

Draft Gray Wolf Management Plan

An Analysis of Responses Received on Two Questions
Posed to Individuals Providing Written Comments
Utilizing the Department's New Electronic Commenting System

October, 2007
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Introduction

As part of its public involvement process involving release of the revised *Draft Gray Wolf Management Plan*, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) simultaneously launched its new Electronic Commenting System whereby individuals and organizations could submit written comments online. In an effort to obtain some additional feedback on the plan, the Department required users to provide their name and address, and answer two questions prior to submitting their written comments. The questions included the following:

1. Do you support or oppose the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission approving this wolf management plan as written?
2. Which of the following best describes your views concerning this number of breeding pairs of wolves in Wyoming?

Users were presented five options from which to respond ranging from "strongly support" to "strongly oppose" on Question #1 and "much too low" to "much too high" on Question #2. In similar fashion, a pre-printed form that included these same two questions was made available to people who attended one of the public meetings held around the State on this topic. The answers to the questions were intended to provide additional insight into the perspectives of the public commenting on *the Draft Gray Wolf Management Plan* and assist the Department and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) as they move forward with assuming management authority and responsibilities for gray wolves once delisting occurs and the species is removed from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Department Analysis

A total of 307 people utilized the new Electronic Commenting System to provide input on the draft plan. Of those, 286 provided written comment, in addition to responding to the two questions posed above. Five (5) residents and 16 non-residents (21 total) opted only to express their views about the draft plan by providing responses to the two questions. The following pages provide an analysis of the input received on the two questions. All 307 responses were included in the analysis.

It should be noted that this process constitutes a qualitative analysis. These responses only represent the views and opinions of the individuals and organizations that provided the Department with comments electronically and using forms provided at meetings held around the

state. The results found within the following analysis cannot be extrapolated to represent any larger segment of the population.

The analysis is tiered, so as to allow decision-makers to initially look at total responses and then examine potential differences between resident and non-resident respondents. Similarly, breakdowns are provided for resident respondents living in the six northwest Wyoming counties that are included within the area where wolves will be classified as "trophy game," as well as respondents from five northwest counties (excluding Teton County), and a Teton County stand alone analysis. A breakdown is also provided for the aggregate of counties outside the six-county area - individual counties from which comments were received, and a summary of responses by Commission District, state and country. This information is presented both numerically and as a percentage in the tables (pages 4-7). The information is only presented as a percentage of respondents in the four graphs that accompany this report (pages 8-9).

Findings

There was general opposition to the draft plan as written, with 90.8% of non-resident respondents either strongly or moderately opposing the plan, and 72.3% of resident respondents expressing similar views. Looking only at resident feedback, respondents from the five northwest Wyoming counties (Fremont, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Park and Sublette) showed 59.3% strongly or moderately opposing the plan. When Teton County respondents are included (i.e. six northwest counties), that opposition level increases to 77.6%. Teton County respondents expressed the highest degree of opposition with 96.2% either strongly opposing or moderately opposing the plan as written. Of the respondents from Wyoming living outside the six northwest counties, 62.7% of them held this view.

Respondents were only a bit more divergent on their views about the number of breeding pairs of wolves in Wyoming with most indicating the number being either much too low or too low. The findings indicate that 92.2% of non-resident respondents and 69.9% of resident respondents stated this view. Looking again just at resident feedback, 44.5% of respondents from the five northwest Wyoming counties indicated wolf breeding pairs were much too low or too low. When Teton County respondents are included in the data set (i.e. six northwest counties) that number increases to 69.2%. Teton County led all counties in the percentage of respondents who viewed breeding pair numbers set forth in Wyoming's plan as being either much too low or too low, with 94.4% answering the question in this manner. For those Wyoming residents living

outside the six northwest county area, 71.1% of respondents held similar views.

Summary

A copy of this document was transmitted to the Commission on October 19th, along with copies of all the written comments submitted online through the Department's Electronic Commenting System. Those individuals who utilized the new service to provide comments, along with a small number who completed pre-printed comment forms at the public meetings, were the basis for the above-referenced analysis on the two questions. The latter category of respondents had their input manually entered into the Electronic Commenting System by a Department representative.

