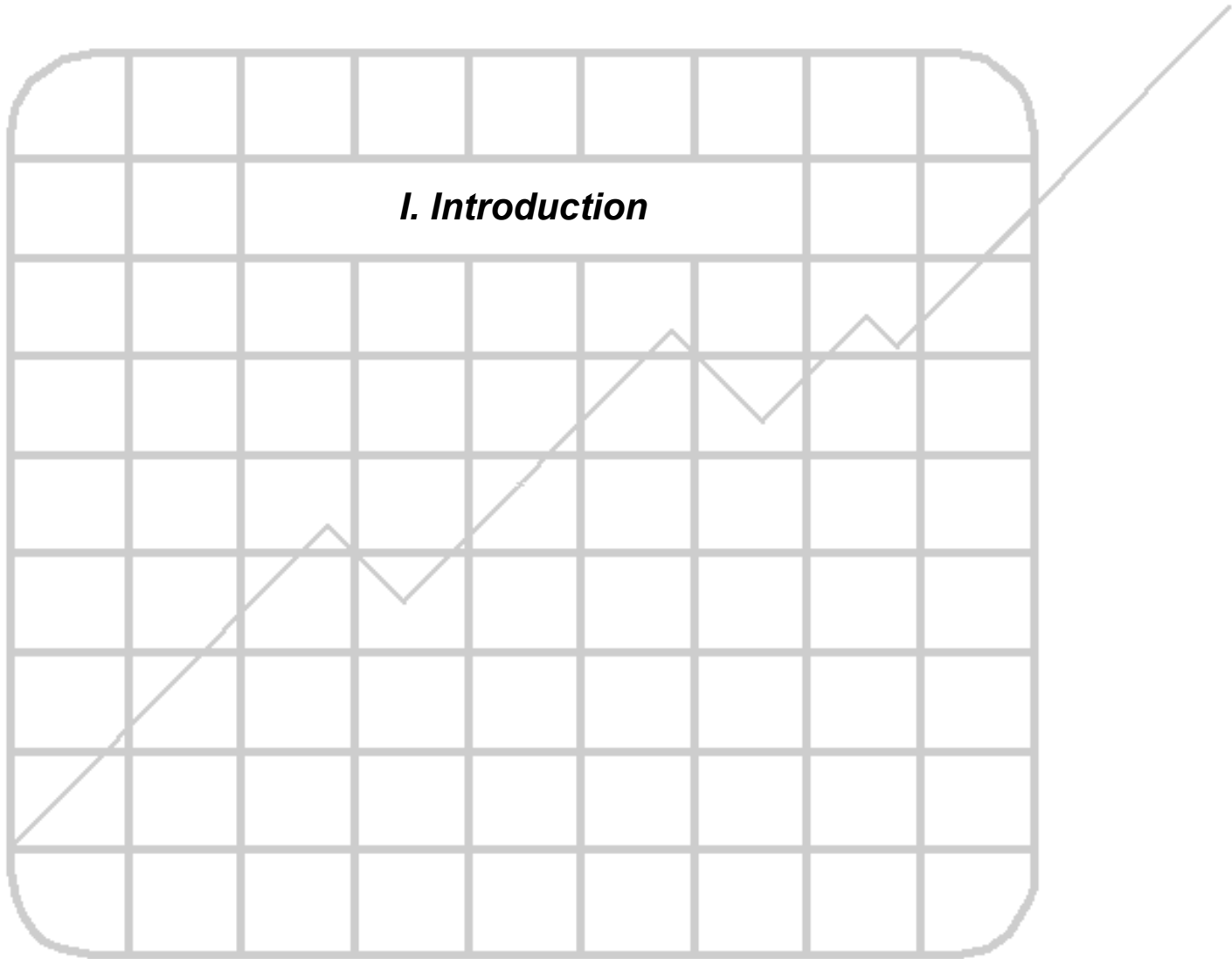


***Wolf Recovery Survey
New Mexico Summary***



Methodology

This research study was commissioned by conservation and wildlife organizations, including the New Mexico Audubon Council, Arizona Zoological Society and the Southwest Environmental Center to assess voter attitudes and opinions toward the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program.

The Interview

A random sample of registered voters statewide in New Mexico was interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were generated from the Research & Polling, Inc. database. All interviews were conducted between April 25th and May 11th, 2008.

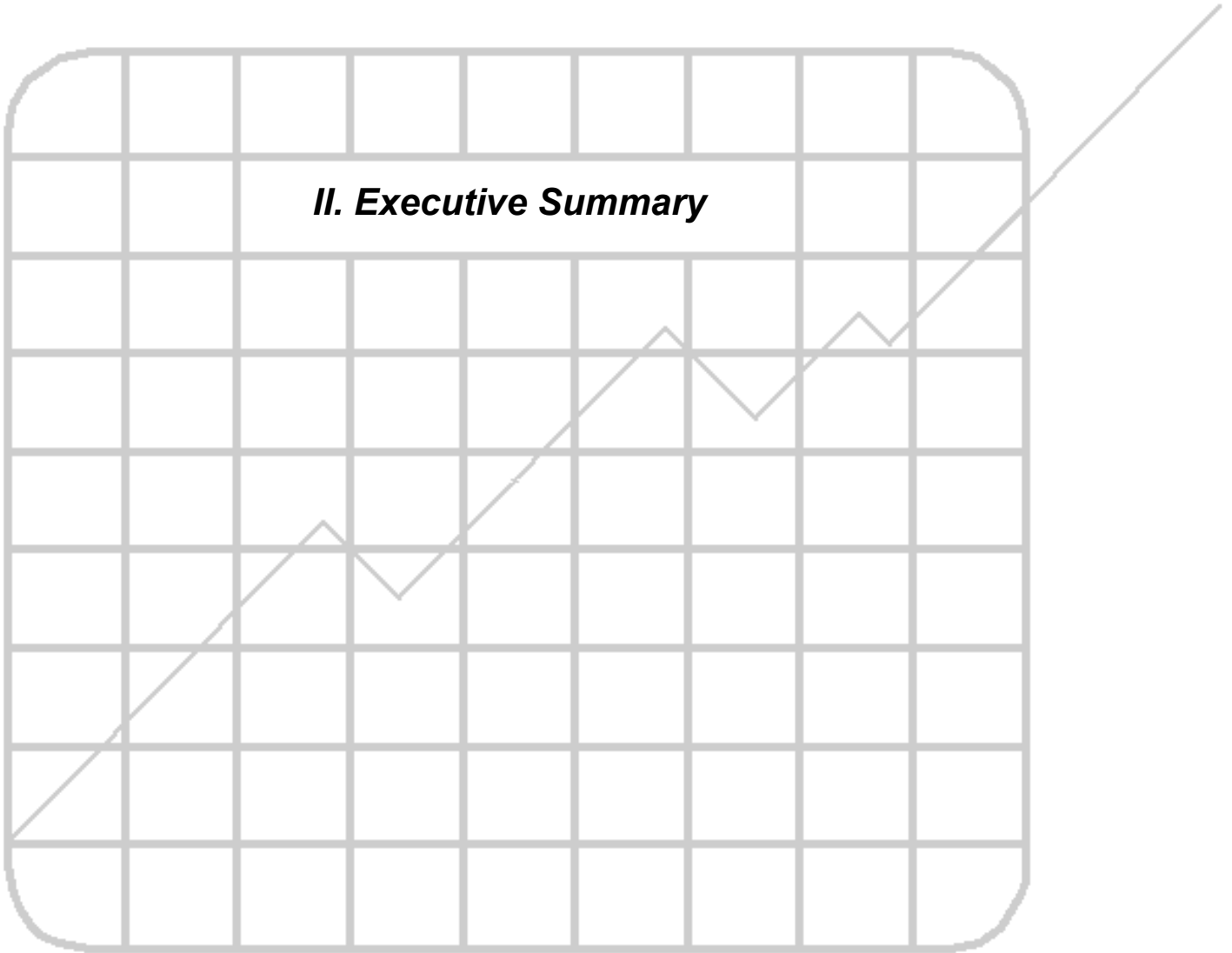
The telephone interviewers are professionals who are brought together for a training session prior to each survey. This ensures their complete and consistent understanding of the survey instrument. A total of 507 registered voters completed interviews.

Margin of Error

A sample size of 507 at a 95% confidence level provides a maximum margin of error of approximately 4.4%. In theory, in 95 out of 100 cases, the results based on a sample of 507 will differ by no more than 4.4 percentage points in either direction from what would have been obtained by interviewing all registered voters in New Mexico.

In any survey, there are some respondents who will refuse to speak to the professional interviewer. A lower response rate among certain types of individuals can result in a sample wherein certain types of individuals are over-represented or under-represented. The potential for sampling bias increases as the response rate decreases. Research & Polling, Inc. often sets quotas for various segments of the population who are historically undercounted. This has the effect of minimizing, but not necessarily eliminating, sampling bias.

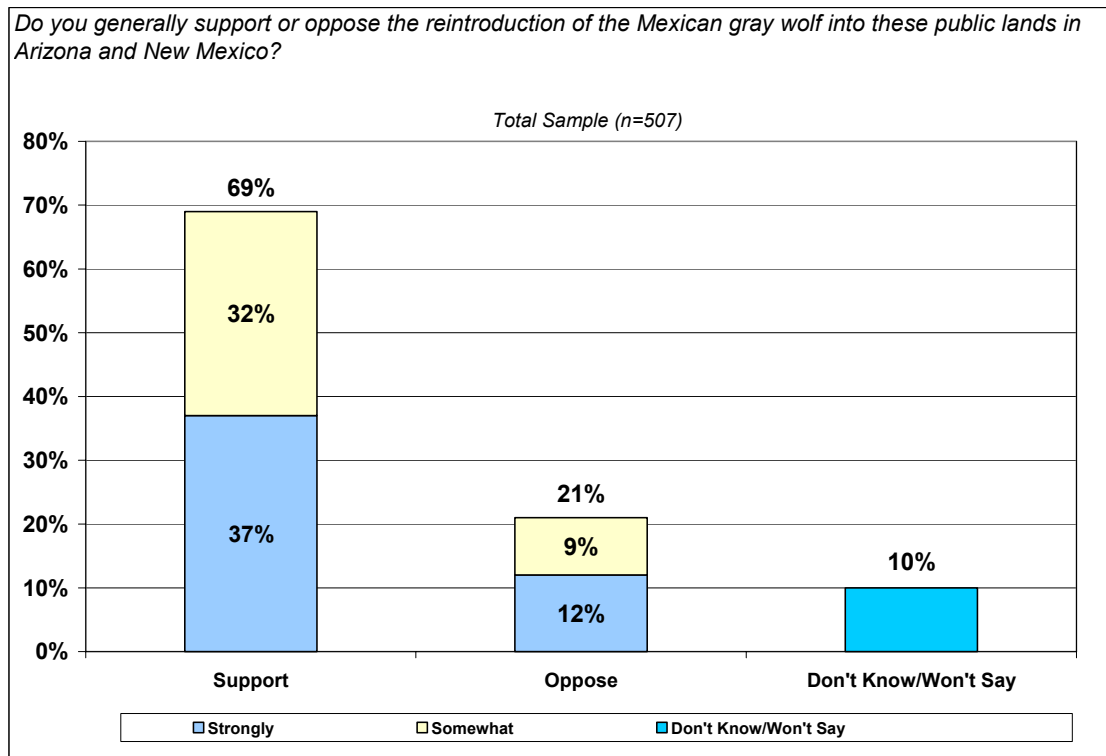
II. Executive Summary



Key Findings

The Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program has stirred strong passions on both sides of the issue. While the reintroduction of the wolves into southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico has been hotly debated, what has been lacking in recent discussions is an objective and comprehensive assessment of public opinion of the recovery program.

A statewide scientific telephone study among a random sample of 507 registered voters in New Mexico shows that voters support wolf reintroduction by more than a three-to-one margin.



As shown above, nearly seven-in-ten New Mexico voters (69%) say they generally either *strongly support* (37%) or *somewhat support* (32%) the reintroduction the Mexican gray wolf into the Apache and Gila National Forests, while 21% are opposed to reintroduction in these areas.

Further indication of support for the recovery of the Mexican gray wolf is found when voters were read various paired statements and asked which statement they agree with more.

- ❖ Overall, 64% feel the wolf is a benefit to the West and helps maintain the balance of nature. In comparison, 21% feel the wolf kills too many elk, deer and livestock and does more harm than good.
- ❖ By an almost three-to-one margin, voters are also more likely to agree the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should manage Mexican gray wolves to ensure their recovery and not risk extinction again (62%). In comparison, 23% believe the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should do what it takes to prevent wolves from preying on livestock, including trapping and shooting them.
- ❖ When it comes to how taxpayer dollars should be spent in managing wolves, 72% of New Mexico voters would prefer helping ranchers prevent or reduce conflicts with wolves, compared to 18% who would prefer removing and killing wolves who come into conflict with livestock.

On a more general level, the majority of New Mexico voters (57%) support giving wolves more protection under the Endangered Species Act to ensure their population rebounds, compared to 25% who are opposed to giving wolves greater protection.

The results of this survey show that the large majority of voters in New Mexico support the wolf recovery efforts and would like to see the program succeed. While there has been a great deal of controversy over the program, most voters appear to believe the program is important and should continue.

It is important to note, however, that many voters also appear to sympathize with ranchers who have lost livestock. Most voters believe we need to find ways to reduce conflict between wolves and livestock, while protecting the wolves. As previously mentioned, the vast majority of voters would prefer that money be spent helping ranchers prevent and reduce conflict with livestock, rather than spending money removing or killing wolves that come into conflict with livestock.

Voters are largely split on the issue of killing or removing a wolf that has three predations of livestock over the course of a year and whether or not the wolf recovery should be given priority over livestock grazing on public lands. The implication being that, while voters strongly favor the wolf recovery effort, they also recognize that ranchers are part of the equation and that more needs to be done to reduce or prevent conflicts between wolves and livestock.

One proposed way of reducing conflict between wolves and livestock is treating the carcasses of livestock that die of non-wolf causes or natural causes. Half the voters statewide say they support requiring ranchers to remove, or make inedible cattle that die of non-wolf causes, (for example by applying lime), so wolves are not drawn to live cattle (21% are opposed). Nearly half the voters also support reimbursing ranchers who give up their grazing leases and permanently remove their cattle from public lands in the wolf recovery area to prevent conflicts between wolves and cattle (27% are opposed).

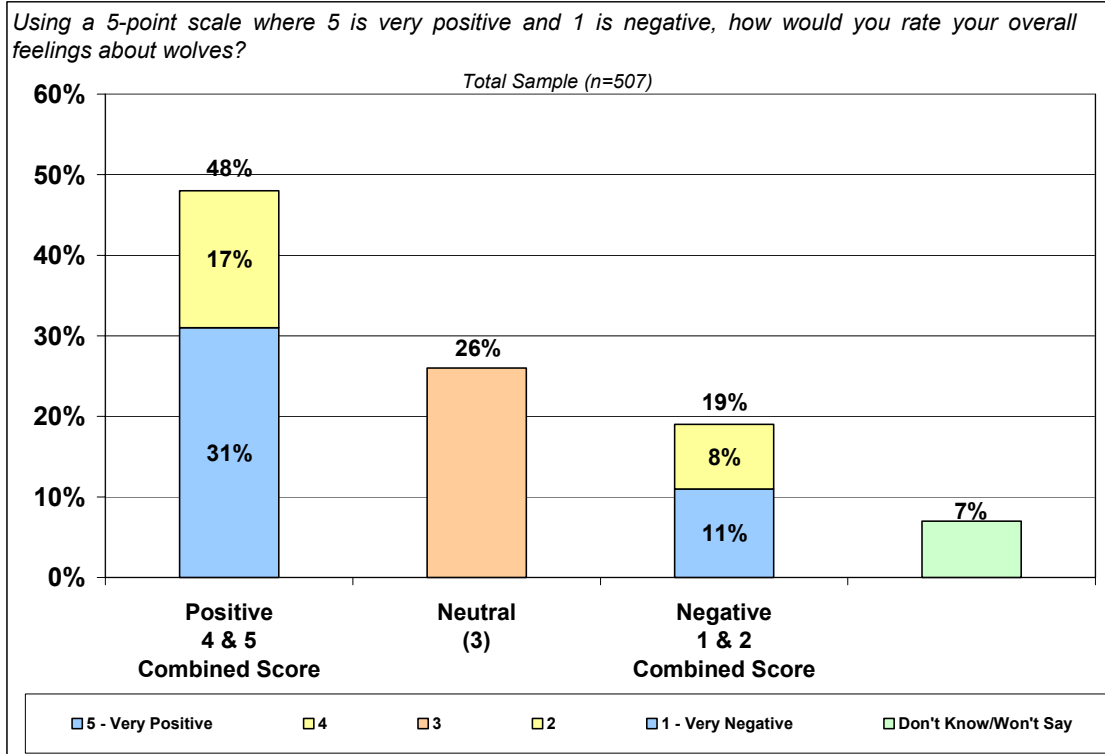
First Things That Come to Mind When Thinking About Wolves

(Top 8 Unaided Responses)

| | <i>Total Sample (n=507)</i> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Endangered species | 9% |
| Beautiful animal | 7% |
| Wild | 6% |
| Predators | 4% |
| Animal | 4% |
| Dogs | 4% |
| Kill livestock | 4% |
| Don't know/won't say | 13% |

Voters were asked in an unaided, open-ended manner what is the first thing that comes to mind when they think of wolves. A wide variety of images or thoughts are conjured when residents think of wolves as 9% first think of endangered species, while 7% say they are beautiful animals and 6% think of their wild nature. Many other thoughts and attributes were mentioned though none of these were specifically cited by more than 4% of voters.

