

September 12, 2013

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

Tulchin Research recently conducted a survey on issues relating to the protection and restoration of wolves in California, Oregon, and Washington State. We interviewed 500 registered voters in California, 300 voters in Oregon, and 300 voters in Washington. Our research finds overwhelming majorities of voters in all three states are supportive of efforts to restore wolves to suitable habitat in the region and believe that wolves should continue to be protected under the Endangered Species Act until they are fully recovered.

Voters Overwhelmingly Favor Wolf Restoration

We asked voters about their attitudes toward restoring wolves to the region and found strong support for these efforts in all three states. Asked whether they would support or oppose restoring wolves to suitable habitat in their state, 69 percent of California voters say they support this as do 66 percent of voters in Oregon and 71 percent of Washington State voters.

“Do you support or oppose restoring wolves to suitable habitat in your state?”			
	California Voters	Oregon Voters	Washington Voters
Total Support	69%	66%	71%
Total Oppose	15%	23%	17%
Undecided	15%	11%	12%

Support for wolf restoration is both broad and deep and extends across the political spectrum, with sizable majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents in all three states favoring the restoration of wolves. Restoration is also supported by wide majorities of both men and women and among voters both under and over age 55.

CALIFORNIA VOTERS							
“Do you support or oppose restoring wolves to suitable habitat in your state?”							
	BY PARTY			GENDER		AGE	
	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Men	Women	Age 18-54	Age 55+
Support	74%	58%	74%	69%	69%	75%	65%
Oppose	12%	25%	11%	14%	16%	12%	20%
Undecided	14%	18%	15%	16%	14%	14%	15%

OREGON VOTERS							
“Do you support or oppose restoring wolves to suitable habitat in your state?”							
	BY PARTY			GENDER		AGE	
	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Men	Women	Age 18-54	Age 55+
Support	82%	51%	61%	61%	72%	70%	63%
Oppose	11%	40%	21%	27%	19%	20%	25%
Undecided	8%	9%	18%	12%	10%	10%	12%

WASHINGTON VOTERS							
“Do you support or oppose restoring wolves to suitable habitat in your state?”							
	BY PARTY			GENDER		AGE	
	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Men	Women	Age 18-54	Age 55+
Support	82%	61%	73%	69%	73%	75%	67%
Oppose	11%	21%	17%	19%	15%	16%	18%
Undecided	8%	18%	9%	12%	12%	9%	15%

Voters Support Continued Endangered Species Act Protection for Wolves

With the federal government proposing to remove wolves from the Endangered Species list and end the protections that go along with that, we asked voters their opinions about the matter. By wide margins, voters in all three states believe that “wolves should continue to be protected under the Endangered Species Act until they are fully recovered.” Eight in ten California voters (80 percent) agreed with the statement, as did 72 percent of voters in Washington and 63 percent of Oregon voters.

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Wolves should continue to be protected under the Endangered Species Act until they are fully recovered.			
	California Voters	Oregon Voters	Washington Voters
Total Agree	80%	63%	72%
Total Disagree	13%	32%	22%
Don't Know/No Answer	7%	5%	6%

Voters See Wolves as Part of our Natural Heritage, Recognize Role in Maintaining Healthy Deer and Elk Populations

Voters broadly believe that “wolves should be protected in our state” as they are “a vital part of America’s wilderness and natural heritage,” including 83 percent of California voters, 68 percent of Oregon voters, and 75 percent of Washington voters agreeing with this statement. Additionally, strong majorities of voters in all three states agree that “wolves play an important role in maintaining health deer and elk populations” and thus “restoring wolves to forests and wilderness areas in our state will bring a healthier balance to our ecosystem.” This view is held by 73 percent of California voters, 69 percent of Oregon voters, and 74 percent of Washington voters.

“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.”						
	California Voters		Oregon Voters		Washington Voters	
	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Total Agree	Total Disagree
Wolves should be protected in our state. Wolves are a vital part of America’s wilderness and natural heritage.	83%	11%	68%	26%	75%	20%
Wolves play an important role in maintaining healthy deer and elk populations. Restoring wolves to forests and wilderness areas in our state will bring a healthier balance to our ecosystem.	73%	15%	69%	23%	74%	19%

California Voters Support Protections for Wolves Crossing Over from Other States

In California, we specifically asked voters about policy regarding wolves who cross over into the Golden State from other states. Nearly eight in ten California voters (79 percent) agree that “we should take steps to protect wolves who cross over into California and ensure they reach appropriate habitat.”

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: We should take steps to protect wolves who cross over into California and ensure they reach appropriate habitat.	
Total Agree	79%
Total Disagree	14%
Don’t Know/No Answer	7%

Conclusion

In conclusion, this poll demonstrates that voters in California, Oregon, and Washington strongly support restoring wolves to suitable habitat in their states and believe that wolves should continue to be protected under the Endangered Species Act until they are fully recovered.

Survey Methodology: From September 4-8, 2013, Tulchin Research conducted a telephone survey among 500 registered voters in California, 300 registered voters in Oregon, and 300 registered voters in Washington. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 5.66 percentage points among voters in Oregon and Washington. The margin of error among California voters is +/- 4.38 percentage points.