



August 17, 2016

To: Interested Parties
From: Ben Tulchin, Ben Krompak, and Kiel Brunner; Tulchin Research
Re: **Polling Finds North Carolina Voters Strongly Back Red Wolf Recovery**

Tulchin Research recently conducted a scientific telephone survey among a representative sample of 600 registered voters in the state of North Carolina, oversampling an additional 150 voters residing in the Albemarle Peninsula, regarding efforts to help the state’s declining population of red wolves to recover. Our research finds that voters strongly support recovery efforts, widely recognize the important role that red wolves play in shaping their natural habitat, and believe the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should make every effort to prevent the wolf’s extinction.

North Carolina Voters Overwhelmingly Back Red Wolf Recovery Efforts

Asked about efforts to help North Carolina’s native red wolf population to recover, 73 percent of voters statewide say they support these efforts to just 16 percent who oppose them. Notably, this overwhelming support extends across gender, generational, and even partisan lines – with 72 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of Republicans, and 76 percent of independent voters backing these efforts. In today’s highly polarized political environment, it is notable that red wolf recovery is an issue that unites voters from across the political spectrum. Additionally, voters residing in the Albemarle Peninsula region, that is home to most of the state’s red wolves (Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties) support recovery efforts by a 25-point margin (60% support to 35% oppose).

<i>“Do you support or oppose efforts to help North Carolina’s native red wolf population to recover?”</i>									
	All Voters	Albemarle Peninsula	BY PARTY			GENDER		AGE	
			Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Men	Women	18-54	55+
Support	73%	60%	72%	73%	76%	75%	72%	79%	69%
Oppose	16%	35%	18%	16%	14%	16%	17%	13%	19%
Support - Oppose	+57	+25	+54	+57	+62	+59	+56	+66	+50

Voters Recognize Role Wolves Play in Shaping Habitat, Believe Fish and Wildlife Service Should Make Every Effort to Prevent Extinction

Voters broadly recognize that “red wolves play an important role in shaping their natural habitat” and that a “healthy population of red wolves in North Carolina will bring a healthier balance to our ecosystem by controlling deer and invasive rodent populations.” This statement found agreement with 74 percent of voters statewide (including 41 percent who said they *strongly* agree) and with 70 percent of voters in the Albemarle Peninsula. Additionally, more than three-quarters of voters statewide (77%) and nearly two-thirds of voters in the Albemarle Peninsula (64%) agree that “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should make every effort to help the endangered red wolf population recover and prevent its extinction.”

<i>“Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?”</i>						
	Statewide			Albemarle Peninsula		
	Strongly Agree	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Strongly Agree	Total Agree	Total Disagree
<i>Red wolves play an important role in shaping their natural habitat. A healthy population of red wolves in North Carolina will bring a healthier balance to our ecosystem by controlling deer and invasive rodent populations.</i>	42%	76%	15%	38%	70%	27%
<i>The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should make every effort to help the endangered red wolf population recover and prevent its extinction.</i>	46%	81%	14%	34%	64%	36

Additionally, our research finds a significant political upside for elected officials and candidates who support these popular recovery efforts, as 55 percent of North Carolina voters say they would be more likely to support a candidate for office who supports helping the state’s red wolves to recover.

<i>“Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for office who supports helping North Carolina’s red wolf population to recover?”</i>	
More Likely	58%
Less Likely	20%
More Likely – Less Likely	+38

Conclusion

In conclusion, our research finds that voters in North Carolina strongly back efforts to protect and recover the state’s native red wolf population. Voters widely recognize the role red wolves play in bringing a healthy balance to the state’s ecosystem and want to see the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service make every effort to help the endangered red wolf population to recover and prevent its extinction. Additionally, a strong majority of voters say they are more likely to vote for candidates for office who support these recovery efforts.

Survey Methodology: From August 4-7, 2016, Tulchin Research conducted a telephone survey among 600 registered voters in North Carolina, oversampling an additional 150 voters in the Albemarle Peninsula region – defined as Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties. The margin of error for the base sample is +/- 4 percentage points while the margin of error for the Albemarle Peninsula region is +/- 7.97 percentage points.