Overall Feelings About Wolves



Voters were asked to rate their overall feelings about wolves using a 5-point scale where 5 is very positive and 1 is very negative. As previously noted, voters are more than twice as likely to have positive feelings about wolves as they are to have negative feelings. Approximately half (48%) of voters statewide say they have a positive overall opinion of wolves as indicated by a score of 4 or 5 compared to 19% who view wolves negatively. Approximately one-in-four voters (26%) have neutral or mixed feelings about wolves.

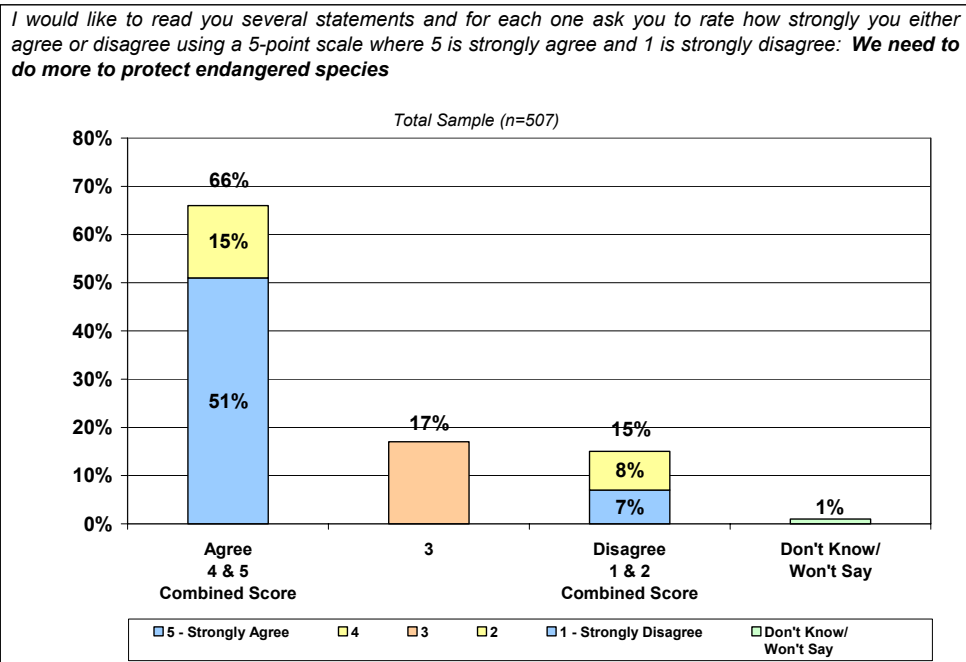
Underlying Reasons for Feelings About Wolves

Among Those Who Have an Opinion
(Top 8 Unaided Responses)

| | Total Responses (n=477) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Belong in nature | 13% |
| Beautiful animal | 12% |
| Kill/danger to livestock | 9% |
| Endangered species | 6% |
| Part of our culture/history | 6% |
| Danger to humans | 5% |
| Hurting ranching | 5% |
| Don't know/won't say | 11% |

When asked in an unaided, open-ended manner to give the reasons underlying their feelings about wolves, 13% of respondents say wolves belong in nature, while 12% say wolves are beautiful animals. Nine percent of the respondents say wolves kill or pose a danger to livestock. Many other reasons were given, though none of these were mentioned by more than 6% respondents.

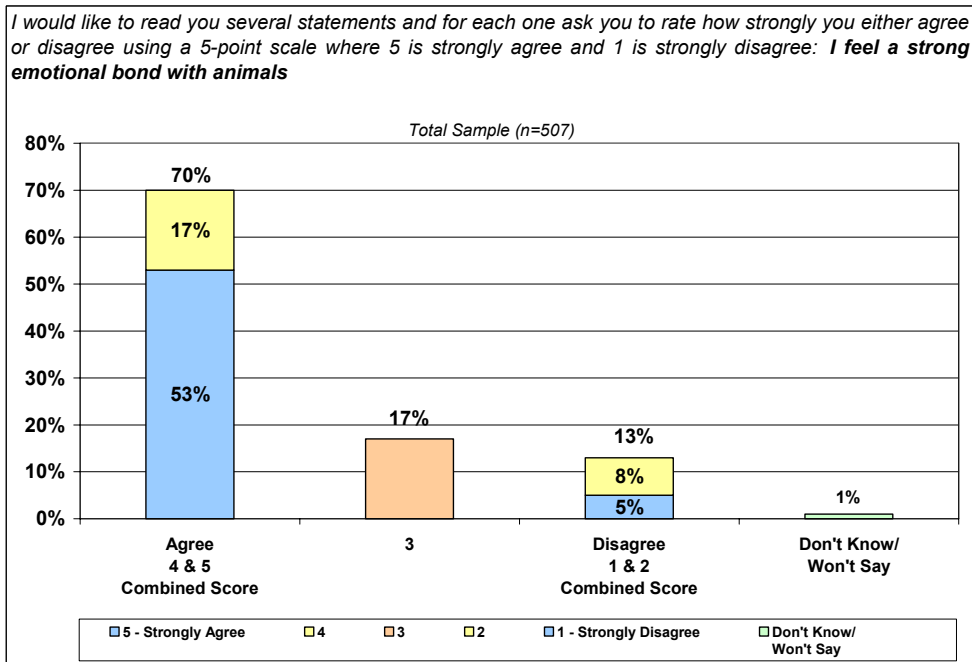
Agree or Disagree: Need to Do More to Protect Endangered Species



Voters were read a series of statements and for each one asked to rate how strongly they either agree or disagree using a 5-point scale where 5 is *strongly agree* and 1 is *strongly disagree*.

As shown above, approximately two-thirds (66%) of voters agree that we need to do more to protect endangered species as indicated by a score of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale. In fact, 51% *strongly agree* we need to do more to protect endangered species. Fifteen percent disagree that more needs to be done to protect endangered species, while 17% have a neutral opinion.

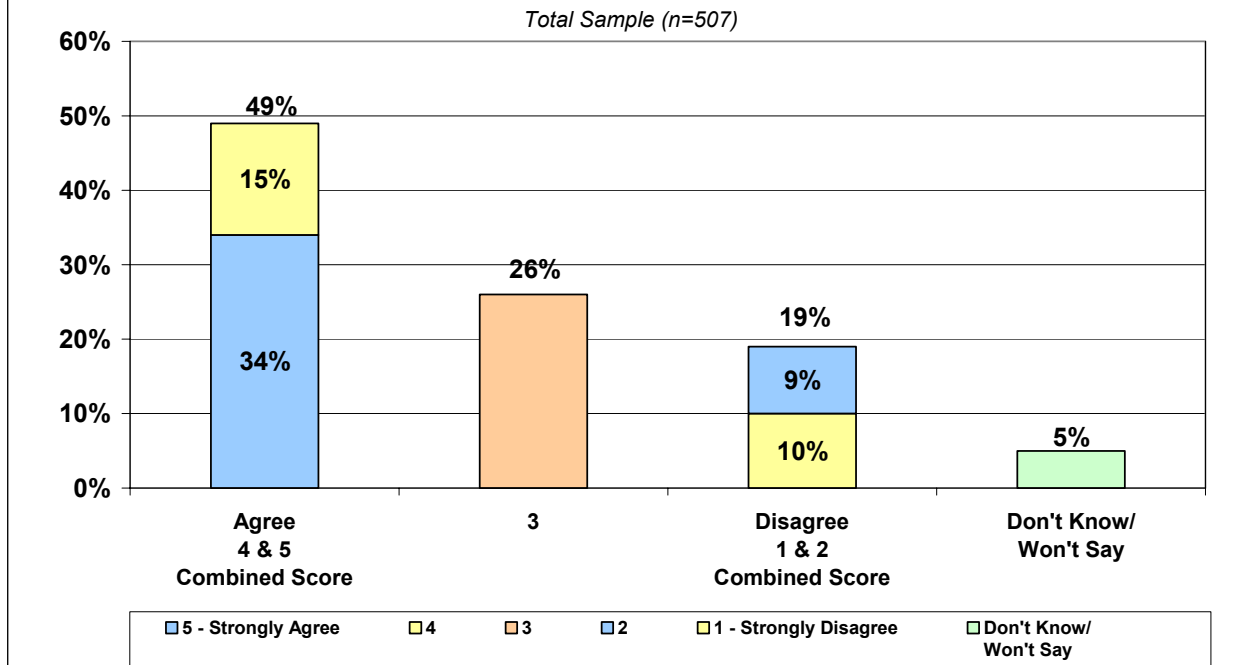
Agree or Disagree: Feel a Strong Emotional Bond with Animals



Seven-in-ten voters agree they feel a strong emotional bond with animals (53% *strongly agree*). Thirteen percent indicate that they do not feel a strong emotional bond with animals, while 17% have a neutral opinion.

