



Results of New Mexico Hunter/Angler Poll

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New Mexico Wildlife Federation National Wildlife Federation

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FINAL Topline Results

N=301 New Mexico hunters and anglers

- 140 respondents from the hunting license list
- 161 respondents from the angler license list

Field Dates: June 10-June 20, 2004

- A. Respondent Profile
 - 47% Hunting license list
 - 53% Angler license list
- 1. Do you consider hunting or fishing to be a...(**Read and Rotate top to bottom, bottom to top**)
 - 73% Very important ...or
 - 27% Somewhat important
 - ...part of your lifestyle?
- 2. And, do you consider yourself....? (**Read options**)
 - 14% A hunter
 - 18% An angler ...or
 - 67% Both
- 3. Are you currently registered to vote in New Mexico?
 - 100% Yes (continue)
- 4. In your personal experience, would you say the quality of hunting and fishing habitats has improved, stayed about the same, or gotten worse within the past few years?
 - 16% Improved
 - 26% Stayed the same
 - 52% Gotten worse
 - 6% Don't Know

I'd like to ask you about some issues that may affect hunting or fishing and using a scale from 0 to 10 in which 10 means you are extremely concerned about it, 5 means you are somewhat concerned, and 0 means you are not concerned at all, please tell me how concerned you are about the effect of each on hunting or fishing... (**Read and Randomize**)

| Not | | | Somewhat | | | | Extremely | | | |
|-----------|---|----|-----------|---|---|---|-----------|---|---|----|
| Concerned | | | Concerned | | | | Concerned | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 2. | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

| | Mean | <u>% 9-10</u> | 0 |
|-----|------|---------------|---|
| 5. | 6.00 | 27% | Mercury levels in fish |
| 6. | 7.23 | 35% | Fish and wildlife diseases |
| 7. | 6.76 | 34% | Pollution |
| 8. | 7.41 | 48% | Access to hunting and fishing on public lands |
| 9. | 5.56 | 22% | Access to hunting and fishing on private lands |
| 10. | 6.81 | 31% | Loss of wildlife habitat in your area |
| 11. | 7.21 | 44% | Loss of wildlife habitat across the country |
| 12. | 6.68 | 36% | Loss of streams and wetlands in your area |
| 13. | 7.14 | 39% | Loss of streams and wetlands across the country |
| 14. | 7.80 | 55% | Limits on gun rights |

Now I'd like to ask you about some issues in New Mexico and, for each, I'd like you to rate how concerned you are about the issue on a scale from 0 to 10 in which 10 means you are extremely concerned, 5 means you are somewhat concerned and 0 means you are not concerned at all. You can choose any number between 0 and 10...(Read and Randomize)

| | Mean | <u>% 9-10</u> | <u>0</u> |
|-----|------|---------------|--|
| 15. | 7.32 | 36% | Restrictions on access to hunting and fishing areas |
| 16. | 6.01 | 26% | Loss of hunting and angling habitat due to livestock overgrazing |
| 17. | 6.32 | 23% | Loss of hunting and angling habitat due to urban growth and |
| | | | development. |

18. Next I'd like to ask you a question about the Valle Vidal that is part of the Carson National Forest. The El Paso Corporation has petitioned the U.S. Forest Service to drill up to 1,000 natural gas wells in the Valle Vidal wintering and spring calving range for 2,500 elk.

Do you favor or oppose allowing The El Paso Corporation to conduct natural gas drilling in the Valle Vidal?

If (favor/oppose) ask: Strongly (favor/oppose) or just Somewhat (favor/oppose) this?

| 16% | Strongly favor | |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 16% | Somewhat favor | 32% Favor – 63% Oppose |
| 16% | Somewhat oppose | |
| 47% | Strongly oppose | |
| 6% | Don't know/Refuse | |

Next...

19. Governor Bill Richardson and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish have asked the federal government to increase protections for wildlife habitat and groundwater resources before permitting oil and gas drilling at southern New Mexico's Otero Mesa.

Do you favor or oppose the increased protections at Otero Mesa that have been proposed by the Department of Game and Fish and Governor Richardson?

If (favor/oppose) ask: Strongly (favor/oppose) or just Somewhat (favor/oppose) this?

| 42% | Strongly favor | |
|-----|-------------------|------------------------|
| 22% | Somewhat favor | 64% Favor – 29% Oppose |
| 11% | Somewhat oppose | |
| 18% | Strongly oppose | |
| 7% | Don't know/Refuse | |

20. Currently, "isolated wetlands," such as New Mexico's playa lakes and as many as 3,000 part time streams and small wetlands in the state are not fully protected under the Clean Water Act and could be open to development. Do you favor or oppose protecting these isolated wetlands under the Clean Water Act?

If (favor/oppose) ask: Strongly (favor/oppose) or just Somewhat (favor/oppose) this?

| 49% | Strongly favor | |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 24% | Somewhat favor | 73% Favor – 22% Oppose |
| 10% | Somewhat oppose | |
| 12% | Strongly oppose | |
| 6% | Don't know/Refuse | |

- 21. Is there any public land in New Mexico where you used to hunt, fish or recreate that has since been closed to public access by neighboring private landowners?
 - 42% Yes
 - 53% No
 - 5% Don't Know/Refused

Thinking about something else...