In addition, and concurrently, the Commission was also provided copies of the 45 letters that were submitted via mail or fax at the Department's headquarters during the comment period that extended from September 10 - October 10, 2007.

The Department offers its sincere thanks and appreciation to the people who attended the public meetings around the state in September, 2007, that were designed to inform interested individuals about the revised *Draft Gray Wolf Management Plan*. Also acknowledged are the people and organizations who took time to provide written input on the draft document. Recognition is also directed to members of the Commission for taking the time to carefully review all the written comments received on the draft plan and examine the analysis conducted on the two questions. In total, this input represents more than 200 pages of written input provided by the public.

This document, the written comments and the *Draft Gray Wolf Management Plan* will be discussed at the November 16, 2007 Commission meeting. An opportunity for public oral comment will also be provided at that time. Thereafter, the Commission will discuss the plan and be asked to take final action.

- WGFD -

Question 1: Do you support or oppose the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission approving this wolf management plan as written?

Wyoming Resident	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Grand Total
Non-resident	10 (7.1%)	1 (0.7%)	2 (1.4%)	12 (8.5%)	116 (82.3%)	141 (100.0%)
Resident	35 (21.1%)	8 (4.8%)	3 (1.8%)	11 (6.6%)	109 (65.7%)	166 (100.0%)
All responses	45 (14.7%)	9 (2.9%)	5 (1.6%)	23 (7.5%)	225 (73.3%)	307 (100.0%)

Five NW Counties	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Grand Total
No	19 (17.0%)	5 (4.5%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (8.9%)	78 (69.6%)	112 (100.0%)
Yes	16 (29.6%)	3 (5.6%)	3 (5.6%)	1 (1.9%)	31 (57.4%)	54 (100.0%)
All residents	35 (21.1%)	8 (4.8%)	3 (1.8%)	11 (6.6%)	109 (65.7%)	166 (100.0%)

Six NW Counties	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Grand Total
No	17 (28.8%)	5 (8.5%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (8.5%)	32 (54.2%)	59 (100.0%)
Yes	18 (16.8%)	3 (2.8%)	3 (2.8%)	6 (5.6%)	77 (72.0%)	107 (100.0%)
All residents	35 (21.1%)	8 (4.8%)	3 (1.8%)	11 (6.6%)	109 (65.7%)	166 (100.0%)

County Analysis	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Grand Total
5 NW Counties	16 (29.6%)	3 (5.6%)	3 (5.6%)	1 (1.9%)	31 (57.4%)	54 (100.0%)
Teton County	2 (3.8%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (9.4%)	46 (86.8%)	53 (100.0%)
Rest of State	17 (28.8%)	5 (8.5%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (8.5%)	32 (54.2%)	59 (100.0%)

County Name	Six NW Counties	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Grand Total
Albany	No	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (7.7%)	12 (92.3%)	13 (100.0%)
Big Horn	No	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Campbell	No	2 (66.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (33.3%)	3 (100.0%)
Carbon	No	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Johnson	No	1 (25.0%)	1 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (50.0%)	4 (100.0%)
Laramie	No	0 (0.0%)	2 (20.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.0%)	7 (70.0%)	10 (100.0%)
Natrona	No	4 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (12.5%)	3 (37.5%)	8 (100.0%)
Platte	No	2 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (100.0%)
Sheridan	No	2 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (66.7%)	6 (100.0%)
Sweetwater	No	5 (50.0%)	2 (20.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (10.0%)	2 (20.0%)	10 (100.0%)
Weston	No	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Fremont	Yes	10 (41.7%)	3 (12.5%)	2 (8.3%)	1 (4.2%)	8 (33.3%)	24 (100.0%)
Hot Springs	Yes	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (100.0%)	2 (100.0%)
Lincoln	Yes	1 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (50.0%)	2 (100.0%)
Park	Yes	3 (15.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (5.0%)	0 (0.0%)	16 (80.0%)	20 (100.0%)
Sublette	Yes	2 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (66.7%)	6 (100.0%)
Teton	Yes	2 (3.8%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (9.4%)	46 (86.8%)	53 (100.0%)
All residents		35 (21.1%)	8 (4.8%)	3 (1.8%)	11 (6.6%)	109 (65.7%)	166 (100.0%)