Agree or Disagree: Livestock Grazing Is Good for the Environment

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: **Livestock grazing is good for the environment.**

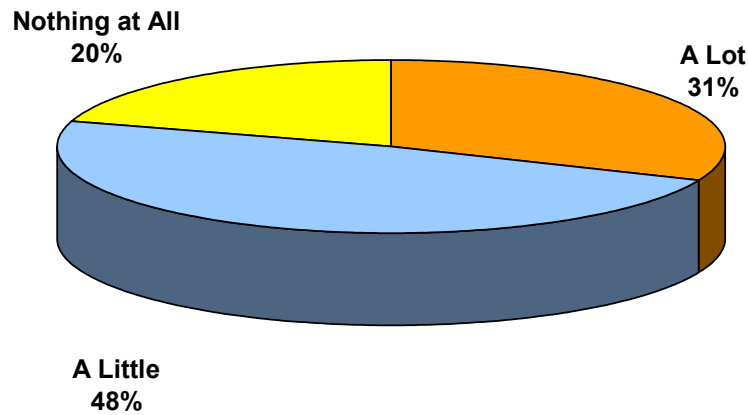


Approximately half (49%) of New Mexico voters statewide agree that livestock grazing is good for the environment, while nearly one-in-five (19%) disagree and 26% have a neutral opinion.

Knowledge About the Wolf Recovery Program

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 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?

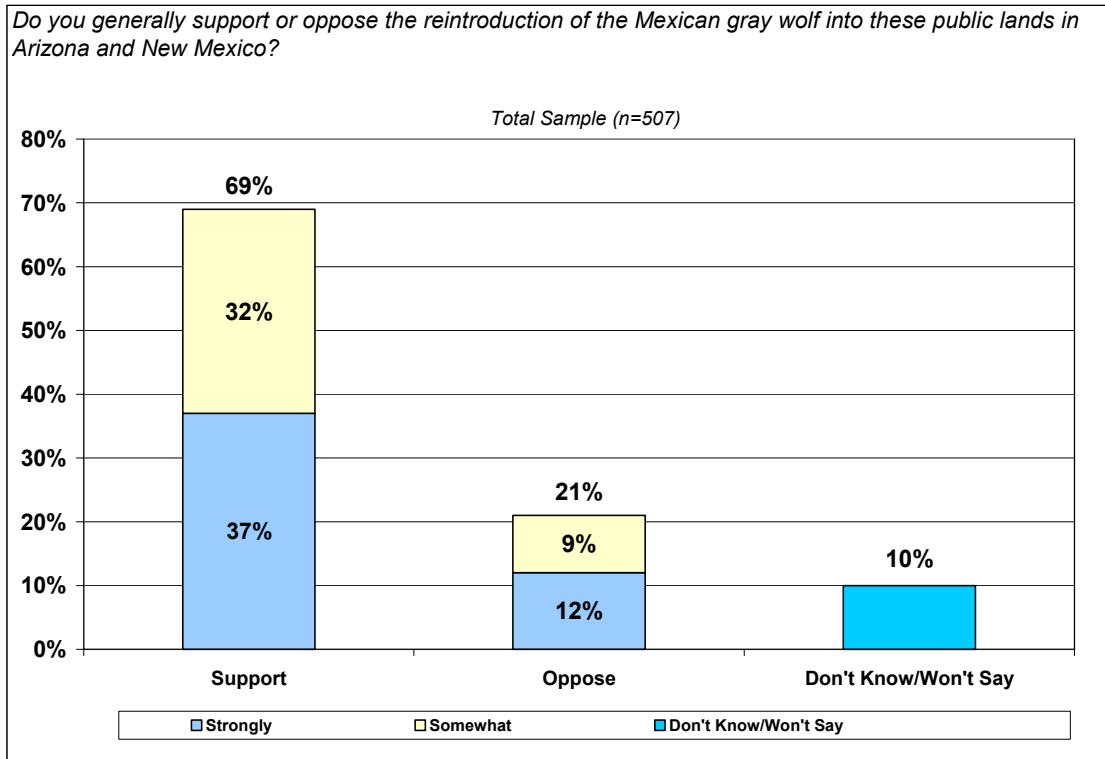
Total Sample (n=507)



Voters were informed that wildlife officials began a project in 1998 to restore Mexican gray wolves to the wild in the Southwest by releasing wolves in the Apache and Gila National Forests. They were then asked if they have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all about the wolf recovery program.

Overall, approximately one-in-three (31%) voters statewide say they have heard a *lot* about the wolf recovery program, while 48% say they have heard a *little* about the program. One-in-five voters statewide say they have heard *nothing at all* about the wolf recovery program.

Reintroduction of the Mexican Gray Wolf into Public Lands in Arizona and New Mexico



Voters were asked if they somewhat/strongly support or oppose the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf into these public lands (Apache and Gila National Forests) in Arizona and New Mexico.

As previously mentioned over two-thirds (69%) of registered voters in New Mexico say they either *strongly support* (37%) or *somewhat support* (32%) the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf. One-in-five voters (21%) say they are opposed to the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf into New Mexico and Arizona, while 10% have not formed an opinion on the matter.

Underlying Reasons for Supporting/Opposing Reintroduction

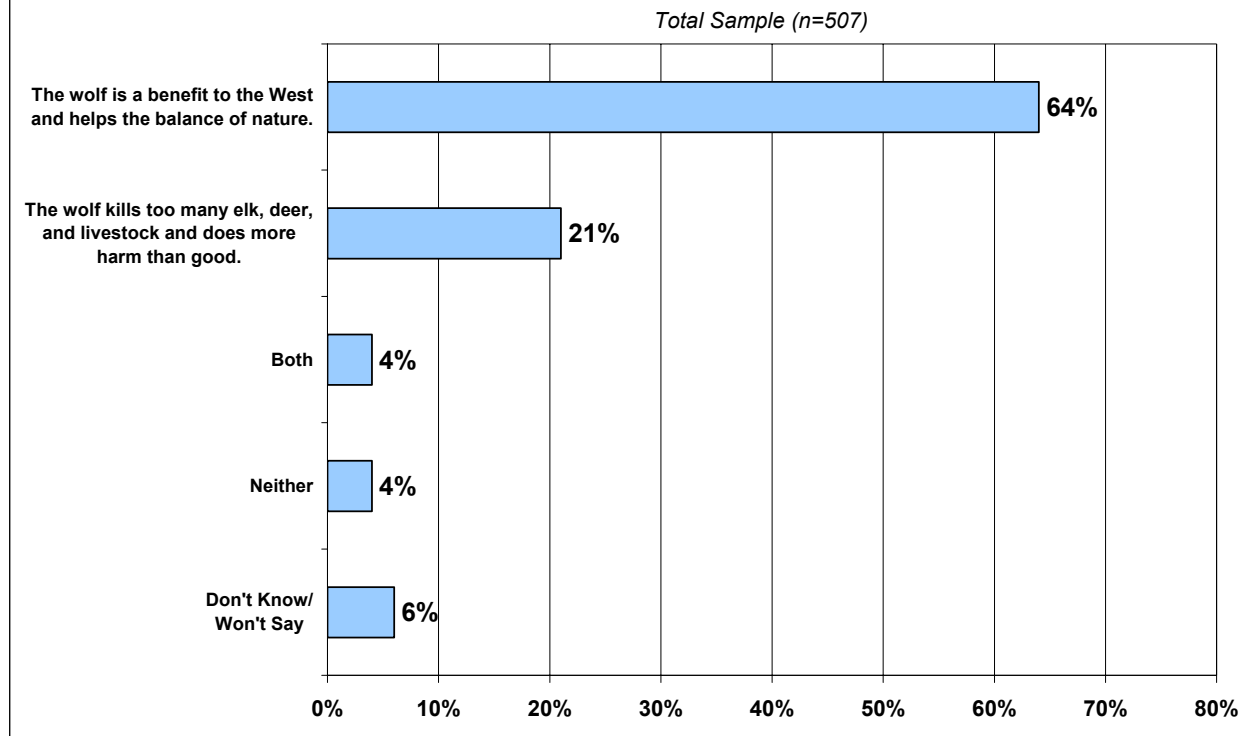
(Top 8 Unaided Responses)

| | <i>Total Sample (n=507)</i> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Belong in nature | 14% |
| Help balance nature | 12% |
| Kill/danger to livestock | 10% |
| Endangered species | 10% |
| Danger to humans | 5% |
| Wolves were here before we were | 4% |
| Good idea | 4% |
| Don't know/won't say | 13% |

