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2004 National Survey of Hunters and Anglers Reveals Concern for Wildlife Habitat

**Hunter and Angler voters list wildlife habitat loss
as top issue impacting hunting and fishing**

The National Survey of Hunters and Anglers was conducted by Bellwether Research for the National Wildlife Federation, between June 8th and June 20th, 2004.

The study has a Sampling Error of +3.6% at a 95% confidence level.

Survey Methodology

- A total of 752 telephone interviews were completed:
 - Two-thirds (500) with respondents randomly selected from a national list of current fishing license holders and one-third (252) with respondents randomly selected from a national list of current hunting license holders.
 - The proportion of anglers to hunters corresponds to the 2001 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife- Associated Recreation. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service data, collected every five years by the Census Bureau, is the definitive source of hunting and angling participation.
- All respondents in this study are self-identified registered voters.
- All said hunting or fishing is an "important" part of their lifestyle.

Sample Profile

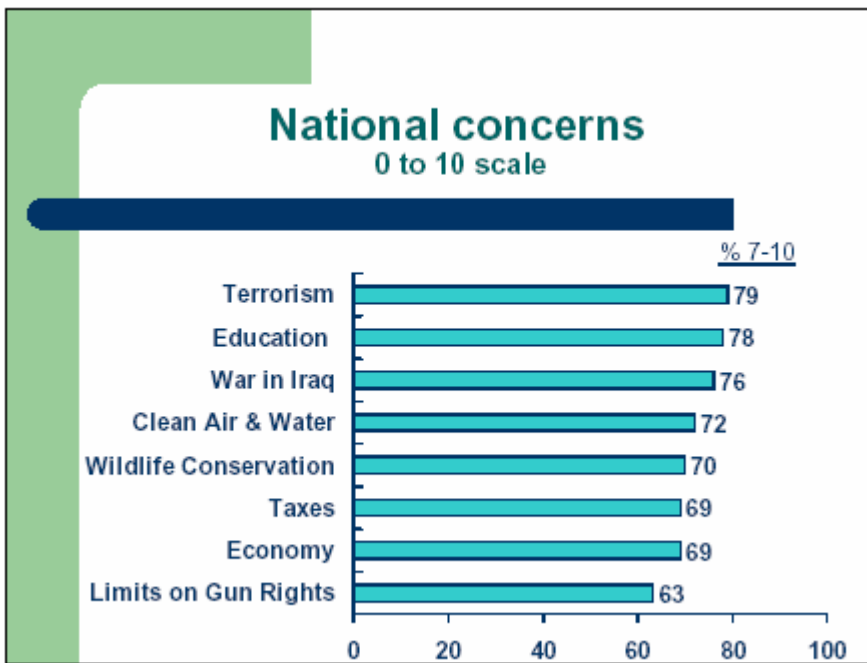
The sample of hunters and anglers is almost exclusively male, quite conservative, and more Republican than voters at large. One-third of the respondents live in the Midwest, another third are from the South, while 20% are Westerners and 14% are from the Northeast. Their average age is 50, with the majority between the ages of 40 and 59.

- 91% Male
- 66% Conservative
- 42% Republican
- 35% Independent
- 21% Democrat
- 68% voted for George W. Bush in 2000

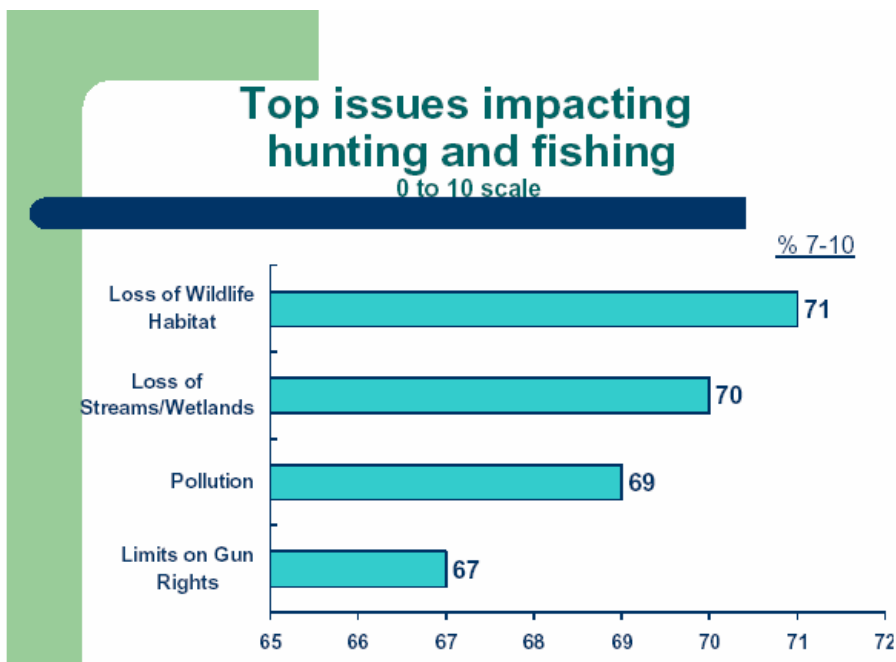
Nearly all (86%) say wildlife and conservation issues will be an important factor in deciding their vote for president in 2004. More than one-third of sportsmen say conservation and wildlife issues will be "very" important to their decision.