Commission District	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Grand Total
District I	2 (16.7%)	2 (16.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (8.3%)	7 (58.3%)	12 (100.0%)
District II	5 (20.8%)	2 (8.3%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (8.3%)	15 (62.5%)	24 (100.0%)
District III	5 (8.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (8.2%)	51 (83.6%)	61 (100.0%)
District IV	5 (38.5%)	1 (7.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (53.8%)	13 (100.0%)
District V	3 (13.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (4.3%)	1 (4.3%)	18 (78.3%)	23 (100.0%)
District VI	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
District VII	14 (43.8%)	3 (9.4%)	2 (6.3%)	2 (6.3%)	11 (34.4%)	32 (100.0%)
All residents	35 (21.1%)	8 (4.8%)	3 (1.8%)	11 (6.6%)	109 (65.7%)	166 (100.0%)

State	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Grand Total
AZ	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)
CA	2 (7.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	25 (92.6%)	27 (100.0%)
CO	2 (6.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (3.4%)	3 (10.3%)	23 (79.3%)	29 (100.0%)
DC	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)
HI	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
ID	0 (0.0%)	1 (5.9%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (11.8%)	14 (82.4%)	17 (100.0%)
IN	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
MI	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
MT	2 (5.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.7%)	4 (10.8%)	30 (81.1%)	37 (100.0%)
NM	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)
NV	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (100.0%)	6 (100.0%)
NY	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)
OR	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)
PA	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (100.0%)	3 (100.0%)
UT	2 (18.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (9.1%)	8 (72.7%)	11 (100.0%)
WA	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)
WI	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
WY	35 (21.1%)	8 (4.8%)	3 (1.8%)	11 (6.6%)	109 (65.7%)	166 (100.0%)
Grand Total	45 (14.7%)	9 (2.9%)	5 (1.6%)	23 (7.5%)	224 (73.2%)	306 (100.0%)

Country	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Neither Support nor Oppose	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Grand Total
Canada	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)
USA	45 (14.7%)	9 (2.9%)	5 (1.6%)	23 (7.5%)	224 (73.2%)	306 (100.0%)
All responses	45 (14.7%)	9 (2.9%)	5 (1.6%)	23 (7.5%)	225 (73.3%)	307 (100.0%)

Question 2: Which of the following best describes your views concerning this number of breeding pairs of wolves in Wyoming? Is it . . .

Wyoming Resident	Much Too Low	Too Low	About Right	Too High	Much Too High	Grand Total
Non-resident	105 (74.5%)	25 (17.7%)	5 (3.5%)	3 (2.1%)	3 (2.1%)	141 (100.0%)
Resident	81 (48.8%)	35 (21.1%)	18 (10.8%)	17 (10.2%)	15 (9.0%)	166 (100.0%)
Grand Total	186 (60.6%)	60 (19.5%)	23 (7.5%)	20 (6.5%)	18 (5.9%)	307 (100.0%)

Five NW Counties	Much Too Low	Too Low	About Right	Too High	Much Too High	Grand Total
No	64 (57.1%)	28 (25.0%)	11 (9.8%)	5 (4.5%)	4 (3.6%)	112 (100.0%)
Yes	17 (31.5%)	7 (13.0%)	7 (13.0%)	12 (22.2%)	11 (20.4%)	54 (100.0%)
Grand Total	81 (48.8%)	35 (21.1%)	18 (10.8%)	17 (10.2%)	15 (9.0%)	166 (100.0%)

Six NW Counties	Much Too Low	Too Low	About Right	Too High	Much Too High	Grand Total
No	30 (50.8%)	12 (20.3%)	9 (15.3%)	5 (8.5%)	3 (5.1%)	59 (100.0%)
Yes	51 (47.7%)	23 (21.5%)	9 (8.4%)	12 (11.2%)	12 (11.2%)	107 (100.0%)
Grand Total	81 (48.8%)	35 (21.1%)	18 (10.8%)	17 (10.2%)	15 (9.0%)	166 (100.0%)

County Analysis	Much Too Low	Too Low	About Right	Too High	Much Too High	Grand Total
5 NW Counties	17 (31.5%)	7 (13.0%)	7 (13.0%)	12 (22.2%)	11 (20.4%)	54 (100.0%)
Teton County	34 (64.2%)	16 (30.2%)	2 (3.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.9%)	53 (100.0%)
Rest of State	30 (50.8%)	12 (20.3%)	9 (15.3%)	5 (8.5%)	3 (5.1%)	59 (100.0%)

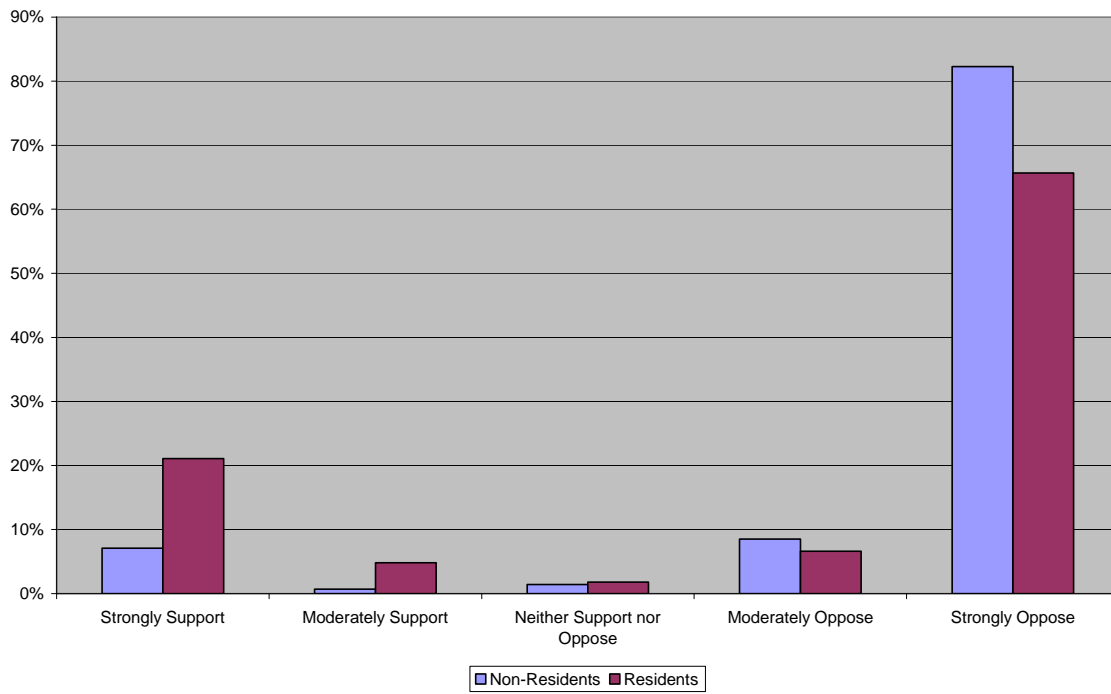
County Name	Six NW Counties	Much Too Low	Too Low	About Right	Too High	Much Too High	Grand Total
Albany	No	7 (53.8%)	5 (38.5%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (7.7%)	0 (0.0%)	13 (100.0%)
Big Horn	No	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Campbell	No	2 (66.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (100.0%)
Carbon	No	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Johnson	No	2 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (25.0%)	1 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (100.0%)
Laramie	No	7 (70.0%)	1 (10.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (20.0%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (100.0%)
Natrona	No	4 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (25.0%)	1 (12.5%)	1 (12.5%)	8 (100.0%)
Platte	No	1 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (100.0%)
Sheridan	No	3 (50.0%)	1 (16.7%)	1 (16.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (16.7%)	6 (100.0%)
Sweetwater	No	3 (30.0%)	4 (40.0%)	3 (30.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (100.0%)
Weston	No	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Fremont	Yes	9 (37.5%)	3 (12.5%)	4 (16.7%)	6 (25.0%)	2 (8.3%)	24 (100.0%)
Hot Springs	Yes	0 (0.0%)	2 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (100.0%)
Lincoln	Yes	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (100.0%)	2 (100.0%)
Park	Yes	6 (30.0%)	2 (10.0%)	2 (10.0%)	3 (15.0%)	7 (35.0%)	20 (100.0%)
Sublette	Yes	2 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (16.7%)	3 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (100.0%)
Teton	Yes	34 (64.2%)	16 (30.2%)	2 (3.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.9%)	53 (100.0%)
All residents		81 (48.8%)	35 (21.1%)	18 (10.8%)	17 (10.2%)	15 (9.0%)	166 (100.0%)