When asked in an unaided, open-ended manner why they either support or oppose the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf, 14% of voters say the wolf belongs in nature, while 12% say the wolf helps balance nature and 10% say the wolf is an endangered species. Those who are opposed to the reintroduction are most apt to say the wolf kills or is a danger to livestock (10%), while 5% say wolves pose a danger to humans. Many other reasons were given for either supporting or opposing reintroduction, though none of these were specifically cited by more than 4% of voters.

Paired Statement About Wolves: Benefits to West vs. Does More Harm Than Good

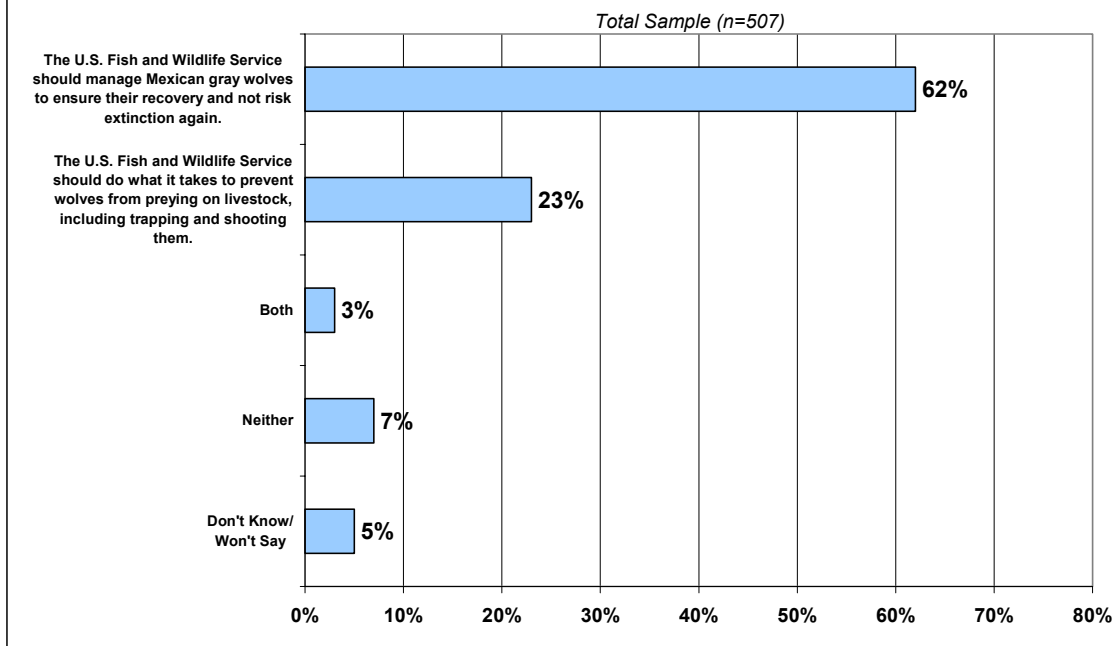
I am going to read you a series of statements about Mexican gray wolves. Please tell me which of the two statements you agree with more:



Voters were read two statements about the Mexican gray wolf and asked which they agree with more. As shown above, 64% more closely agree the wolf is a benefit to the West and helps maintain the balance of nature. Conversely, 21% more closely agree the wolf kills too many elk, deer, and livestock and does more harm than good.

Paired Statement About Wolf Management: Ensure Survival vs. Do What It Takes to Prevent Preying on Livestock

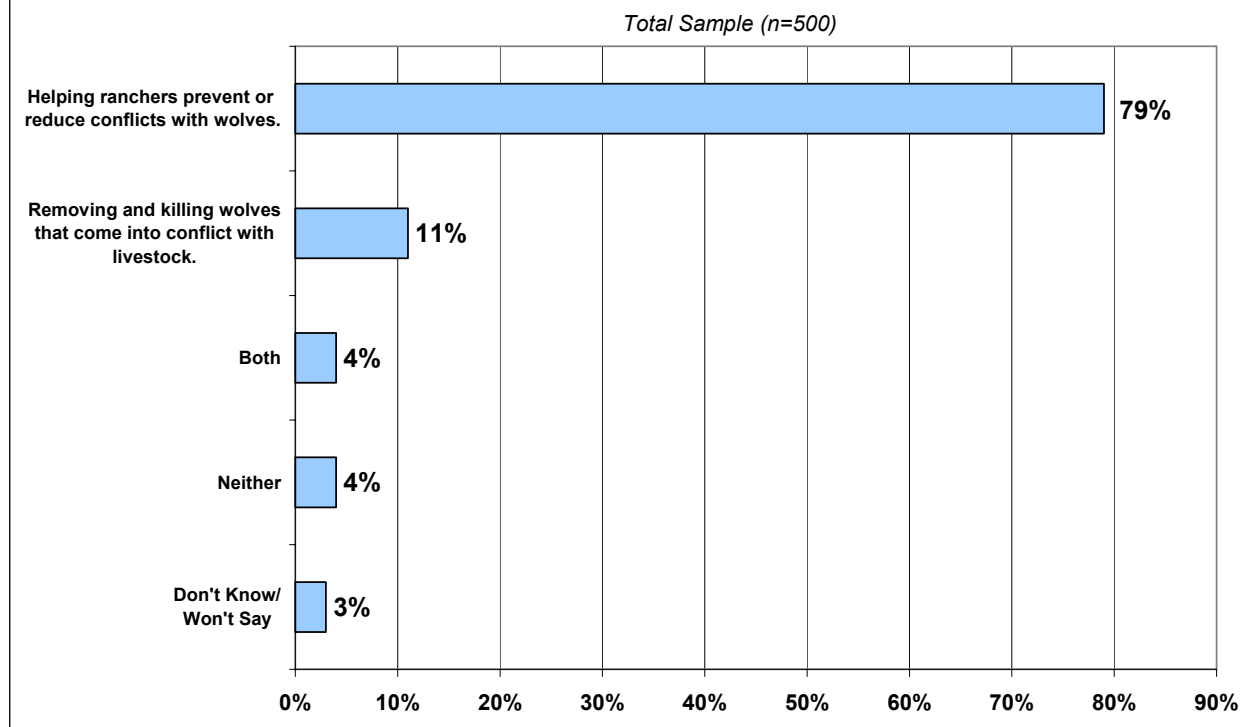
I am going to read you a series of statements about Mexican gray wolves. Please tell me which of the two statements you agree with more:



When read another two statements, 62% of voters more closely agree the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should manage Mexican gray wolves to ensure their recovery and not risk extinction again. On the other hand, 23% feel the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should do what it takes to prevent wolves from preying on livestock, including trapping and shooting them.

Paired Statement on Tax Dollars: Prevent/Reduce Conflict with Livestock vs. Kill or Remove Wolves

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: When it comes to taxpayer money in managing wolves, which would you prefer more...

