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ARIZONANS SUPPORT INCREASED PUBLIC FUNDING FOR FOREST RESTORATION

Seventy-nine percent of Arizonans believe that more money should be spent by government to restore forests, according to a recent telephone survey. A majority (67%) believe that it is appropriate to sell trees cut during forest thinning. Arizonans displayed confidence in the land management abilities of the Forest Service, as 72 percent of respondents said they trust the Forest Service to properly manage Arizona's National Forests.

The survey was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University on behalf of the Ecological Restoration Institute. Calling took place between March 23 and March 26, 2005. A total of 423 randomly-selected Arizonans participated in the survey and results are accurate within a +/-4.8 percent margin of error, at a 95 percent confidence level.

PERCEPTIONS OF FOREST FIRE ISSUES IN ARIZONA

The telephone survey asked Arizona residents whether they agree or disagree with a series of statements involving fire management in Arizona forests. When presented with the statement: "Not all forest fires are bad," over three-quarters of Arizonans polled (78%) said they agree, while 19 percent disagreed. Respondents with higher levels of income and education are more likely to agree with the statement.

At the same time, Arizonans lack broad agreement on allowing non-threatening wildfires should to burn naturally. Forty-three percent of the state agreed and 47 percent disagreed with the statement, "There is nothing wrong with letting wild fires burn as long as no human lives are

threatened.” Arizonans apparently distinguish between beneficial and destructive fire, but many are still uncomfortable with allowing wildfires to burn.

PERCEPTIONS OF RESTORATION AND FOREST HEALTH

Arizonans showed strong support for performing restoration on unhealthy forests. An overwhelming 79 percent of surveyed Arizonans agreed that more money should be spent on restoring unhealthy forests, with only 14 percent disagreeing. The support is strong across all income, gender, and political affiliations. There was solid agreement on the economic utilization of trees removed during restoration projects: 67 percent disagreed with the statement “Trees cut from forest restoration projects should **not** be sold,” indicating strong support for putting restoration by-products to economic use.

FOREST SERVICE AND UNIVERSITIES TRUSTED ON FOREST ISSUES

Most Arizonans (72%) trust U.S. Forest Service officials to properly manage Arizona’s National Forests. When asked who they think provides the most accurate information about forest management issues, more than one-third of respondents (37%) selected Universities, while government land managers were chosen by 29 percent. Twenty percent of Arizonans believe that environmental groups are the most accurate source of forest management information.

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**GRAND CANYON STATE POLL
BACKGROUND MEMO**

Spring 2005

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between March 23 and March 26, 2005. A random sample of 423 adult residents of Arizona was asked questions regarding forest management issues. Survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/-4.8 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from the population. Sampling error does not take into account additional sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The data referred to in this release are presented below.

(Statement order was randomized)

Do you agree or disagree with the statement: “Trees cut from forest restoration projects should **not** be sold”?

	Agree	Disagree	Both Agree and Disagree	Don't Know	Total
Total	23%	67%	4%	7%	101%

Do you agree or disagree with the statement: “There is nothing wrong with letting wild fires burn as long as no human lives are threatened”?

	Agree	Disagree	Both Agree and Disagree	Don't Know	Total
Total	43%	47%	5%	5%	100%

Do you agree or disagree with the statement: “I trust the US Forest Service to properly manage Arizona’s National Forests”?

	Agree	Disagree	Both Agree and Disagree	Don't Know	Total
Total	72%	19%	4%	5%	100%

Do you agree or disagree with the statement: “We should do forest restoration in Wilderness Areas if they are unhealthy”?

	Agree	Disagree	Both Agree and Disagree	Don't Know	Total
Total	85%	9%	1%	5%	100%

Do you agree or disagree with the statement: “More money should be spent by government to restore unhealthy forests”?

	Agree	Disagree	Both Agree and Disagree	Don't Know	Total
Total	79%	14%	2%	5%	100%

Do you agree or disagree with the statement: “Not all forest fires are bad”?

	Agree	Disagree	Both Agree and Disagree	Don't Know	Total
Total	78%	19%	2%	2%	101%

When thinking about how to manage forests, who do you think provides the most accurate information? (rotate order of choices) Government land managers, Environmental groups, Businesses, Universities, Newspapers, or Television

	Most accurate information regarding forest management
Universities	37%
Government land managers	29%
Environmental groups	20%
Newspapers	3%
Television	2%
Businesses	2%
Don't know	8%
Total	101%