
89 study where wildlife migration corridors exist within the state and how best to protect and  
90 enhance these corridors.

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah League  
92 of Cities and Towns and the Utah Association of Counties and that these entities be requested  
93 to provide access to the resolution to the relevant planning commissions and highway  
94 authorities.