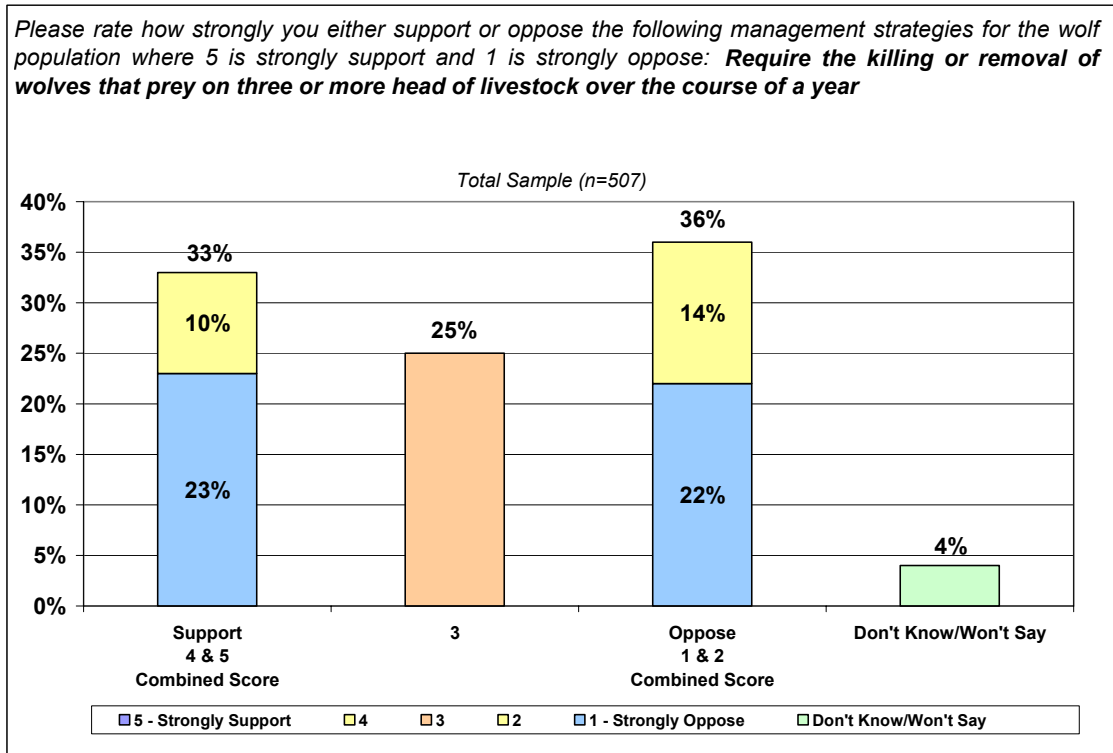


In another set of paired statements relating to taxpayer money on managing wolves, 72% say they would prefer helping ranchers prevent or reduce conflict with wolves. Less than one-fifth (18%) say they would prefer to spend taxpayer money removing and killing wolves that come into conflict with livestock.

Voters were informed that when biologists began releasing Mexican gray wolves in 1998 the goal was to reach 102 wolves by 2006 and that the latest official count shows there are only 52 Mexican gray wolves in the wild. Voters were also informed that many wolves have been removed from the wild by the federal government because of conflicts with livestock.

After being given this background information, voters were asked to rate how strongly they either support or oppose various wolf management strategies using a 5-point scale where 5 is *strongly support* and 1 is *strongly oppose*.

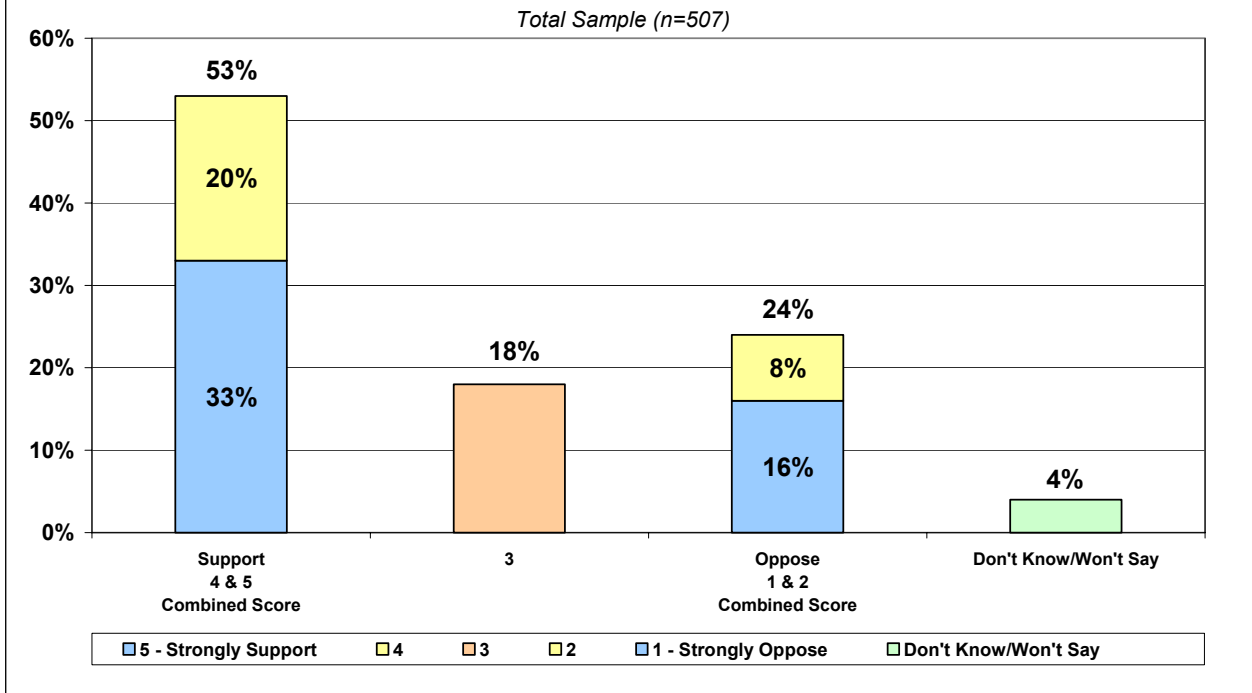
Support or Oppose: Require the Killing or Removal of Wolves That Prey on Three or More Head of Livestock Over the Course of a Year



As shown above, the plurality of New Mexico voters (36%) say they are opposed to requiring the killing or removal of wolves that prey on three or more head of livestock over the course of a year. However, an almost equal percentage of voters (33%) do support the killing or removal of wolves that prey on three or more head of livestock over the course of a year, while 25% have a neutral opinion.

Support or Oppose: Allow Wolves to Migrate to Suitable Habitat in Arizona and New Mexico

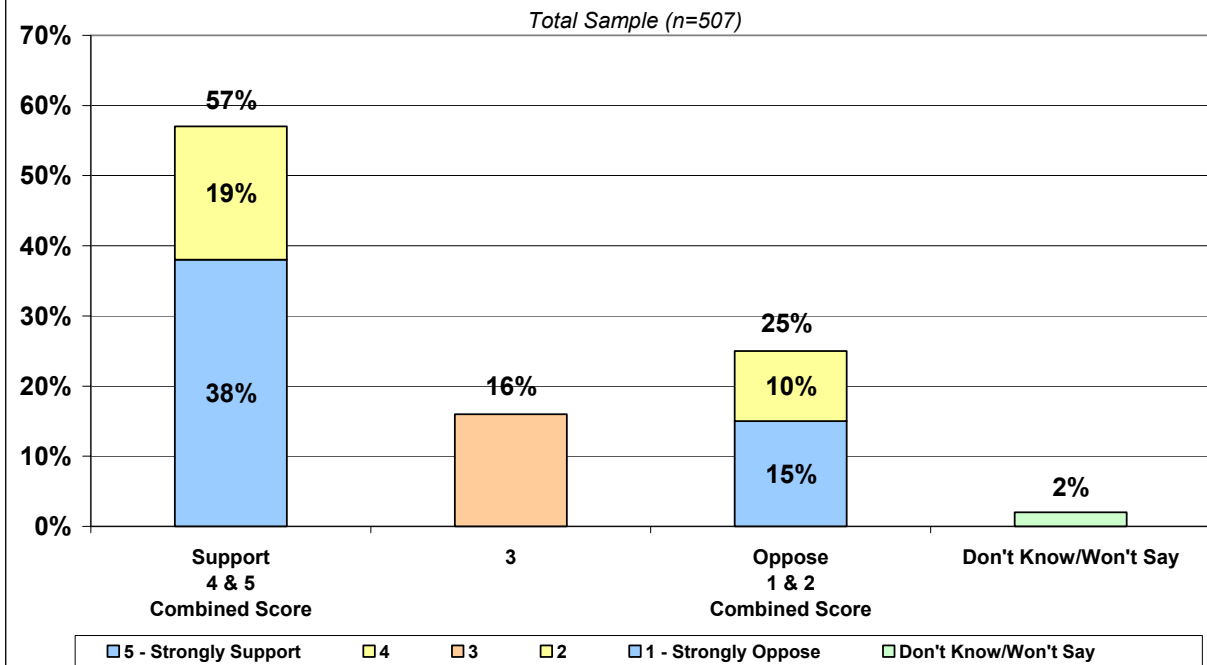
Please rate how strongly you either support or oppose the following management strategies for the wolf population where 5 is strongly support and 1 is strongly oppose: **Allow wolves to migrate to suitable habitat in Arizona and New Mexico, even if it is outside of the zone where wolves are currently allowed**



The majority of voters (53%) say they support allowing wolves to migrate to suitable habitat in Arizona and New Mexico, even if it is outside of the zone where wolves are currently allowed. Approximately one-quarter (24%) of the voters are opposed to allowing wolves to migrate outside of their current zone, while 18% have a neutral opinion.

