

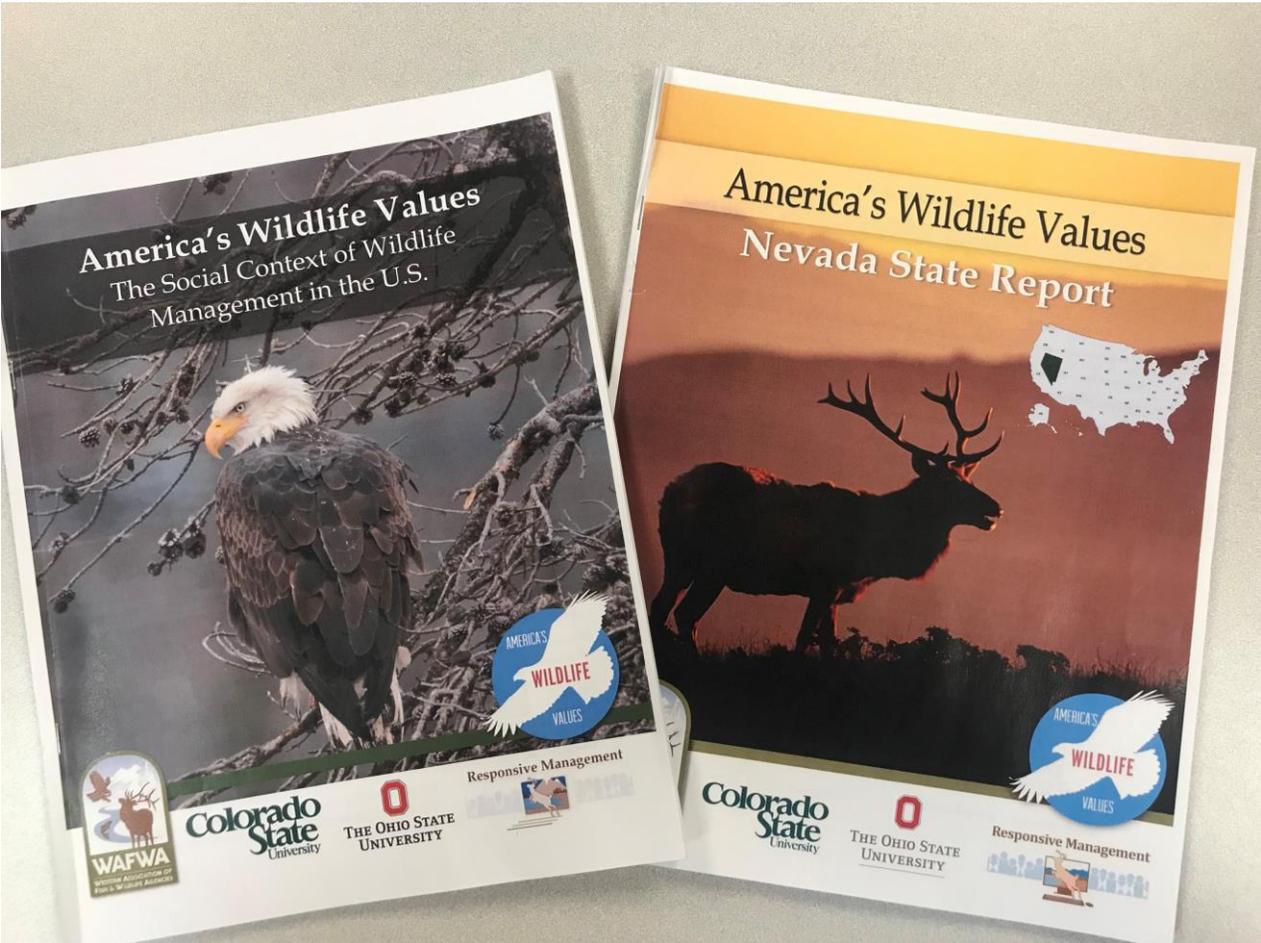
# America's Wildlife Values

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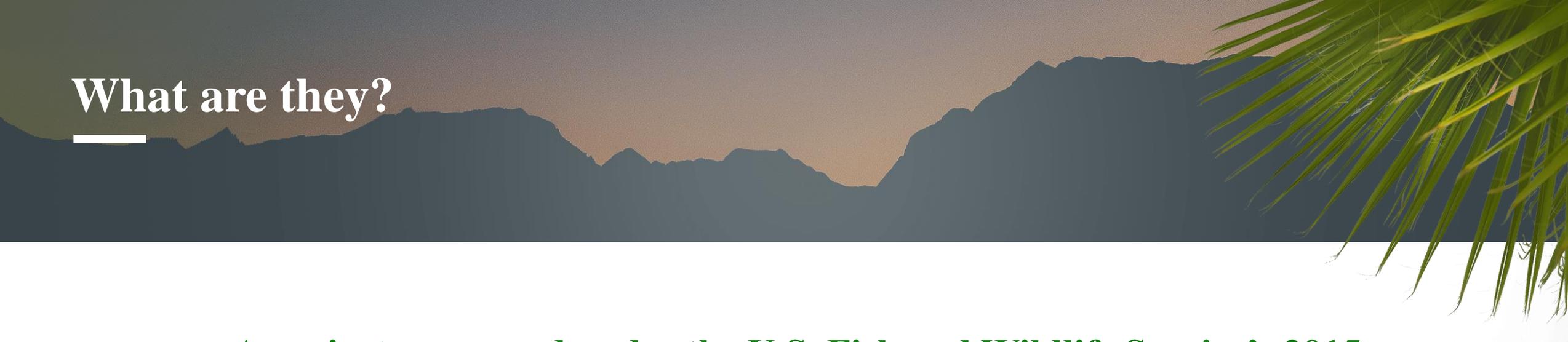
**The Social Context of Wildlife  
Management in the United States**



