

Wildlife Issues: Community Attitude Survey

Study Units

[Iowa's Wildlife Resource Base](#); [Wildlife Management](#); [People and Wildlife](#)

Supplemental Information

Wildlife and natural resources conservation issues usually are multi-faceted. There is no “correct” solution to any particular issue. In order to resolve issues, managers must recognize different human perspectives. It is important to understand how people form beliefs, values, and attitudes. This understanding helps in the development of compromises that can be positive for all interests involved in an issue.

Issues in the spotlight can change rapidly. Visit the [Iowa Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\) website for news releases](#), contact local natural resources organizations, or check out popular media sources where natural resources and / or wildlife issues currently are being discussed.

Teaching Suggestions

Have students search for and analyze editorials, articles, web pages, or other media presentations on a natural resource topic(s). They should try to determine the beliefs, values, and attitudes expressed. Check out publications or web sites of agencies or organizations listed in [People and Wildlife](#) and local media. Are any of the writers / producers trying to persuade others to share their beliefs, values, or attitudes? Magazines choose which editorial letters to include in their publications, might they choose to print letters that reflect the views their organization holds and not print differing views? Check to see if the publication has an editorial policy. Searching through editorials may help students decide on an issue for their survey and give them some insight into how people form opinions on an issue.

Ask students to list things that might influence a person’s beliefs, values, and attitudes toward wildlife. Culture, education, life experiences, age, and job or career all can influence people. Students should construct their surveys with these things in mind. They must realize many things can influence a person, and these influences often can change. This is why many surveys also gather demographic information about people answering the survey. Do the students want to include any demographics in their survey? Keep in mind how data gathered from their survey might be used. This could influence how questions are asked.

Have students write an editorial-type letter including some data gathered with their survey.

Evaluation

See the activity.

Student Materials

None



Teacher Aids

None

Additional Materials

- [Iowa Environmental Council](#) (lists a wide variety of environmental issues concerning Iowans)