- 22. Which of the following two statements better reflects your opinion? (**Rotate**)
 - A. (Some/other) people say natural wetlands can be filled or drained as long as developers are required to create new wetlands to replace those that are destroyed.
 - B. (Other/some) people say that natural wetlands should not be filled or drained in most cases, even if developers replace them with manmade wetlands, because manmade wetlands do not replicate all the important functions of natural wetlands.
 - 28% A. Can be filled or drained
 - 64% B. Should not be filled or drained
 - 7% Don't Know
 - 1% Refused
- 23. Now I'm going to read two perspectives on mercury, a known toxin responsible for fish consumption advisories in 43 states, and ask which one better reflects your opinion. (**Rotate**)
 - A. (Some/Other) people say that existing technologies could remove almost all of the mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants, and that they should be required to do so by the end of the decade because mercury poses a risk to people, particularly pregnant women and children, and to wildlife.
 - B. (Other/Some) people say that the technology to eliminate mercury pollution from coal fired power plants is not yet widely available, making it too expensive and causing higher energy costs for businesses and households, so industry should be given up to two decades to meet this pollution reduction target.
 - 68% A. Power plants should be required to remove mercury pollution in decade
 - 24% B. Too expensive, so industry should be given up to two decades
 - 7% Don't Know
 - 1% Refused

- 24. Which of the following do you think is the best way to address America's energy needs? (Randomize 1-3, ask 4 last)
 - Drill for more oil and gas in the U.S., including areas within wildlife refuges and other public lands, to increase our domestic energy supply.
 - 25% Conserve more, waste less, and develop more fuel-efficient cars so we use less oil and gas.
 - 44% Rely less on oil and gas and expand development of renewable forms of energy like wind, solar, and ethanol.
 - 9% No Opinion
 - 3% (Do not read) Refused

Now I am going to read you a series of statements about the Bush administration's conservation policies. Please tell me if you favor or oppose the policy that... (Randomize question order)

If (favor/oppose) ask: Strongly (favor/oppose) or just Somewhat (favor/oppose) this?

- 25. Proposed giving coal-fired power plants flexibility to meet a national goal to reduce mercury pollution even though that may result in higher mercury pollution in many communities. Do you favor or oppose this policy?
 - 11% Favor strong
 - 17% Favor- somewhat

28% Favor – 64% Oppose

- 42% Oppose- strong
- 22% Oppose somewhat
- 8% Don't Know
- 2% Refused
- 26. Issued new Clean Water Act guidelines that will, by the government's own estimates, eliminate protections for up to 20 million acres of wetlands. Do you favor or oppose this policy?
 - 16% Favor strong
 - 17% Favor- somewhat

33% Favor – 58% Oppose

- 37% Oppose- strong
- 21% Oppose somewhat
- 6% Don't Know
- 3% Refused

27. More than doubled funding for the Forest Legacy Program, a partnership among the Forest Service, states, and land trusts that protects and ensures public access to forest areas threatened by development. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

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52% Favor - strong
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29% Favor- somewhat

81% Favor – 12% Oppose

7% Oppose- strong

5% Oppose - somewhat

6% Don't Know

1% Refused

28. Provided full funding for Florida Everglades restoration, the largest conservation restoration effort in the nation's history. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

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38% Favor - strong
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35% Favor- somewhat

73% Favor – 17% Oppose

6% Oppose- strong

11% Oppose - somewhat

7% Don't Know

1% Refused

29. Endorsed exemptions to the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act for the oil and gas industry in an effort to expedite oil and gas development on public lands, including prime wildlife, hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation areas. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

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19% Favor - strong
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18% Favor- somewhat

37% Favor – 55% Oppose

38% Oppose- strong

17% Oppose - somewhat

5% Don't Know

2% Refused

30. Expanded the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program that helps private landowners restore fish and wildlife habitat on their property. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

51% Favor - strong

27% Favor- somewhat

78% Favor – 18% Oppose

9% Oppose- strong

9% Oppose - somewhat

3% Don't Know

1% Refused

Now thinking ahead to November...

- 31. How important are wildlife and conservation issues in deciding your vote for president? (Rotate top to bottom, bottom to top)
 - 5% Not important at all
 - 9% Not too important
 - 44% Somewhat important
 - 42% Very important

86% Very/Somewhat Important

1% Don't Know

Now I have just a few questions for statistical purposes only...

Mean

- 32. What is your age please? 53 years
- 33. Do you have children? (**If yes**) Are there any under age 18 at home?
 - 35% Yes, under 18 at home
 - 39% Yes, all older than 18
 - 25% No
 - 1% Refused
- 34. In politics today, do you usually consider yourself to be a Republican, Democrat or an Independent? (**If independent**) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican party or the Democratic party?
 - 44% Republican
 - 29% Democrat
 - 14% Independent (no party preference)
 - 6% Independent, lean Republican
 - 4% Independent, lean Democrat
 - 3% Refused
- When thinking about politics and government do you consider yourself to be...(Read and Rotate top to bottom, bottom to top)
 - 17% Very Conservative
 - 55% Somewhat Conservative
 - 7% (**Volunteered**) Moderate

72% Consv. – 25% Mod./Lib

- 16% Somewhat Liberal
- 2% Very Liberal
- 1% (Do not read) Don't Know
- 2% Refused

36. Are you a member of the NRA, the National Rifle Association?

39% Yes

61% No

37. For classification purposes, please stop me when I read the category that reflects your annual household income before taxes? (**Read**)

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3% Under $20,000
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8% \$20,000 to just under \$30,000

12% \$30,000 to just under \$40,000

11% \$40,000 to just under \$50,000

11% \$50,000 to just under \$60,000

10% \$60,000 to just under \$70,000

29% \$70,000 or higher

14% Refused

38. Thinking back to the 2000 election for President, for whom did you vote? (**Read and Rotate Bush and Gore only; ask Nader last**)

71% George W. Bush

20% Al Gore

2% Ralph Nader

5% (Volunteered) Don't Know/Refused

1% (Volunteered) Did not vote

39. Gender (By Observation)

93% Male

7% Female

- 40. County
- 41. State