

# Human Dimensions of Wolf Management in Michigan



Executive  
Summary  
of Research  
Results  
September 2014

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# Background

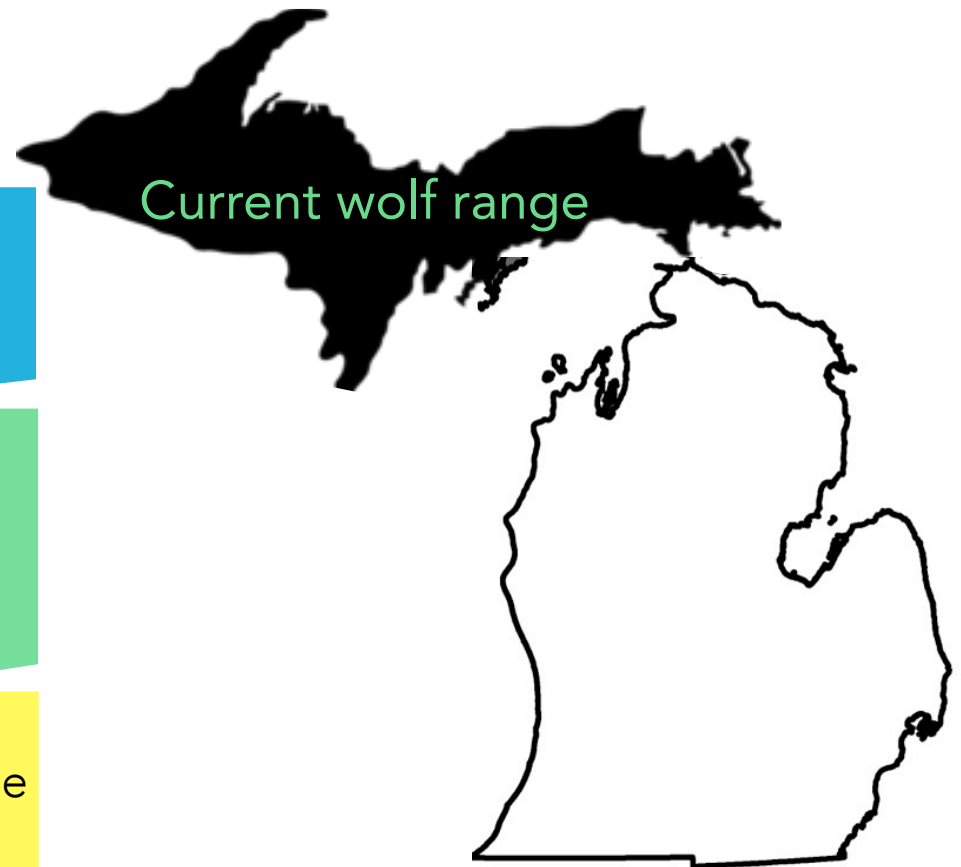
Gray wolves recovered in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Wolves are now managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and hunting is possible.

People disagree over how to manage wolves.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

