

WOLF RECOVERY SURVEY

May 2008

FINAL

n=500 Random Arizona

Hello, my name is (*YOUR NAME*) from Research & Polling, Inc. We are conducting an important survey relating to issues in New Mexico. I assure you I am not selling anything. Your phone number was selected at random, and we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time.

B. Are you registered to vote in Arizona/New Mexico?

1. Yes
2. No (Ask if there is a registered voter in the household that you may speak to... *If not, Thank and terminate*)

1. Do you think things in New Mexico are generally headed in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?

1. Headed in right direction
2. Off on wrong track
3. Don't know/won't say

2. When you think of wolves what is the first thing that comes to mind? (*Probe*) Anything else? (*DO NOT READ CATEGORIES*) (*TAKE UP TO 3 RESPONSES*)

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 001. | Beautiful animal | 013. | Mysterious |
| 002. | Conflict with ranchers | 014. | Poorly managed |
| 003. | Controversy | 015. | Predators |
| 004. | Dangerous | 016. | Social animals |
| 005. | Endangered species | 017. | The West |
| 006. | Fear | 018. | Wild |
| 007. | Good hunters | 019. | Wilderness |
| 008. | Howling | 020. | Wolf pack |
| 009. | Intelligent | 021. | Wolf Recovery Program |
| 010. | Kill livestock | 022. | UNM |
| 011. | Little Red Riding | | |
| 012. | Lobos | | |

999. Don't know/won't say

Other (*SPECIFY*) _____

3. Using a 5-point scale where 5 is very positive and 1 is very negative, how would you rate your overall feelings about wolves?

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| <i>Very</i> | | | | | <i>Very</i> | <i>Don't Know/</i> |
| <u>Positive</u> | | | | | <u>Negative</u> | <u>Won't Say</u> |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | |
| | | | | | | SKIP TO Q.5 |

4. Why do you feel this way? (DO NOT READ CATEGORIES) (TAKE UP TO 3 RESPONSES)

| <u>Positive</u> | | <u>Negative</u> | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 001. | Beautiful animal | 012. | Danger to humans |
| 002. | Part of the West | 013. | Kill/danger to pets |
| 003. | One of God's creatures | 014. | Kill/danger to livestock |
| 004. | Unique animal | 015. | Hurting ranching |
| 005. | UNM Mascot | 016. | Dangerous animal (general) |
| 006. | Part of our culture/history | 017. | Don't need to bring them back |
| 007. | Belong in nature | 018. | Costs too much money to manage |
| 008. | Social animals | 019. | Not enough habitat/space |
| 009. | Intelligent | 020. | Poorly managed |
| 010. | Endangered species | 021. | Hurt elk/deer herds |
| 011. | Help elk/deer herds | | |
| 999. | Don't know/won't say | | |
| Other (SPECIFY) | _____ | | |

I would like to read you several statements and for each one ask you to rate how strongly you either agree or disagree using a 5-point scale where 5 is strongly agree and 1 is strongly disagree. The first one is...

| (Randomize) | | <u>Strongly</u> | <u>Agree</u> | <u>Strongly</u> | <u>Don't Know/</u> | <u>Won't Say</u> | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| | | | | | <u>Disagree</u> | | |
| 5. | <i>We need to do more to protect endangered species</i> | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 6. | <i>I feel a strong emotional bond with animals</i> | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 7. | <i>Livestock grazing is good for the environment</i> | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |

8. In 1998, wildlife officials began a project to restore Mexican gray wolves to the wild in the Southwest by releasing wolves in the Apache and Gila (*He-la*) National Forests in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico respectively. Would you say you have heard *a lot about this, a little about it, or nothing at all about the wolf recovery program?*
1. A lot
 2. A little
 3. Nothing at all
 4. Don't know/won't say
9. Do you generally support or oppose the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf into these public lands in Arizona and New Mexico? Is that *strongly or somewhat?*
4. Strongly support
 3. Somewhat support
 2. Somewhat oppose
 1. Strongly oppose
 5. Don't know/won't say
10. Why do you feel this way? (**DO NOT READ CATEGORIES**) (**TAKE UP TO 3 RESPONSES**)

Positive

- 001. Beautiful animal
- 002. Part of the West
- 003. One of God's creatures
- 004. Unique animal
- 005. Help balance nature
- 006. Part of our culture/history
- 007. Belong in nature
- 008. Program is successful
- 009. Our responsibility
- 010. Endangered species
- 011. Humans killed them off
- 012. Good idea
- 013. Right thing to do
- 014. Help elk/deer herds

999. Don't know/won't say

Other (*SPECIFY*) _____

Negative

- 015. Danger to humans
- 016. Kill/danger to pets
- 017. Kill/danger to livestock
- 018. Hurting ranching
- 019. Dangerous animal (general)
- 020. Don't need to bring them back
- 021. Costs too much money to manage
- 022. Not enough habitat/space
- 023. Bad idea
- 024. Poorly managed
- 025. Hurt elk/deer herds
- 026. Cost ranchers money

Now, I am going to read you a series of statements about Mexican gray wolves. Please tell me which of the two statements you agree with more.

11. The first one is: *(ROTATE RESPONSES 1 AND 2)*

1.The wolf is a benefit to the West and helps maintain the balance of nature.

Or

2.The wolf kills too many elk, deer, and livestock and does more harm than good.

3.Both (volunteered)

4.Neither (volunteered)

5.Don't know/won't say

12. How about this one: *(ROTATE RESPONSES 1 AND 2)*

1.The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service should manage Mexican gray wolves to ensure their recovery and not risk extinction again.

OR

2.The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should do what it takes to prevent wolves from preying on livestock, including trapping and shooting them.

3.Both (volunteered)

4.Neither (volunteered)

5.Don't know/won't say

13. When it comes to taxpayer money in managing wolves, which would you prefer.... *(ROTATE RESPONSES 1 AND 2)*

1.Helping ranchers prevent or reduce conflicts with wolves.

OR

2.Removing and killing wolves that come into conflict with livestock.

3.Both (volunteered)

4.Neither (volunteered)

5.Don't know/won't say

When biologists began releasing Mexican gray wolves in 1998, the goal was to reach 102 wolves by 2006. The latest official count shows there are only 52 Mexican gray wolves in the wild. Many wolves have been removed from the wild by the federal government because of conflicts with livestock.

Please rate how strongly you either support or oppose the following management strategies for the wolf population where 5 is strongly support and 1 is strongly oppose. The first one is...

| (Randomize) | <i>Strongly</i> | <u>Agree</u> | <i>Strongly</i> | <u>Disagree</u> | <i>Don't Know/ Won't Say</i> | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 14. Require the killing or removal of wolves that prey on three or more head of livestock over the course of a year | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 15. Allow wolves to migrate to suitable habitat in Arizona and New Mexico, even if it is outside of the zone where wolves are currently allowed | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 16. Give wolves greater protection under the Endangered Species Act to ensure the population rebounds | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 17. Give Mexican gray wolf recovery priority over livestock grazing on public lands to ensure wolf numbers rebound | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 18. Reimburse ranchers who volunteer to give up their grazing leases and permanently remove their cattle from public lands in the wolf recovery area to prevent | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 19. Require ranchers to remove or make inedible cattle that die of non-wolf causes, for example by applying lime, so wolves are not drawn to nearby live cattle | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |