



National Parks Conservation Association

National Parks Wildlife Poll

JULY 9, 2026



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RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this research is to examine Americans' perceptions and gauge their support for national park wildlife conservation efforts among the general public and those who engage in hunting activities.



RESEARCH METHOD

Conducted in June 2026, the study was composed of two parts: a general population sample of 1,000 and a sample of 300 hunters. Results were weighted to be representative of demographics of adults in the United States.

The sampling precision of YouGov online polls is measured by using a Bayesian credible interval.

For the general population sample, the estimates are accurate to within +/- 4.1% using a 95% confidence level. The hunter sample credible interval is +/- 6.6%.

Findings: Hunting Secretarial Order



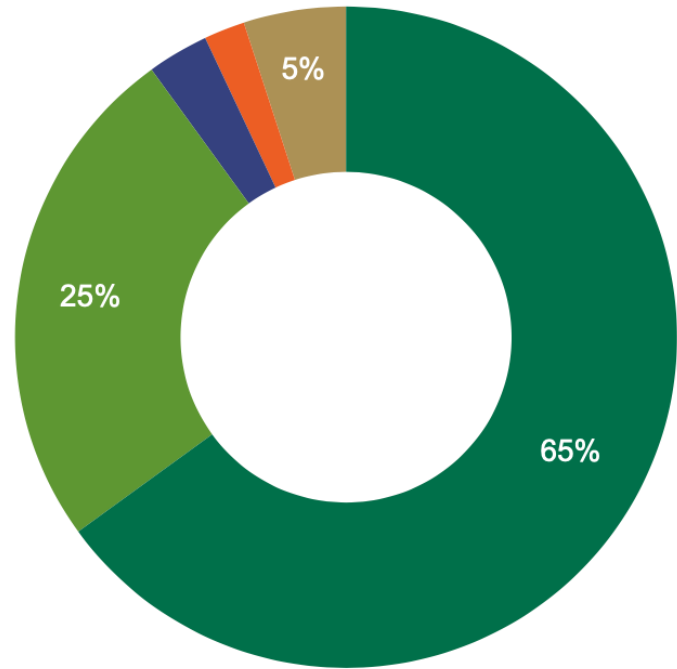
An overwhelming 90% of Americans agree
(89% Republicans, 92% Democrats, 90% Independents) the
National Park Service should provide explanations
for changes to hunting and trapping rule changes
in national parks, such as opening new areas or
expanding huntable species.

HUNTER PERSPECTIVE

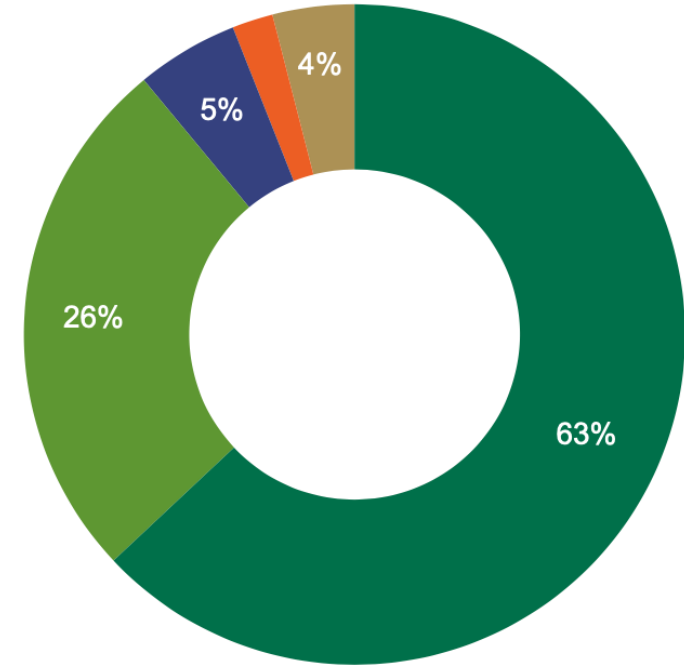
An overwhelming 89% of American hunters agree the National Park Service should provide explanations for changes to hunting and trapping rule changes in national parks, such as opening new areas or expanding huntable species.

HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SHOULD PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION FOR EACH OF THE HUNTING AND TRAPPING RULE CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC?

General Public



Hunters



- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

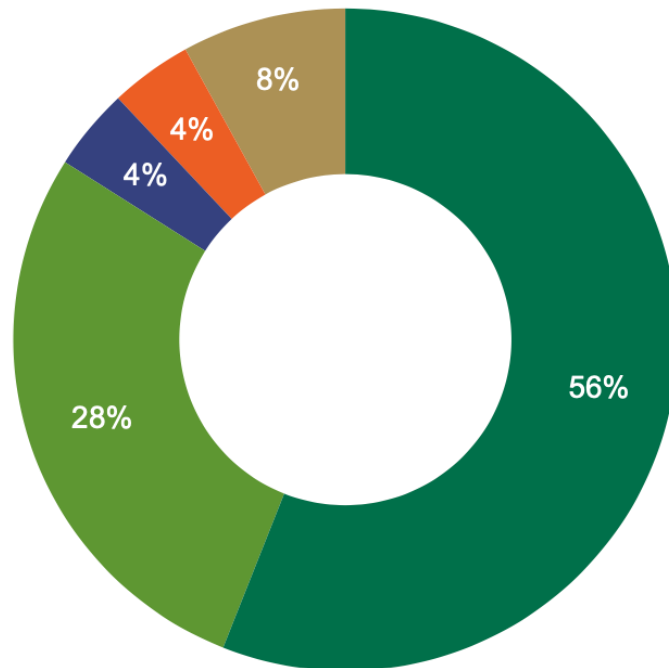
84% of Americans say (80% *Republicans*, 90% *Democrats*, 83% *Independents*) it is at least somewhat important that they have the opportunity to comment on any changes to hunting and trapping regulations on national park lands.

HUNTER PERSPECTIVE

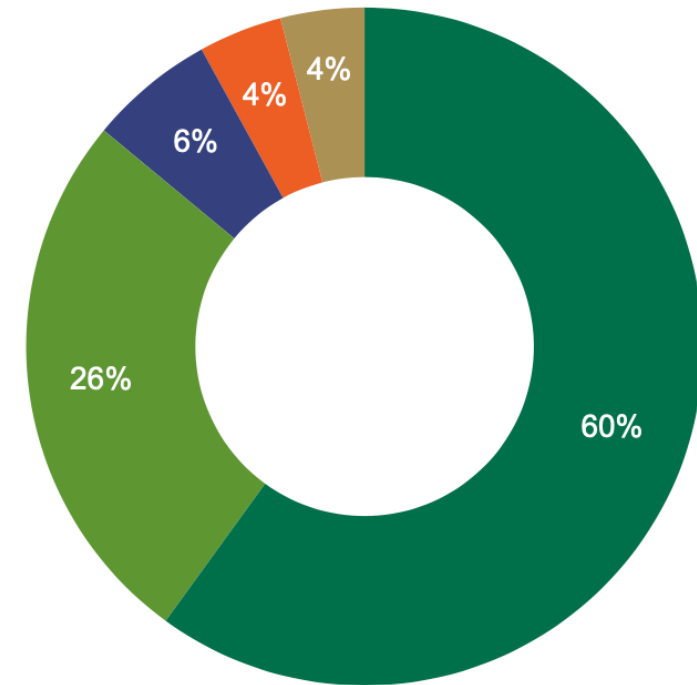
86% of American hunters say it is at least somewhat important that they have the opportunity to comment any changes to hunting and trapping regulations on national park lands.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS UPDATING HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS IN THE 55 PARKS WHERE HUNTING IS ALLOWED (NOT INCLUDING ALASKA). DOZENS OF REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN CHANGED, INCLUDING OPENING AREAS TO HUNTING AND TRAPPING AND EXPANDING THE TYPES OF SPECIES THAT CAN BE HUNTED. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT ON THESE CHANGES?

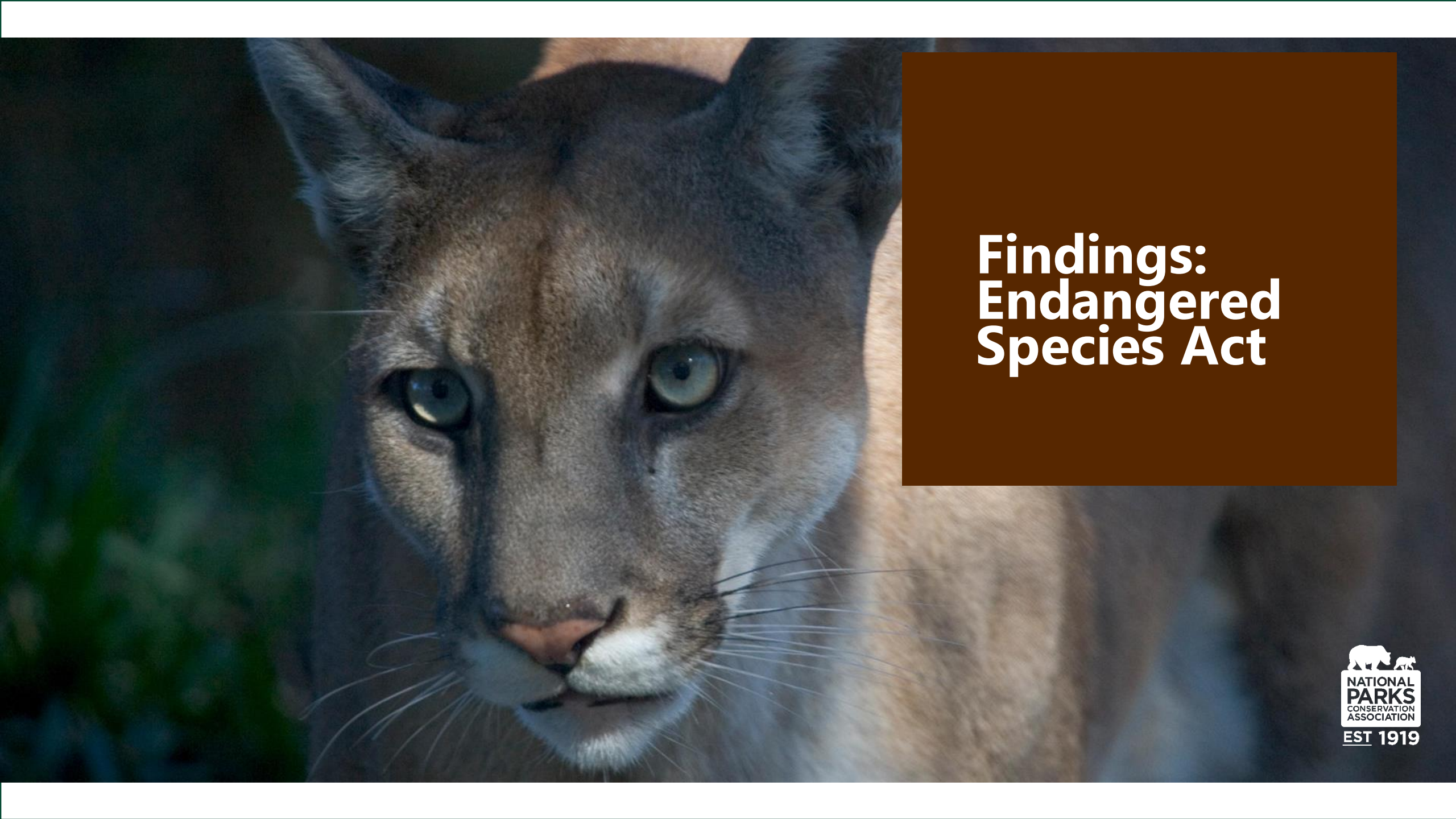
General Public



Hunters



- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant
- No opinion



Findings: Endangered Species Act



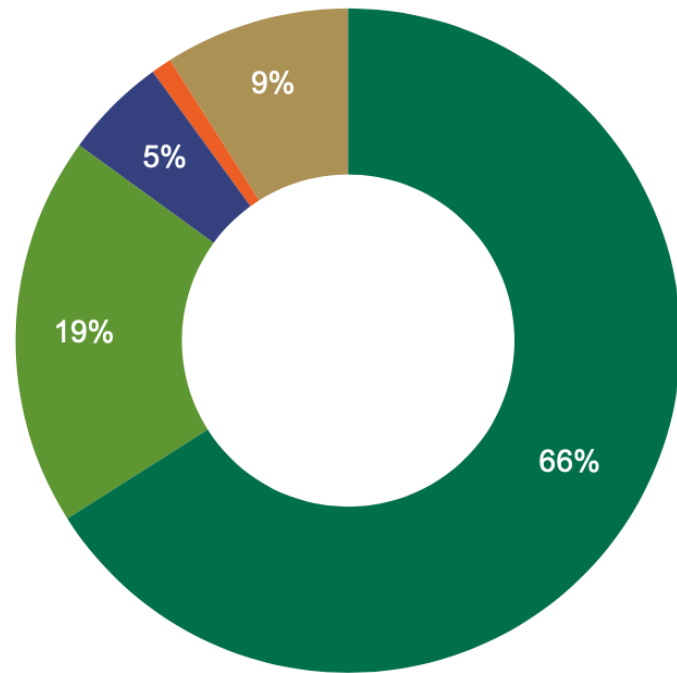
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85% of Americans (85% Republicans, 84% Democrats, 88% Independents) agree the Endangered Species Act is important for protecting the more than 600 threatened and endangered species that call the national parks home.

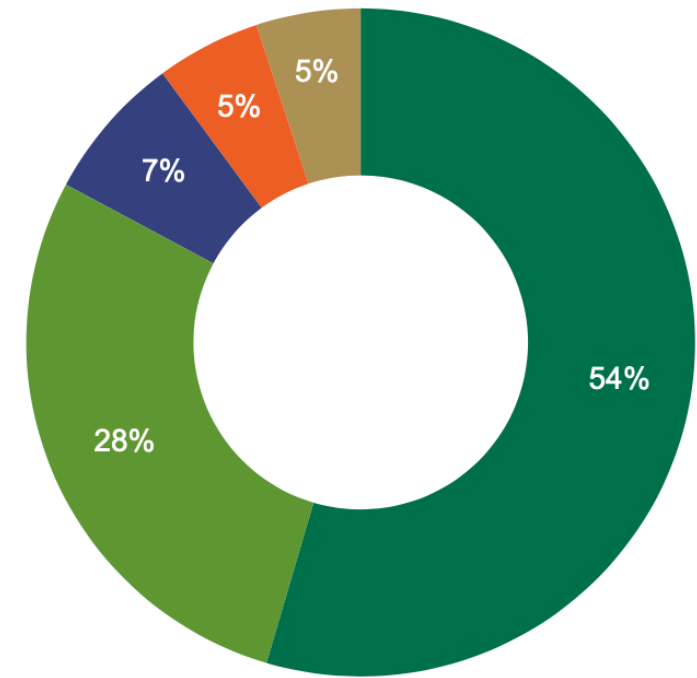
82% of American hunters agree the Endangered Species Act is important for protecting the more than 600 threatened and endangered species that call the national parks home.

FOR 50+ YEARS, THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT HAS HELPED PROTECT AND RESTORE PLANT, FISH, AND WILDLIFE SPECIES IN MULTIPLE PARKS. OVER 600 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES CALL NATIONAL PARKS AND THEIR BROADER LANDSCAPES HOME, INCLUDING GRIZZLY BEARS AT YELLOWSTONE AND THE RARE GHOST ORCHID IN THE EVERGLADES. HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR NATIONAL PARK SPECIES RESTORATION AND RECOVERY.

General Public



Hunters



- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

63% of Americans oppose (39% *Republicans*, 86% *Democrats*, 65% *Independents*) granting oil and gas companies lifetime exemptions from regulations that protect threatened and endangered species.



Findings: Alaska Hunting Rule

70% of Americans oppose (62% *Republicans*, 79% *Democrats*, 71% *Independents*) the National Park Service changing regulations to allow historically banned sport hunting practices in national parks, such as baiting bears, spotlighting bears and wolves, and killing bear cubs and wolf pups in their dens.

Findings: Wildlife Crossings



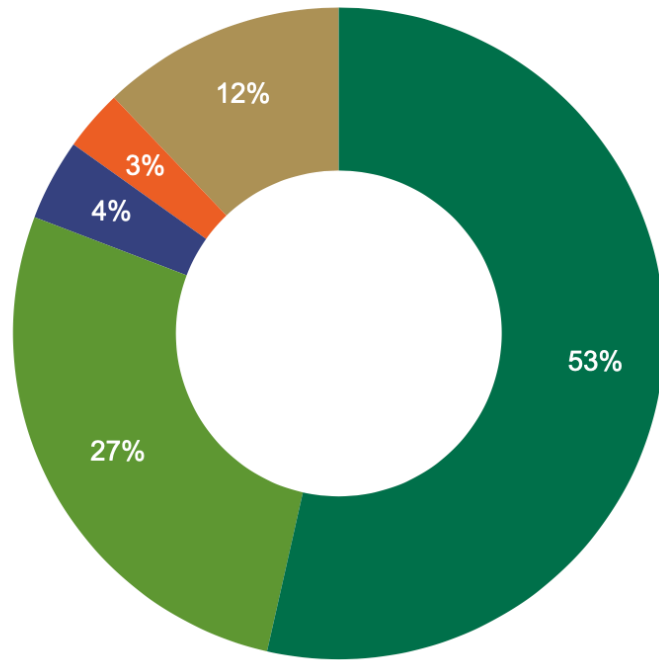
81% of Americans support (82% *Republicans*, 82% *Democrats*, 78 *Independents*) continued congressional investment in wildlife crossings to protect motorists and wildlife and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

HUNTER PERSPECTIVE

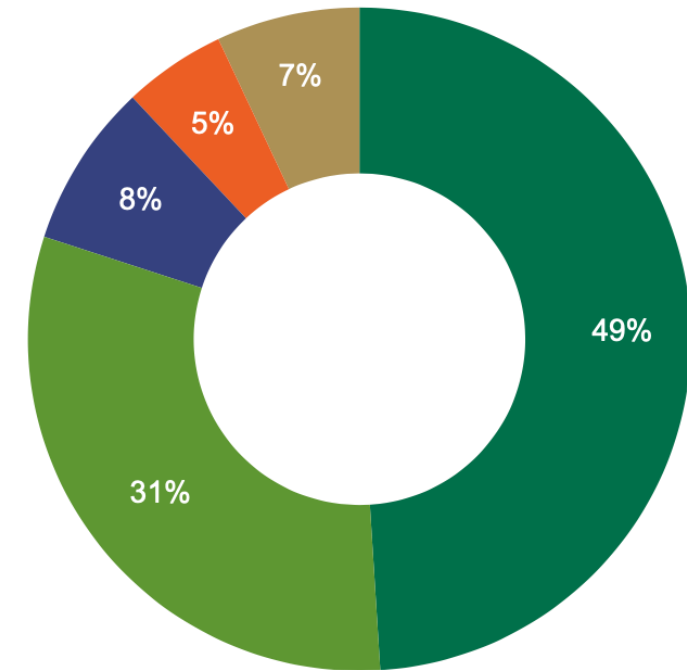
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CONGRESS CREATED THE WILDLIFE CROSSINGS PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE WILDLIFE-VEHICLE COLLISIONS AND HELP SPECIES MOVE ACROSS ROADS. THIS HAS RESULTED IN WILDLIFE UNDERPASSES, OVERPASSES, AND FENCING PROJECTS BEING BUILT IN NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE CONGRESS CONTINUING TO MAKE INVESTMENTS IN WILDLIFE CROSSINGS (OVERPASSES, UNDERPASSES, CULVERT EXPANSION, AND FENCING) TO PROTECT MOTORISTS AND WILDLIFE?

General Public



Hunters



- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- No opinion

A photograph showing a herd of pronghorns in a dry, grassy field. In the background, an oil drilling rig is visible, along with some industrial buildings and tanks. The scene is set in a hilly, arid landscape under a clear sky.

Findings: Oil & Gas Drilling

68% of Americans oppose (*53% Republicans, 85% Democrats, 67% Independents*) the U.S. Forest Service removing environmental reviews—such as impacts to drinking water, wildlife habitat, and recreation—when evaluating new oil and gas drilling and mining proposals near national parks.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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