



**June 6, 2016**

**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** Ben Tulchin, Ben Krompak, and Kiel Brunner; Tulchin Research  
**Re:** **Polling Finds Washington Voters Strongly Back Grizzly Bear Recovery Efforts in the North Cascades**

Tulchin Research recently conducted a scientific telephone survey among a representative sample of 600 registered voters in the state of Washington regarding efforts to help the declining population of grizzly bears in the North Cascades to recover. Our research finds voters overwhelmingly view grizzly bears as a vital part of America’s wilderness and natural heritage, support efforts to help the population in the North Cascades to recover, and believe that those efforts should be science-based and led by expert biologists.

**Washington Voters Value Grizzly Bears, Overwhelmingly Back Science-Based Recovery Efforts in the North Cascades**

Washington voters hold the grizzly bear in high esteem, with nine out of ten voters (91%) agreeing with the statement that “grizzly bears are a vital part of America’s wilderness and natural heritage,” including two-thirds of voters (67%) who *strongly* agree with that statement. Voters appreciate the presence of grizzly bears in their state and support efforts to help the population recover. Eighty-five percent of voters agree that “efforts to help the North Cascades grizzly bear population to recover should be science-based and led by expert biologists,” including 60 percent of voters who strongly agree with this. Additionally, eight in ten voters (81%) agree that “the State of Washington should make every effort to help grizzly bears recover and prevent their disappearance,” including a majority (53%) who strongly agree.

<i>“Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?”</i>			
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>Total Disagree</b>
<b><i>Grizzly bears are a vital part of America’s wilderness and natural heritage.</i></b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b><i>Efforts to help the North Cascades grizzly bear population to recover should be science-based and led by expert biologists.</i></b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b><i>The State of Washington should make every effort to help grizzly bears recover and prevent their disappearance</i></b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>16%</b>

Asked specifically about efforts to help the declining population of grizzly bears in the North Cascades to recover, 80 percent of voters say they support these efforts to just 13 percent of voters who oppose them. Notably, this overwhelming support extends across gender, generational, regional, and even partisan lines – with 89 percent of Democrats, 70 percent of Republicans, and 74 percent of independent voters backing these efforts. In today’s highly polarized political environment, it is notable that grizzly bear recovery is an issue that unites voters from across the political spectrum and across the state. Notably, voters surrounding the North Cascades Ecosystem where the grizzly bears will be recovered (Chelan, Kittitas, Okanogan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties) support recovery efforts by a 73-point margin (86% support to 13% opposed).

<i>“Do you support or oppose efforts to help the declining population of grizzly bears in the North Cascades recover?”</i>								
	ALL VOTERS	BY PARTY			GENDER		AGE	
		Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Men	Women	Age 18-54	Age 55+
<b>Support</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	13%	6%	21%	18%	15%	11%	9%	18%
<b>Support - Oppose</b>	+67	+83	+49	+56	+66	+68	+75	+57
BY REGION								
	Spokane DMA	Yakima / Tri-Cities DMA	King County	Seattle-Tacoma Suburbs	Seattle-Tacoma Exurbs	Vancouver, WA DMA		
<b>Support</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>55%</b>		
<b>Oppose</b>	23%	10%	10%	11%	12%	20%		
<b>Support - Oppose</b>	+43	+80	+73	+72	+73	+35		

More than 9 out of 10 voters (93%) agree that “it is reasonable to ask outdoor recreationists in the North Cascades to take common sense precautions to minimize conflict with bears in their natural habitat,” including 78 percent of voters who strongly agree with this. And indeed support for helping the North Cascade’s grizzly bear population to recover is overwhelming among those who participate in outdoor recreational activities (79% support to 13% opposed) such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping.

<i>“Do you support or oppose efforts to help the declining population of grizzly bears in the North Cascades recover?”</i>				
	All Recreationists	Hunt/Fish	Hike	Camp
<b>Support</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	13%	18%	12%	14%
<b>Support - Oppose</b>	+66	+58	+68	+63

Additionally, our research finds a significant political upside for elected officials and candidates who support these popular conservation efforts, as 57 percent of Washington voters say they would be more likely to support a candidate for office who supports grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades.

<i>“Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for office who supports grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades?”</i>	
<b>More Likely</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Less Likely</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>More Likely – Less Likely</b>	<b>+39</b>

### Conclusion

In conclusion, our research finds that voters in Washington value grizzly bears as a vital part of our natural heritage and strongly back science-based efforts to help the population in the North Cascades to recover. This support extends across the political spectrum and across the state, including in the counties surrounding the North Cascades Ecosystem. Additionally, a strong majority of voters say they are more likely to vote for candidates for office who support these recovery efforts.

**Survey Methodology:** From May 19-22, 2016, Tulchin Research conducted a telephone survey among 600 registered voters in Washington. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 4.38 percentage points.

## **APPENDIX: REGION DEFINITIONS**

### **1. Spokane Designated Market Area (DMA):**

- Adams County
- Asotin County
- Columbia County
- Ferry County
- Garfield County
- Grant County
- Lincoln County
- Okanogan County
- Pend Oreille County
- Spokane County
- Stevens County
- Whitman County

### **2. Yakima/Tri-Cities Designated Market Area (DMA)**

- Benton County
- Franklin County
- Kittitas County
- Walla Walla County
- Yakima County

### **3. King County**

### **4. Seattle-Tacoma Suburbs**

- Island County
- Kitsap County
- Pierce County
- Snohomish County

### **5. Seattle-Tacoma Exurbs**

- Chelan County
- Clallam County
- Douglas County
- Grays Harbor County
- Jefferson County
- Lewis County
- Mason County
- Pacific County
- San Juan County
- Skagit County
- Thurston County
- Wahkiakum County
- Whatcom County

### **6. Vancouver, WA Designated Market Area (DMA)**

- Clark County
- Cowlitz County
- Klickitat County
- Skamania County