Support or Oppose: Give Wolves Greater Protection Under the Endangered Species Act

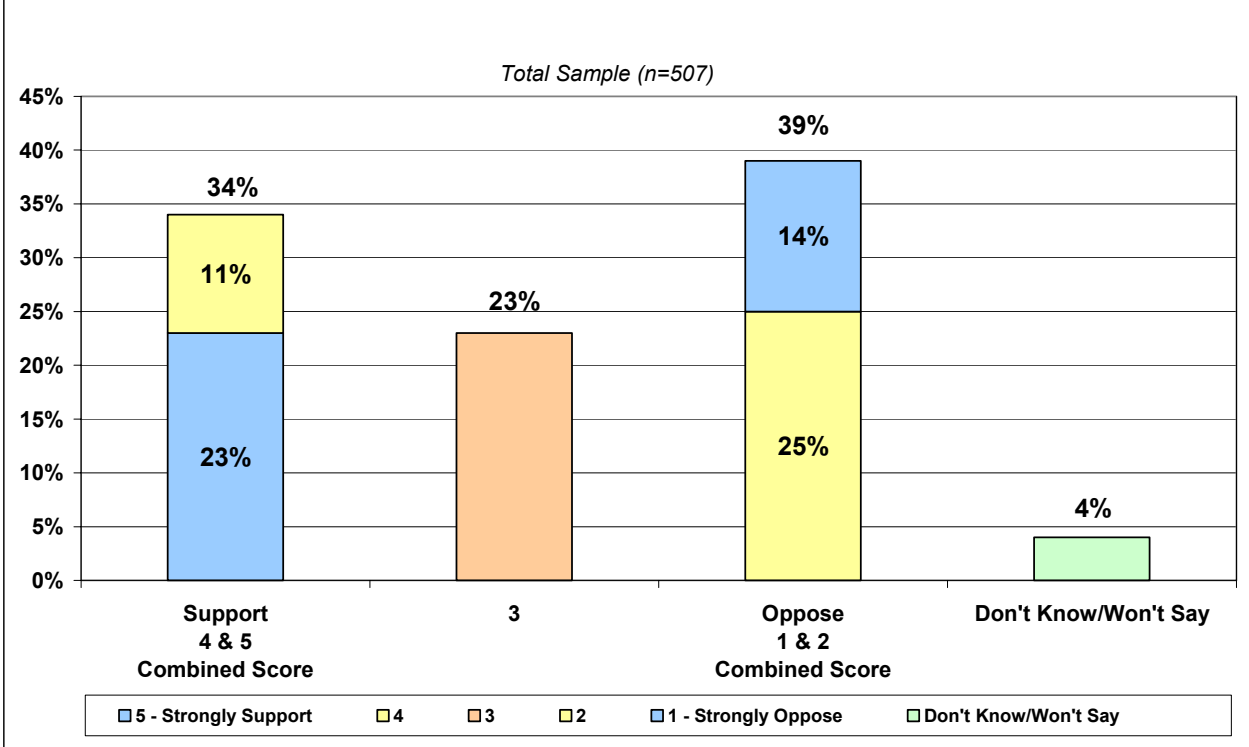
Please rate how strongly you either support or oppose the following management strategies for the wolf population where 5 is strongly support and 1 is strongly oppose: **Give wolves greater protection under the Endangered Species Act to ensure the population rebounds**



By more than a two-to-one margin, voters support giving wolves greater protection under the Endangered Species Act. Overall, 57% support giving wolves greater protection under the Endangered Species Act to ensure the population rebounds compared to 25% who are opposed.

Support or Oppose: Give Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Priority Over Livestock Grazing on Public Lands

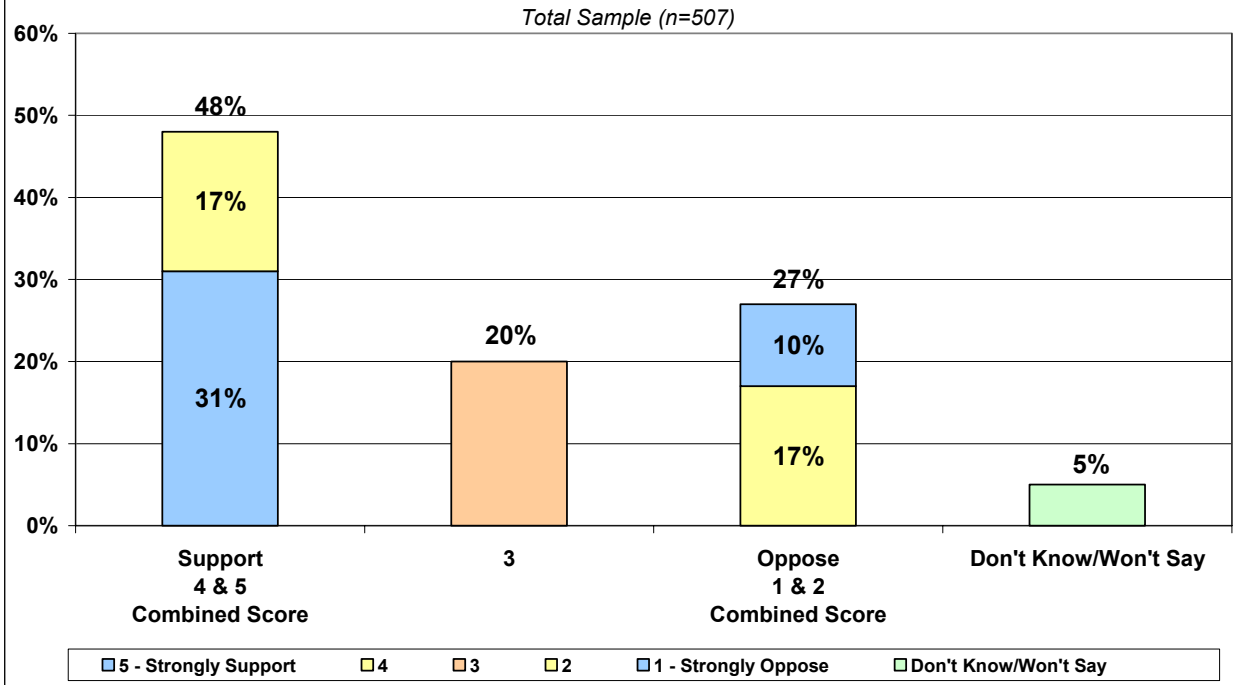
Please rate how strongly you either support or oppose the following management strategies for the wolf population where 5 is strongly support and 1 is strongly oppose: **Give Mexican gray wolf recovery priority over livestock grazing on public lands to ensure wolf numbers rebound**



While the majority of voters support giving the wolf greater protection, they have mixed opinions about giving wolves priority over livestock grazing. Approximately one-third (34%) of New Mexico voters say they support giving the Mexican gray wolf priority over livestock grazing on public lands to ensure wolf numbers rebound, though 39% are opposed. Twenty-three percent of voters have a neutral opinion on this issue.