Commission District	Much Too Low	Too Low	About Right	Too High	Much Too High	Grand Total
District I	8 (66.7%)	1 (8.3%)	1 (8.3%)	2 (16.7%)	0 (0.0%)	12 (100.0%)
District II	11 (45.8%)	9 (37.5%)	3 (12.5%)	1 (4.2%)	0 (0.0%)	24 (100.0%)
District III	36 (59.0%)	16 (26.2%)	3 (4.9%)	3 (4.9%)	3 (4.9%)	61 (100.0%)
District IV	7 (53.8%)	1 (7.7%)	3 (23.1%)	1 (7.7%)	1 (7.7%)	13 (100.0%)
District V	6 (26.1%)	5 (21.7%)	2 (8.7%)	3 (13.0%)	7 (30.4%)	23 (100.0%)
District VI	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)
District VII	13 (40.6%)	3 (9.4%)	6 (18.8%)	7 (21.9%)	3 (9.4%)	32 (100.0%)
All residents	81 (48.8%)	35 (21.1%)	18 (10.8%)	17 (10.2%)	15 (9.0%)	166 (100.0%)

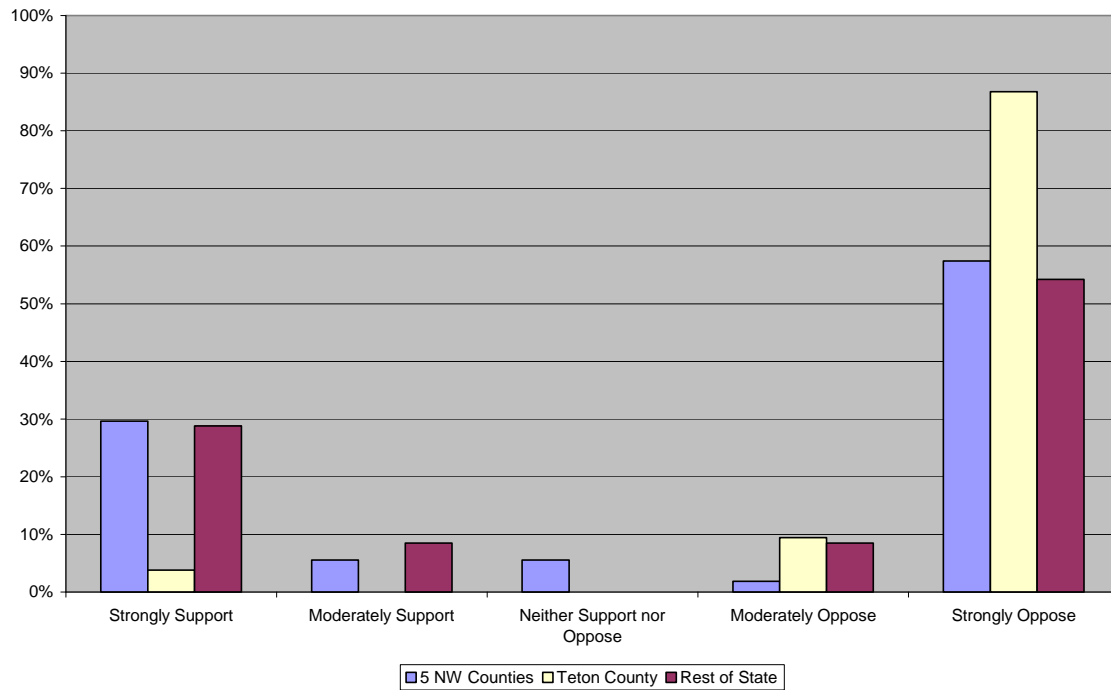
State	Much Too Low	Too Low	About Right	Too High	Much Too High	Grand Total
AZ	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
CA	21 (77.8%)	3 (11.1%)	2 (7.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (3.7%)	27 (100.0%)
CO	24 (82.8%)	3 (10.3%)	1 (3.4%)	1 (3.4%)	0 (0.0%)	29 (100.0%)
DC	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
HI	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
ID	13 (76.5%)	4 (23.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	17 (100.0%)
IN	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
MI	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
MT	27 (73.0%)	8 (21.6%)	1 (2.7%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.7%)	37 (100.0%)
NM	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
NV	6 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	6 (100.0%)
NY	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
OR	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
PA	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (100.0%)
UT	8 (72.7%)	1 (9.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (9.1%)	1 (9.1%)	11 (100.0%)
WA	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
WI	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
WY	81 (48.8%)	35 (21.1%)	18 (10.8%)	17 (10.2%)	15 (9.0%)	166 (100.0%)
Grand Total	185 (60.5%)	60 (19.6%)	23 (7.5%)	20 (6.5%)	18 (5.9%)	306 (100.0%)

Country	Much Too Low	Too Low	About Right	Too High	Much Too High	Grand Total
Canada	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
USA	185 (60.5%)	60 (19.6%)	23 (7.5%)	20 (6.5%)	18 (5.9%)	306 (100.0%)
All responses	186 (60.6%)	60 (19.5%)	23 (7.5%)	20 (6.5%)	18 (5.9%)	307 (100.0%)

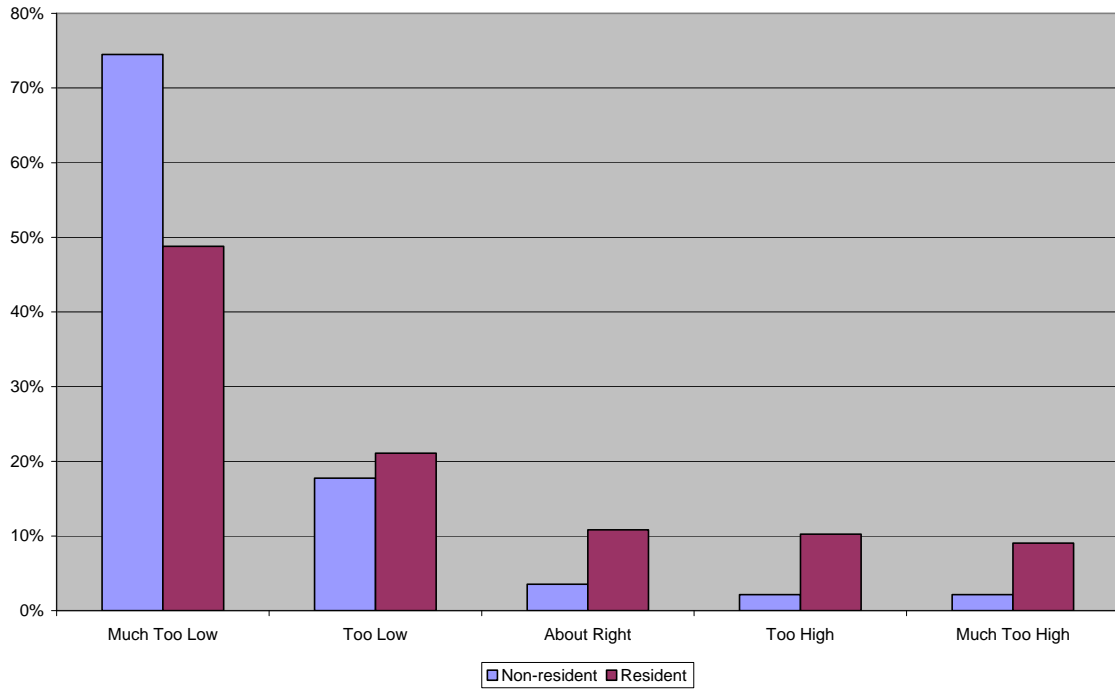
Q1: Do you support the plan as written?



Q1: Do you support the plan as written?



Q2: The number of packs is...



Q2: The number of packs is...