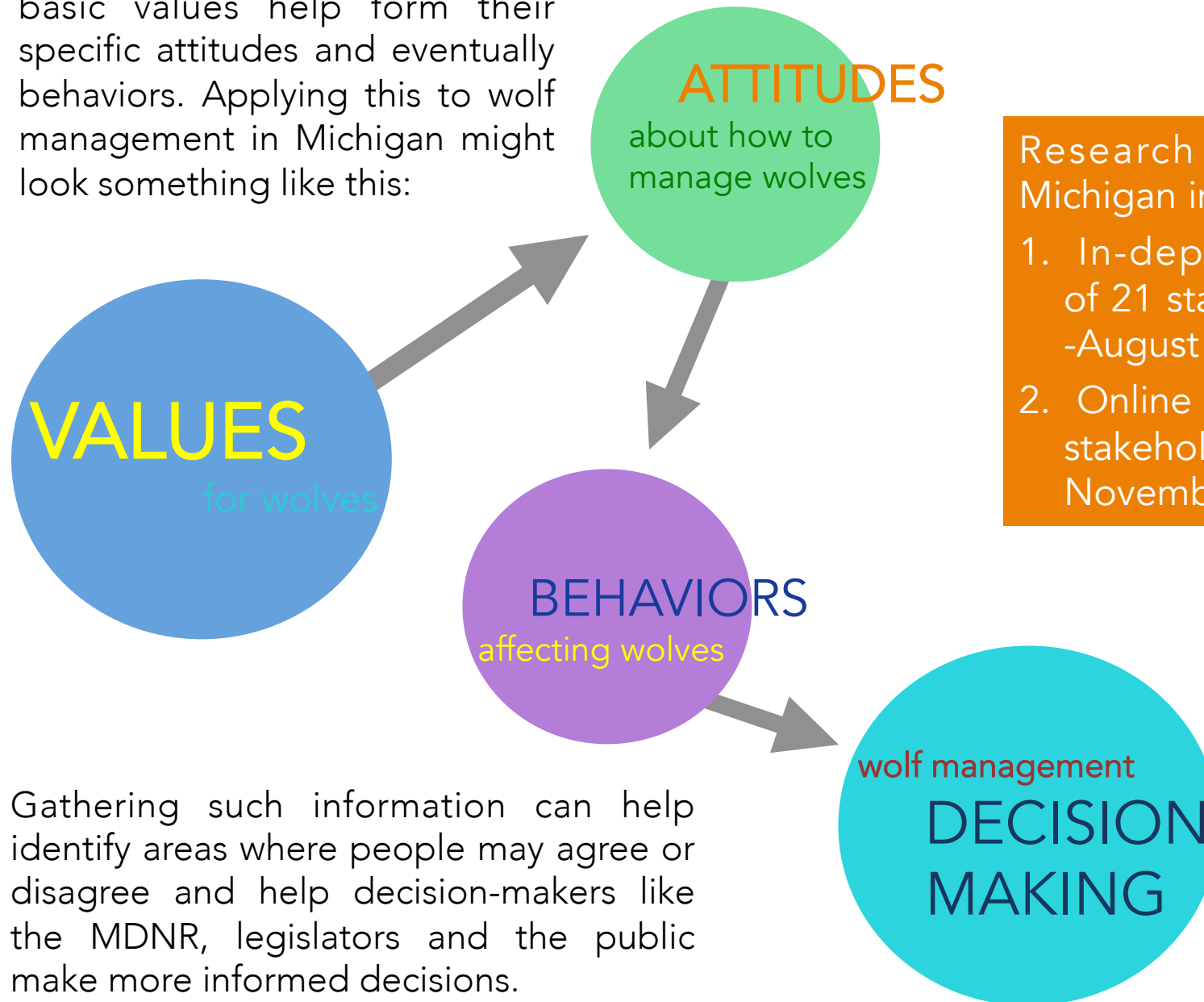
1. What do Michiganders think about wolf management after delisting?
2. Which activities are people willing to support that might affect wolf management in Michigan?



Answers to these questions can help make wolf management decisions more effective and more sustainable in the long term.

# Research and Methods

Research suggests that people's basic values help form their specific attitudes and eventually behaviors. Applying this to wolf management in Michigan might look something like this:

