



Date: January 23, 2003
To: Campaign for America's Wilderness
From: Rebecca Wittman

RE: Results from January Zogby America Polling on Wilderness Protection

To assess current attitudes about protection of additional public lands as wilderness, Zogby International conducted interviews of 1,001 likely voters chosen at random nationwide between January 4 and 6, 2003.¹

As a baseline, the questions began with assessing how much of all land in the country respondents believe is currently protected as wilderness. The questions proceeded to more specifically probe how much land respondents think should be protected as wilderness, both generally and then in their own states. [The exact wording of the questions are reported here in italics.]

Narrative Summary

Congress is considering setting aside some publicly owned lands as Wilderness Areas, which would protect them for wildlife and recreation, such as hiking, fishing, hunting, and camping. But the areas would be closed to new oil and gas drilling, mining, logging, off-road vehicles, and new roads.

1. What percentage of all lands in the United States do you believe are currently protected as wilderness?

1-5%	19%
5-10%	21
10-15%	15
15-20%	11
20-30%	10
More than 30%	10
Not sure	16

- Two of three respondents thought that more than 5% of all land in the country is protected as wilderness, while a near majority (46%) thought that more than 10% is so protected. Americans believe that more land has been designated for protection than is, in fact, the case.

2. *What percentage of all lands in the United States do you think should be protected as wilderness?*

1-5%	8%
5-10%	10
10-15%	13
15-20%	15
20-30%	21
More than 30%	22
Not sure	12

- More than two-thirds of respondents (71%) think that 10% or more of all lands in the United States should be protected as wilderness. Only 8% of respondents feel that as little as 1-5% of U.S. land should be protected as wilderness.
- Two-thirds of Republicans (65%) think that more than 10% of all lands should be protected as wilderness; as do 71% of Independents and 74% of Democrats.

3. *In fact, 4.7% of the land in the United States has been designated by Congress as wilderness. Do you think Congress has designated too much wilderness, the right amount of wilderness, or not enough wilderness?*

Too much	6%
Right amount	23
Not enough	64
Not sure	7

- More than three in five likely voters (64%) think that the 4.7% of the land in the U.S. designated as wilderness is not enough. Compared to the 6% who think that the present extent of protected wilderness is “too much,” this reflects an overwhelming public consensus.

- A majority of Republicans (51%) think that 4.7% of all lands designated as wilderness is not enough; as do 70% of independents and 72% of Democrats.
- Looking at the detailed poll findings, majorities of people within *every* regional, political party, educational, racial and religious subgroup say that 4.7% of the land designated as wilderness is not enough. Women are even more likely than men to say that 4.7% of land is not enough (67% to 60%). Sixty percent of people who live in large cities say it's not enough protected wilderness, the same percentage as rural residents.

4. *How do you feel about designating more of the public land in your own state as wilderness? Would you say you strongly favor, somewhat favor, neither favor nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this idea?*

Strongly favor	41%		
Somewhat favor	24	Favor	65%
Neither	12		
Somewhat oppose	10		
Strongly oppose	10	Oppose	20
Not sure	4		

- Respondents are more than three times as likely to favor (65%) than oppose (20%) designating more public land in their own states as wilderness.
- Within every subgroup, not only do majorities of people *favor* this idea, but pluralities or majorities also *strongly favor* it.
- A majority of Republicans (54%) favor more wilderness being protected in their own states; as do two-thirds of Independents (66%) and three-quarters of Democrats (75%).

ⁱ **METHODOLOGY.** All calls were made from Zogby International headquarters in Utica, N.Y., from Saturday, January 4 to Monday, January 6, 2003. Hawaii and Alaska were not included. The margin of error is +/- 3.2%. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, and

gender to more accurately reflect the voting population. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and might not total 100.