

Memorandum

To: Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce
From: Stephen Clermont/Third Eye Strategies
Date: April 27, 2016
Re: Doña Ana County Poll Results on Wilderness and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

This report is based on findings from a poll of 300 active registered voters in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. Drawn from a list of registered voters who have voted in either 2012 or 2014, or have registered since the 2012 general election, interviews were conducted on the nights of April 18 and 19, 2016. The survey has a margin of error of ±6.6 percent. Both cell phones and landline numbers were called. Each voter in the county with a known phone number had an opportunity to be called. Random selection was made in households with multiple eligible voters. The following summarizes key results from the survey:

- **Voters have an overwhelmingly positive view of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument.** Overall, three-fifths (61%) of voters have a positive view towards the Monument while a small minority (14%) express a negative view. This positive assessment united majorities of liberals, moderates, and conservatives. No significant negative feeling exists among any segment of the electorate.

Opinion of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument			
<i>Exact Wording: "Do you feel positively or negatively towards the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks Monument"</i>			
	Total Positive	Total Negative	No Opinion
All Voters	61	14	25
Liberals	76	2	21
Moderates	64	12	14
Conservatives	51	28	21

- **Voters strongly support legislation to protect wilderness areas within the Monument.** More than three-fourths (78%) favor passing a law to designating "Wilderness Study Areas" in the Monument as "wilderness" so that the land is protected to remain intact without new roads or other structures. Nearly all (96%) liberals and most moderates (80%) support this. Conservatives also favor this protection by a two-to-one margin.

Support for Legislation to Protect Wilderness Areas within the National Monument			
<i>Exact Wording: "Since 1982, Congress has given several of the mountain ranges within the national monument a higher level of protection called "Wilderness Study Areas." In these areas the land is protected to remain intact without new roads or other structures. Congress can make these protections permanent by passing a law designating these areas as official "Wilderness." Would you favor or oppose legislation to protect the wilderness areas within the national monument?"</i>			
	Total Favor	Total Oppose	No Opinion
All Voters	78	16	5
Liberals	96	2	2
Moderates	80	15	5
Conservatives	64	30	6



- **Voters support protecting wilderness for a wide variety of reasons.** Large majorities say they are more likely to support protecting wilderness because it will improve the quality of wildlife habitats, preserve land for future generations to use, protect the most pristine lands from damage, protect watershed and downstream communities, increase tourism, and offer new opportunities for recreation and enjoyment.

Likelihood to Support Protecting Wilderness Based on Statements			
<i>Exact Wording: "I'm going to read you some things people say about wilderness. (Read) Does hearing that make you more likely to support protecting wilderness, less likely, or does that make no difference to you"</i>			
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference
Wilderness will improve the quality of wildlife habitats	74	8	16
Wilderness preserves land for future generations to use	68	9	22
Wilderness will protect the most pristine lands in Doña Ana County from damage including new roads	67	10	21
Wilderness will help protect our watersheds and downstream communities	66	11	21
Wilderness will add to the tourism and economic benefits of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument	62	15	20
Wilderness will offer new opportunities for backcountry recreation and enjoyment	59	10	28

- **The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument has strong support from voters in Doña Ana County and they favor greater protections for wilderness because they believe it will have a positive impact on the Monument, their lives, and the community.**

ABOUT THIRD EYE STRATEGIES

Third Eye Strategies is a sole proprietorship run by Stephen Clermont. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley with a Masters in Applied Statistics from George Mason University, Mr. Clermont has worked in the area of polling and survey research for nearly 20 years at Hickman-Brown Research, Princeton Survey Research Associates, and as research director of two nonprofit political organizations. Since creating Third Eye, Mr. Clermont has conducted more than a hundred public opinion polls in the state of New Mexico. For more information, email Stephen Clermont at sjclermont@thirdeyestrategies.com or call him at (202) 550-6626.