Support or Oppose: Reimburse Ranchers Who Volunteer to Give Up Their Grazing Leases

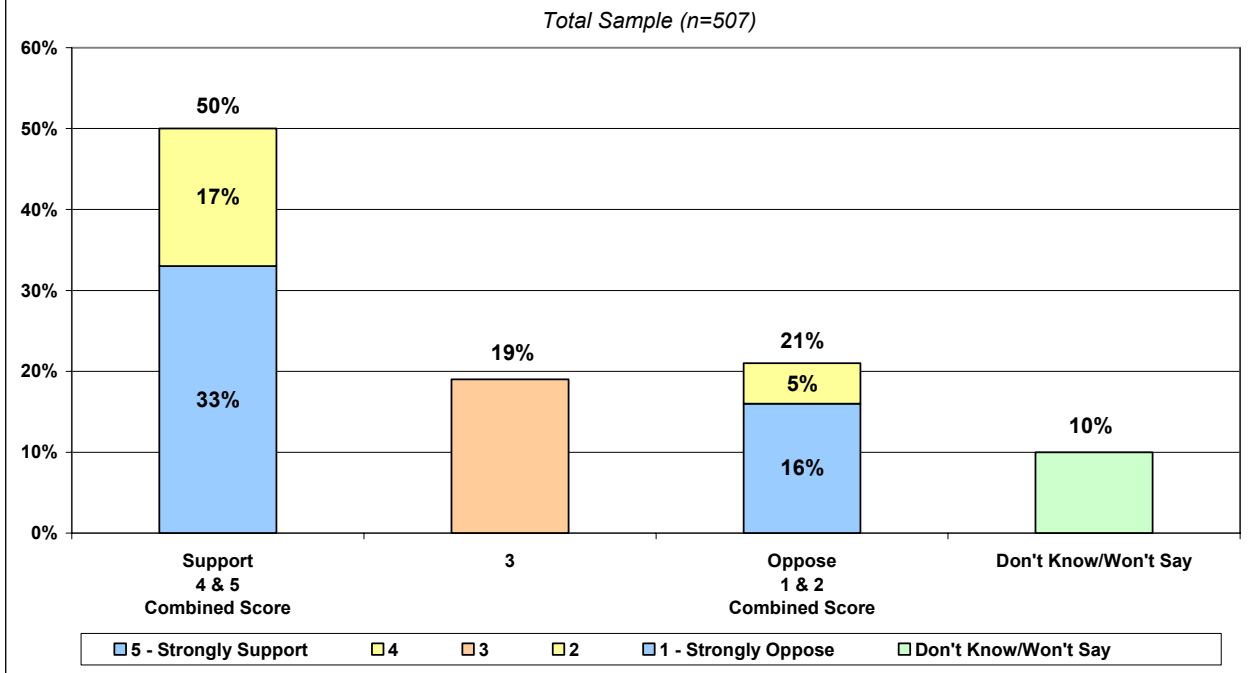
Please rate how strongly you either support or oppose the following management strategies for the wolf population where 5 is strongly support and 1 is strongly oppose: **Reimburse ranchers who volunteer to give up their grazing leases and permanently remove their cattle from public lands in the wolf recovery area to prevent conflicts between wolves and cattle**



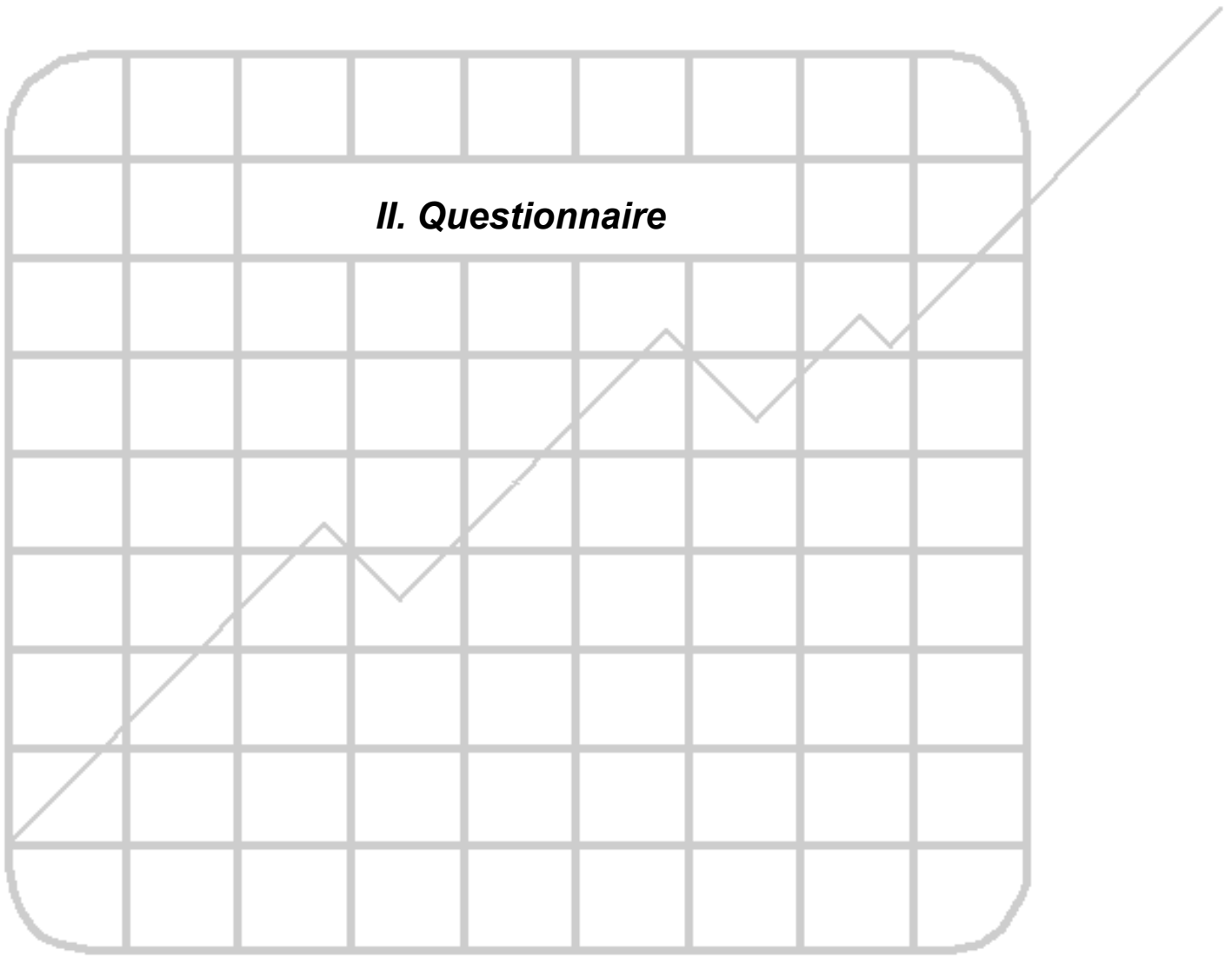
Approximately half (48%) of New Mexico voters say they support reimbursing ranchers who volunteer to give up their grazing leases and permanently remove their cattle from public lands in the wolf recovery area to prevent conflicts between wolves and cattle. Twenty-seven percent of voters are opposed to this idea, while 20% have a neutral opinion.

Support or Oppose: Require Ranchers to Remove, or Make Inedible, Cattle That Die of Non-Wolf Causes

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: **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**



Half of the voters statewide support requiring ranchers to remove, or make inedible, cattle that die of non-wolf causes, for example by applying lime, so wolves are not drawn to live cattle nearby. Twenty-one percent of voters are opposed to this idea, while 19% have a neutral opinion.



WOLF RECOVERY SURVEY
May 2008
FINAL
n=500 Random New Mexico

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 Hood | |
| 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?

Very Positive

Very Negative

Don't Know/
Won't Say

5.....4.....3.....2.....1.....6

| |
|------------------|
| 6 SKIP TO Q.5 |
|------------------|

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

Positive

Negative

- 001. Beautiful animal
- 002. Part of the West
- 003. One of God's creatures
- 004. Unique animal
- 005. UNM Mascot
- 006. Part of our culture/history
- 007. Belong in nature
- 008. Social animals
- 009. Intelligent
- 010. Endangered species
- 011. Help elk/deer herds

- 012. Danger to humans
- 013. Kill/danger to pets
- 014. Kill/danger to livestock
- 015. Hurting ranching
- 016. Dangerous animal (general)
- 017. Don't need to bring them back
- 018. Costs too much money to manage
- 019. Not enough habitat/space
- 020. Poorly managed
- 021. Hurt 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 Agree</u> | <u>Strongly Disagree</u> | <u>Don't Know/ Won't Say</u> |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5. We need to do more to protect endangered species..... | 5..... | 4..... | 3..... |
| | 2..... | 1..... | 6 |
| 6. I feel a strong emotional bond with animals | 5..... | 4..... | 3..... |
| | 2..... | 1..... | 6 |
| 7. Livestock grazing is good for the environment..... | 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

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

999. Don't know/won't say

Other (*SPECIFY*) _____

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) | <u>Strongly Support</u> | <u>Strongly Oppose</u> | <u>Don't Know/ Won't Say</u> | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 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..... | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 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 conflicts between wolves and cattle..... | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 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..... | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |