

August 26, 2013

To: Interested Parties
From: Ben Tulchin and Ben Krompak, Tulchin Research
Re: **New Poll Finds Strong Support for Wolf Protection in Southwestern Border States**

Tulchin Research recently conducted a survey on issues relating to the protection and restoration of Mexican gray wolves in Arizona and New Mexico. We interviewed 300 registered voters in Arizona and another 300 registered voters in New Mexico. Our research finds large majorities of voters in both states believe wolves are a vital part of America’s wilderness and natural heritage and strongly support efforts to restore Mexican gray wolves to this region where they once lived.

Arizona and New Mexico Voters Overwhelmingly Favor Wolf Restoration Efforts

We asked voters about their attitudes toward efforts to reintroduce Mexican gray wolves to the region and found strong support for wolf restoration in both states. More than seven in ten voters in Arizona (72 percent) and nearly as many in New Mexico (69 percent) say they support restoring these wolves to suitable habitat in northern Arizona and northern New Mexico.

“Do you support or oppose restoring Mexican gray wolves to suitable habitat in northern Arizona and northern New Mexico?”		
	Arizona Voters	New Mexico Voters
Total Support	72%	69%
Total Oppose	15%	21%
Undecided	13%	9%

Importantly, support for wolf restoration extends across party lines, with strong majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents in both Arizona and New Mexico favoring the reintroduction of wolves in their region. Restoration is also supported by wide majorities of both men and women and among voters both under and over age 55.

ARIZONA VOTERS							
“Do you support or oppose restoring Mexican gray wolves to suitable habitat in northern Arizona and northern New Mexico?”							
	BY PARTY			GENDER		AGE	
	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Men	Women	Age 18-54	Age 55+
Total Support	90%	59%	71%	70%	74%	78%	65%
Total Oppose	5%	26%	11%	18%	13%	10%	21%
Undecided	5%	15%	19%	12%	14%	12%	14%

NEW MEXICO VOTERS							
“Do you support or oppose restoring Mexican gray wolves to suitable habitat in northern Arizona and northern New Mexico?”							
	BY PARTY			GENDER		AGE	
	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Men	Women	Age 18-54	Age 55+
Total Support	78%	53%	75%	70%	68%	75%	63%
Total Oppose	12%	37%	18%	23%	20%	17%	27%
Undecided	9%	11%	8%	7%	12%	8%	10%

Support grows even higher when we specifically identify the Grand Canyon region as a home for wolves, with 81 percent of Arizona voters and 73 percent of New Mexico voters saying they would support restoring wolves to suitable habitat in the Grand Canyon region and northern New Mexico.

“In thinking about the area where wolves are reintroduced, would you support or oppose restoring wolves to suitable habitat in the Grand Canyon region and northern New Mexico?”		
	Arizona Voters	New Mexico Voters
Total Support	81%	73%
Total Oppose	13%	20%
Undecided	6%	6%

We also asked voters specifically about introducing two new populations of wolves into suitable regions in Arizona and New Mexico in order to ensure recovery and prevent extinction. By a margin of better than two-to-one, voters in both states agreed with taking this action.

“Scientists say there are too few wolves in Arizona and New Mexico, they remain at risk of extinction, and there needs to be two new populations of wolves in different suitable regions to ensure recovery. Please tell me which one of the following statements is closer to your own view.		
	Arizona Voters	New Mexico Voters
We should reintroduce two new populations of wolves in suitable regions in Arizona and New Mexico.	66%	63%
We should not allow any more wolves in Arizona and New Mexico.	25%	29%
Both	0%	1%
Neither	2%	1%
Don’t Know/No Answer	7%	6%

Voters See Wolves as Part of our Natural Heritage, Support Science-Based Efforts to Help Wolves Recover and Prevent Extinction

Voters broadly recognize that “wolves are a vital part of America’s wilderness and natural heritage,” with 87 percent of voters in both Arizona and New Mexico agreeing with this statement to just 10 percent in each state who disagreed. Additionally, eight in ten voters (83 percent in Arizona and 80 percent in New Mexico) agree that “the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should make every effort to help wolves recover and prevent extinction.” Overwhelming majorities of voters in both states (82 percent in Arizona and 74 percent in New Mexico) agree that “there should be a science-based recovery plan for wolves.” And voters in both Arizona (81 percent) and New Mexico (72 percent) recognize that “wolves play an important role in maintaining healthy deer and elk populations” and that restoring wolves to their region will “bring a healthier balance to our ecosystem.”

“Now I’m going to read you a few statements about policies toward wolves. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each statement.”				
	Arizona Voters		New Mexico Voters	
	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Total Agree	Total Disagree
Wolves are a vital part of America’s wilderness and natural heritage	87%	10%	87%	10%
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should make every effort to help wolves recover and prevent extinction	83%	14%	80%	17%
There should be a science-based recovery plan for wolves.	82%	13%	74%	23%
Wolves play an important role in maintaining healthy deer and elk populations. Restoring wolves to forests and wilderness in northern Arizona and New Mexico will bring a healthier balance to our ecosystem.	81%	15%	72%	23%

Conclusion

In conclusion, this poll clearly demonstrates that voters in Arizona and New Mexico strongly support efforts to reintroduce Mexican gray wolves to suitable habitat in their states. Voters believe wolves to be a vital part of America’s natural heritage, want to see the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service make every effort to help the wolf population recover, and specifically support the reintroduction of two new populations of Mexican gray wolves in their region to ensure recovery and prevent extinction.

Survey Methodology: From August 14-18, 2013, Tulchin Research conducted a telephone survey among 300 registered voters in Arizona and 300 registered voters in New Mexico. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 5.66 percentage points.