Issue Concerns

- Terrorism tops the list of national concerns for sportsmen, followed closely by education, and then the war in Iraq. **Wildlife conservation and clean air and water edge economic issues**, followed by limits on gun rights.



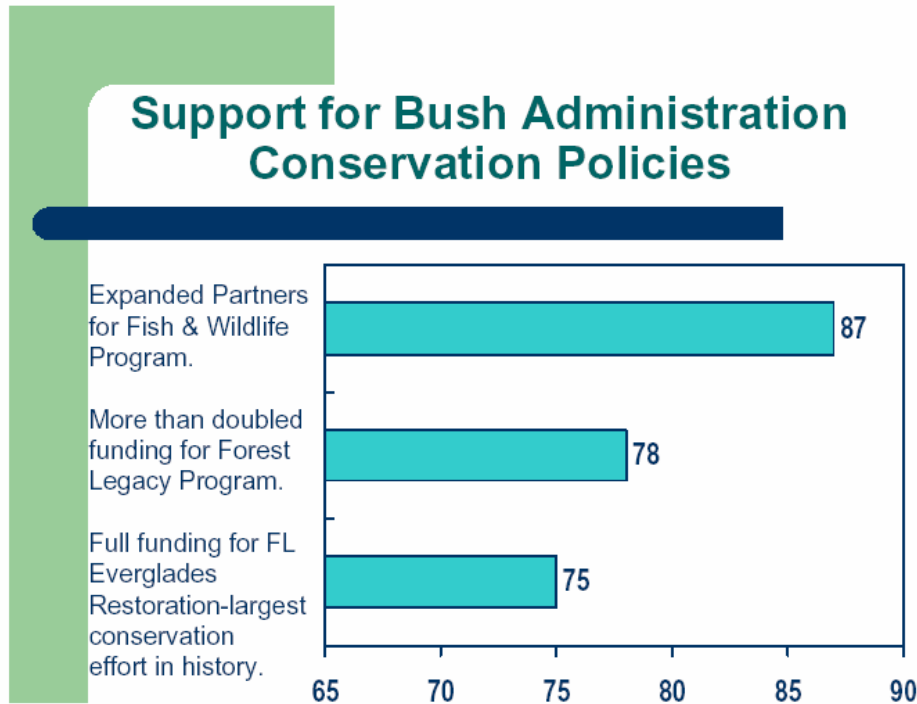
- **Sportsmen rate loss of wildlife habitat across the country, loss of streams and wetlands, and pollution as top concerns impacting hunting and fishing conditions.** These issues are followed closely by limits on gun rights.



Bush Administration Policies

Favor

- Sportsmen strongly support some of the conservation steps taken by the Bush Administration – such as restoring the Everglades and expanding the Forest Legacy and Partners for Fish and Wildlife programs.



Oppose

- However, hunters and anglers– including those who supported President Bush in the 2000 election – solidly oppose many of the Administration’s conservation policies.
- In particular, **57% of hunters and anglers, including 52% of Bush 2000 voters, oppose endorsed exemptions to the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act for the oil and gas industry, which is an effort to expedite oil and gas development on public lands, including prime wildlife, hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation areas.**

Conclusion

The nation’s sportsmen place a high priority on conservation issues, considering them important enough to factor into their decision-making process when selecting political leaders. **They view loss of habitat, streams, and wetlands as the most significant threat to the quality of hunting and fishing and oppose policies that threaten these important areas.** Sportsmen think the oil and gas industry has a great deal of influence with the Bush Administration but say hunters and anglers and conservationists should have more.

For the complete results or questions about the National Hunter and Angler Survey, contact **Ben McNitt** at 202-797-6855 or McNitt@nwf.org