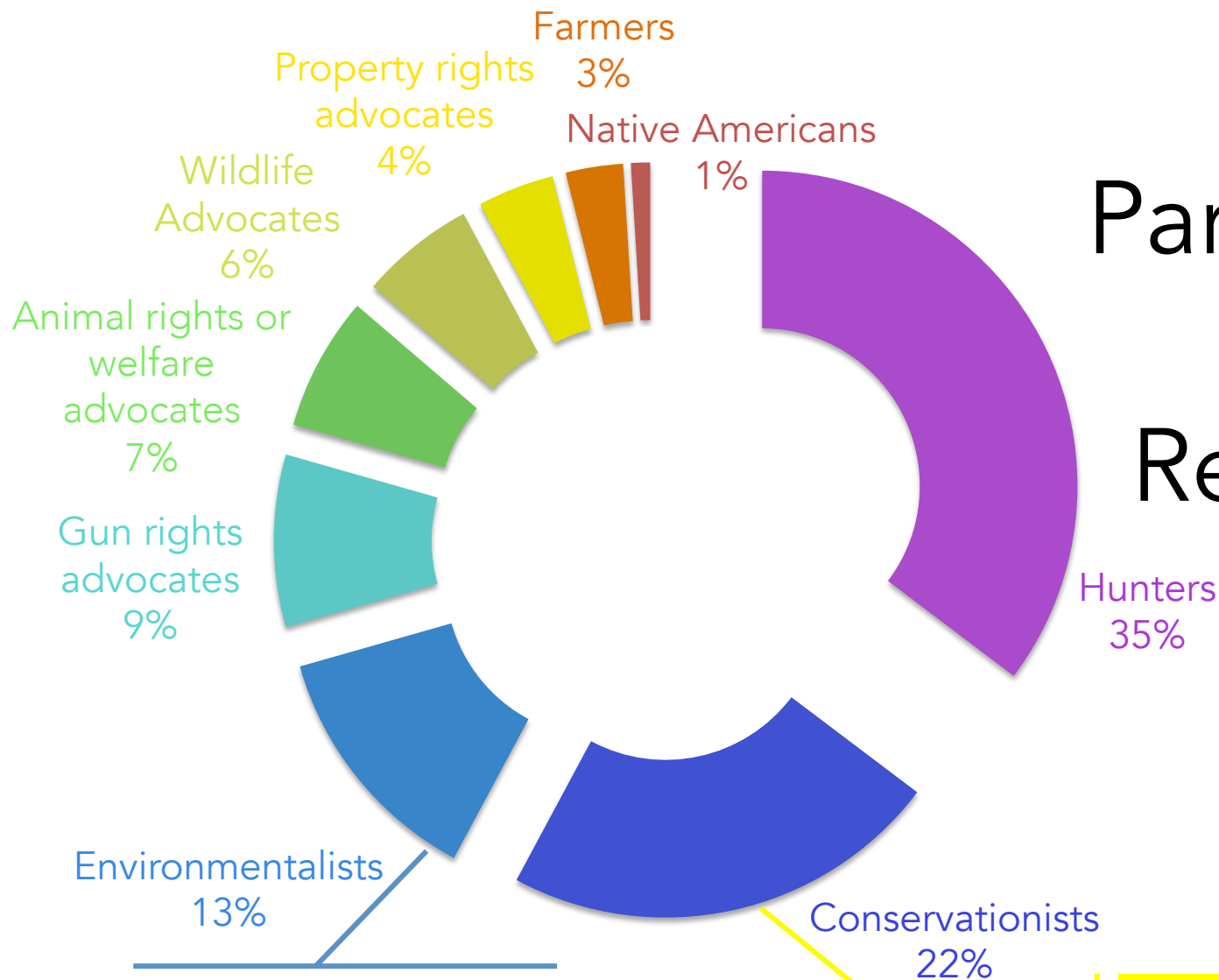


Research occurred in Michigan in 2 phases:

1. In-depth interviews of 21 stakeholders July -August 2012.
2. Online survey of 1239 stakeholders October-November 2013.

Gathering such information can help identify areas where people may agree or disagree and help decision-makers like the MDNR, legislators and the public make more informed decisions.

# Who Participated in this Research?



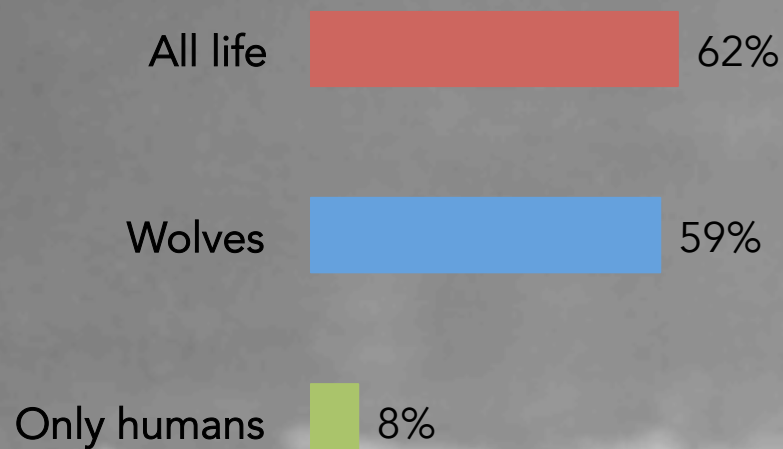
**Environmentalist:**  
a person who is concerned with protection of the environment

**Conservationist:** a person who is concerned with conserving natural resources

# Intrinsic value:

the inherent value of a being beyond its use to others

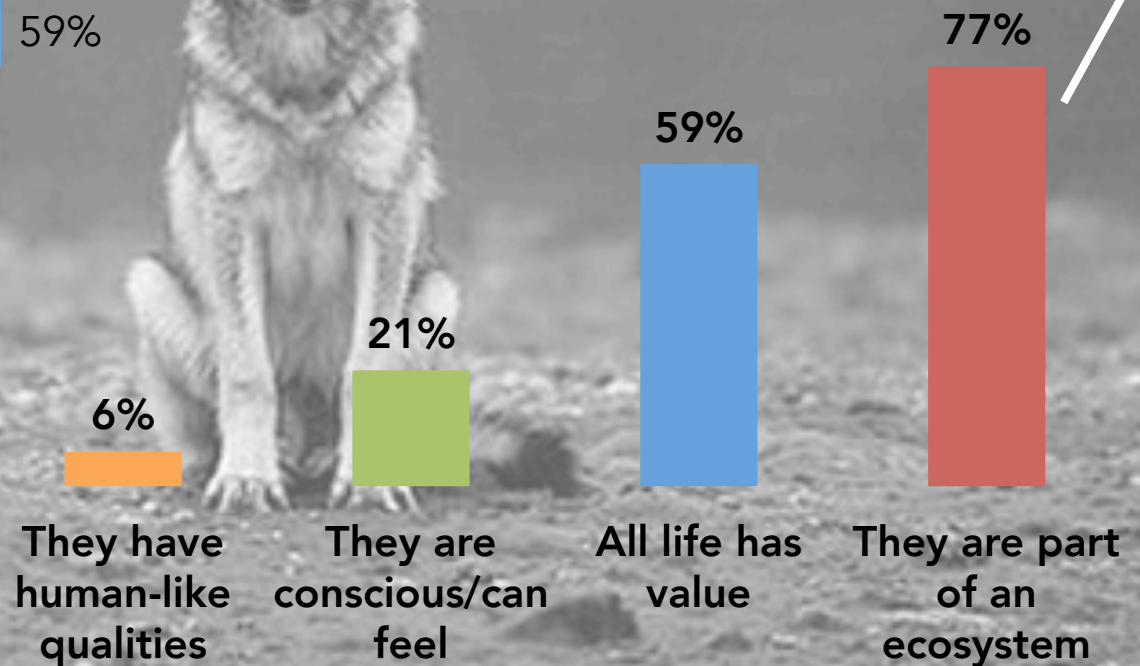
## WHO HAS INTRINSIC VALUE?



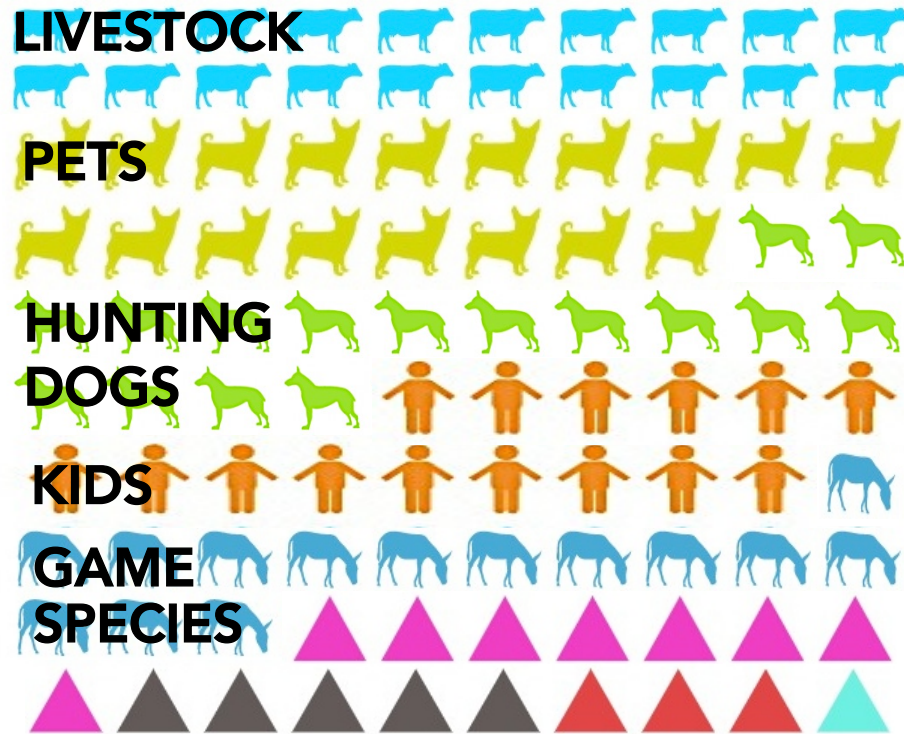
Most respondents agreed all life has intrinsic value.

A majority of respondents agreed wolves have intrinsic value because they are part of an interconnected ecosystem.

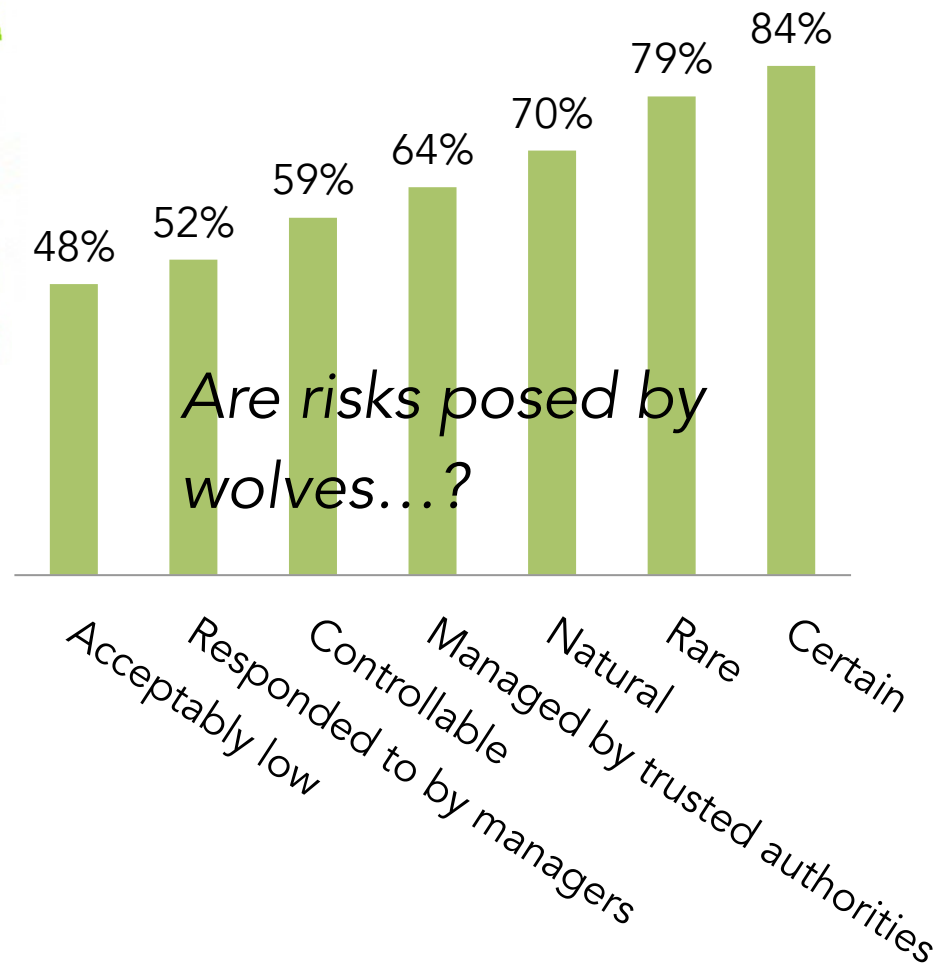
## WHY DO WOLVES HAVE INTRINSIC VALUE?



# Do you worry about risks posed by wolves to...?



Majorities worried about risks to livestock, pets, hunting dogs, children and game species. But risks were considered rare and trust in and responsiveness of managers was high.





# Hunting and Trapping is Acceptable...



Hunting

60%

...to protect pets or livestock from immediate threats



53%

...because wolf populations can sustain hunting/trapping



50%

...as a tool to address conflict

Trapping

48%

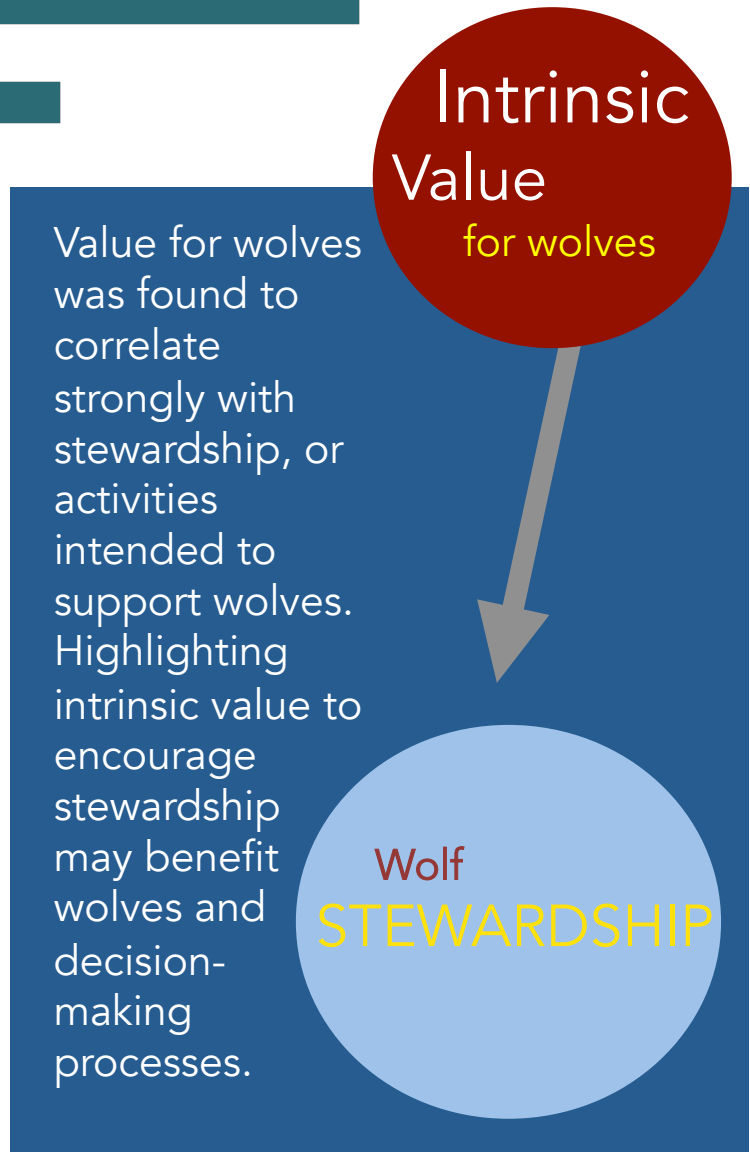
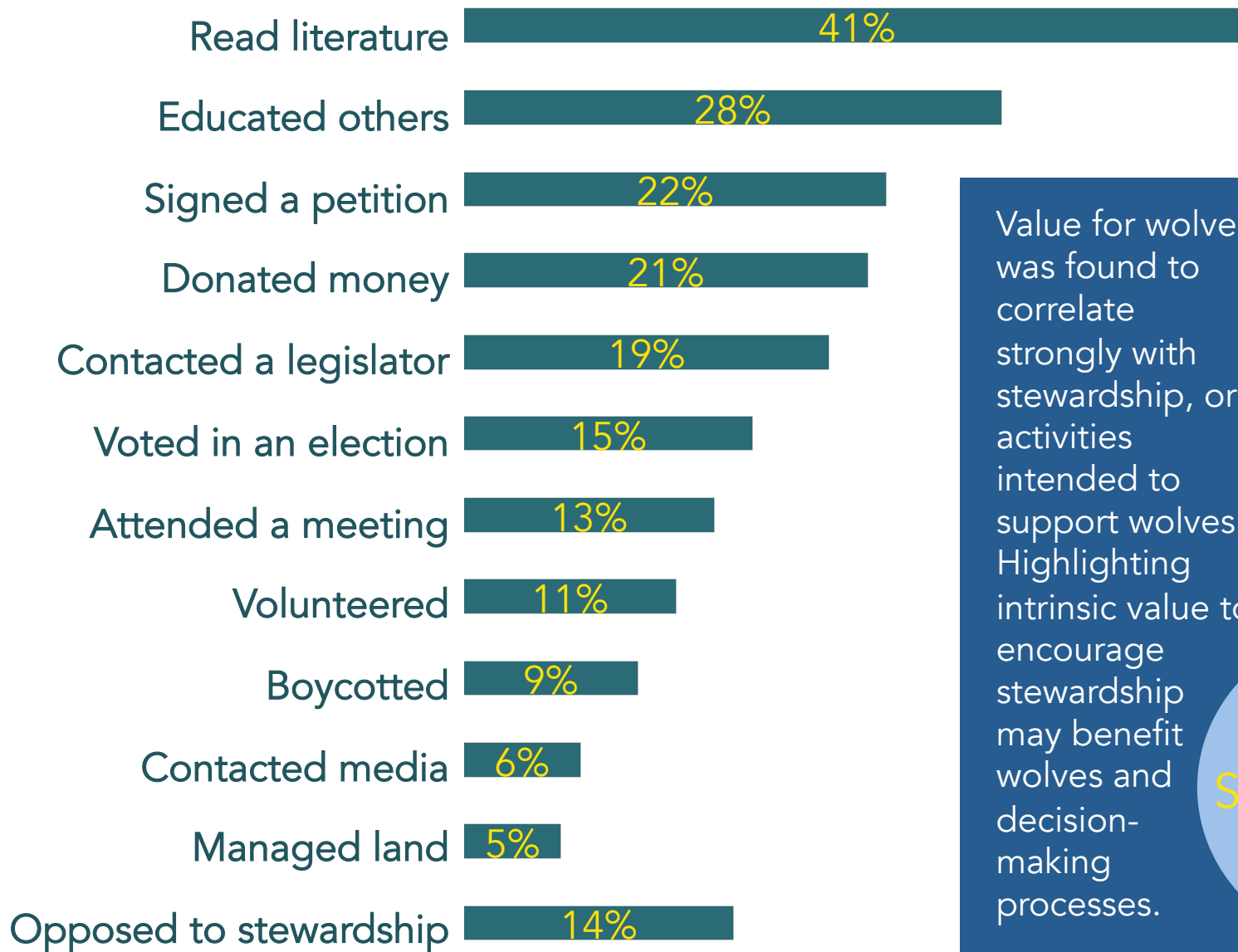
45%

43%

## Less Common Reasons:

- ◆ To ensure human safety
- ◆ To protect wolves' prey base
- ◆ To increase wolves' fear of humans
- ◆ To obtain pelts as a livelihood
- ◆ To maximize economic benefits
- ◆ Because people want to hunt/trap wolves
- ◆ To increase people's acceptance of wolves
- ◆ To obtain a wolf as a trophy

# Have you ever engaged in any of the following activities intended to support wolves?





# Implications for management

Common foundation to make decisions about wolves

Areas of Agreement

Protect domestic animals



Address conflict



Sustainability



Intrinsic value for wolves



# For More Information

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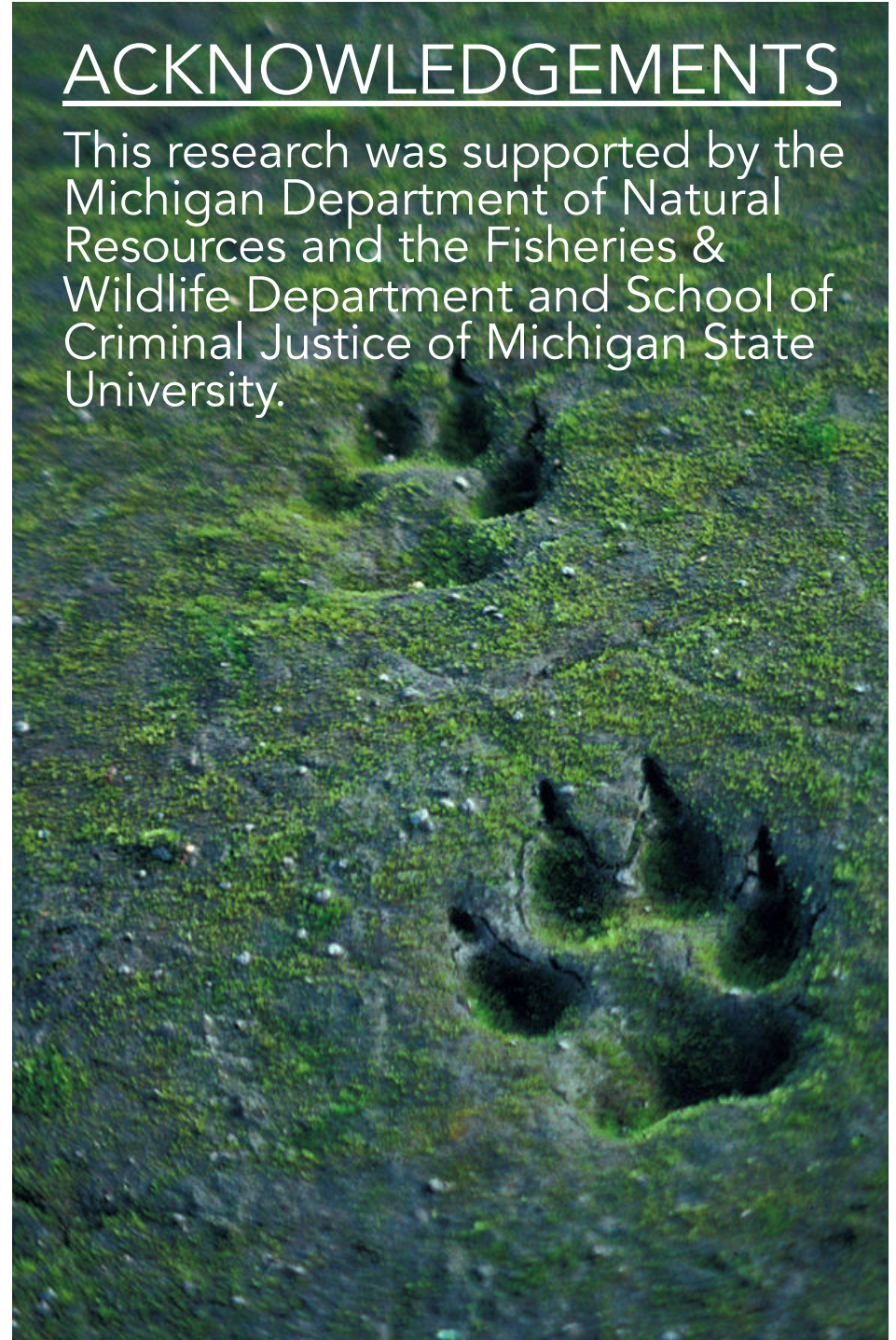


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