# Two Recently Released Reports



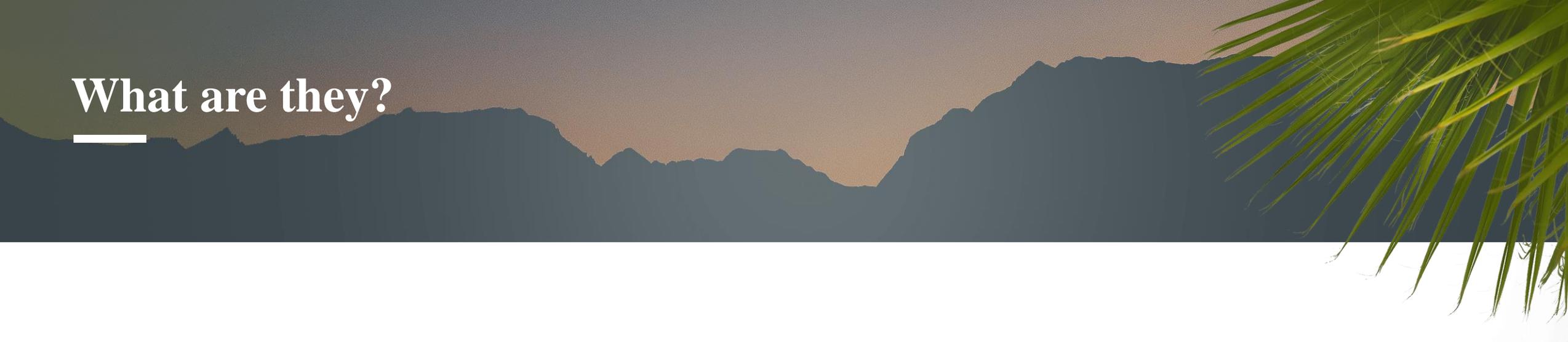
# What are they?



**A project sponsored under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2015 Multistate Conservation Grants Program and administered by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) and the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA).**

**The purpose was to assess the social context of wildlife management in the U.S. to understand the growing conflict around wildlife management. This is the first study of its kind to describe how U.S. residents within and across all 50 states think about wildlife, and how changing perspectives shape the wildlife profession.**

# What are they?



**Findings built on 2004 data on public values from the 19-state *Wildlife Values in the West* study, 2018 data on public values from all 50 states, and 2018 data on fish and wildlife agency culture from 28 states.**

# Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management



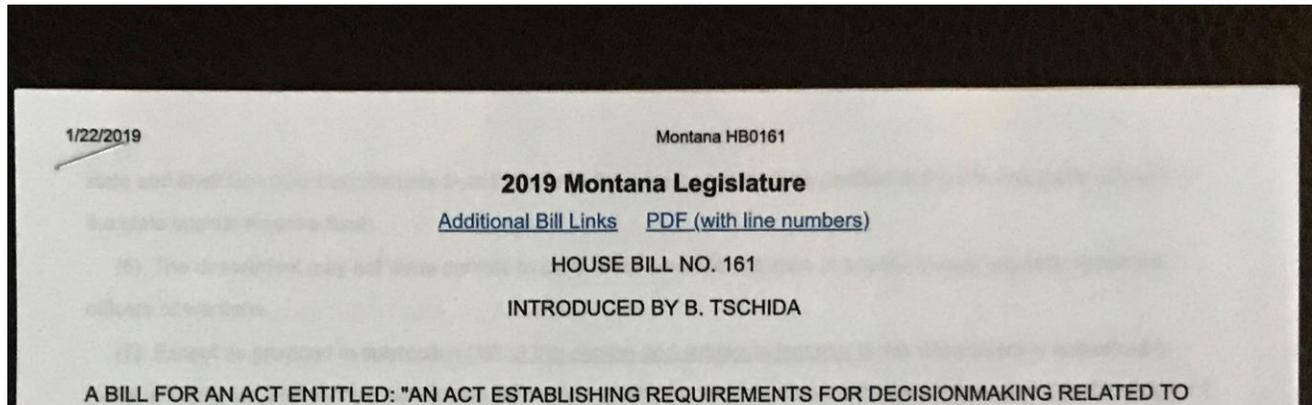
## What it is

- **A scientific approach to understanding the social aspects of wildlife management**
- **Application of theory and methodology from the social sciences**
- **A useful context for understanding the complex social values surrounding wildlife issues**

## What it isn't

- **Human Dimensions is NOT wildlife management by popular vote**
- **Human dimensions is NOT “soft” science**

# Is the Science of “Human Dimensions” Controversial?



**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Requirements for decisionmaking by director, department, and commission.** Except as provided in 87-1-217(5), 87-1-301(1)(h), 87-1-304(4), and in any matter concerning landowner tolerance and relations, the director, department, and commission may only use facts and science when making decisions pursuant to authorities granted in Title 87 related to fish and wildlife. **The director, department, and commission may not use social science, human dimensions, or people's attitudes, opinions, or preferences in decisionmaking processes related to fish and wildlife.**

**Section 2.** Section 87-1-107, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-1-107. Right to harvest – legislative intent.** The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article

II, section 2, of the Montana constitution protecting the inalienable rights right of a person to pursue life's basic necessities

# Wildlife Value Orientation “Types”



**Four different “types” determined by a 19 statement index representing basic belief dimensions**

## **Types**

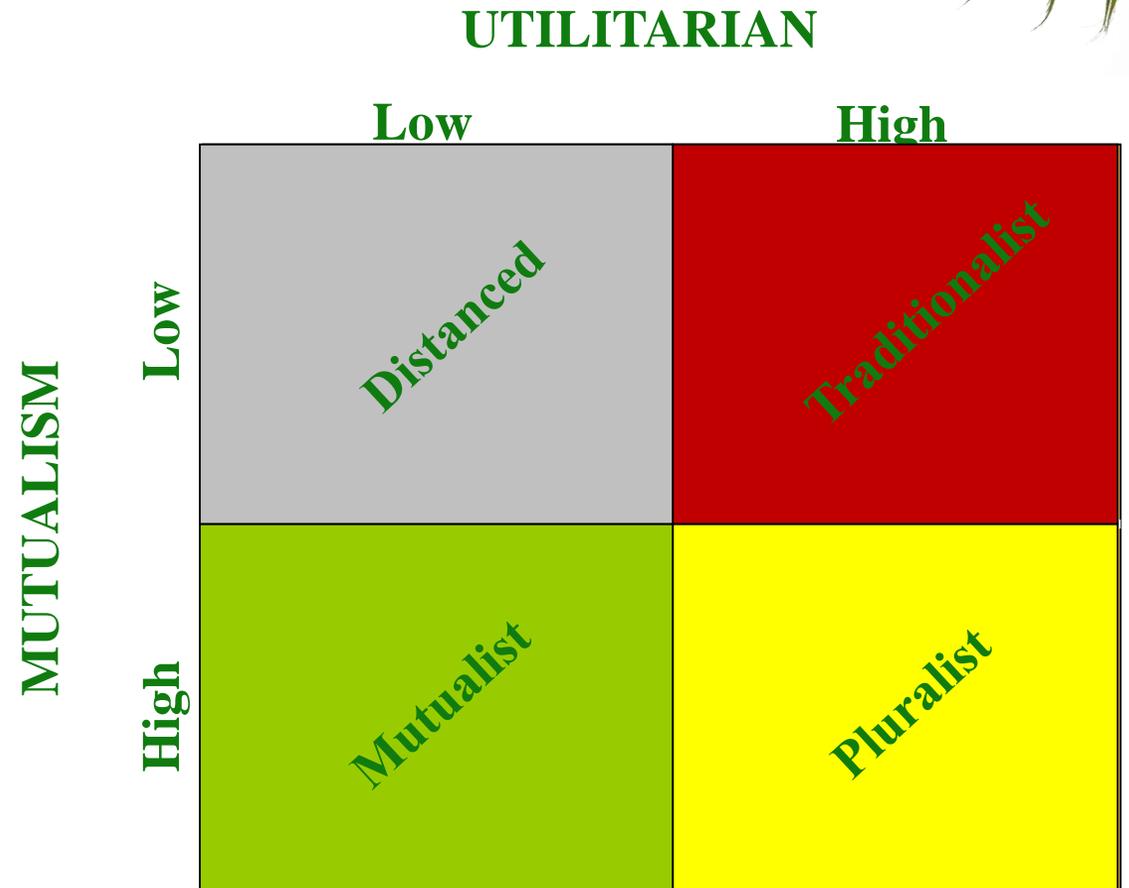
- **Traditionalists (or Utilitarians)– Believe that wildlife should be used and managed for the benefit of the people.**
- **Mutualists – See wildlife as part of their extended social network sometimes giving individual animals names, human personas, and rights equal to humans**
- **Pluralists – Share both Traditionalist and Mutualist values and different situations or contexts results in emphasizing one orientation over the other**
- **Distanced – Exhibit low levels of thought about and interest in wildlife**

# Wildlife Value Orientation “Types”

Measured with a 19 statement index representing basic belief dimensions

Assessment of response patterns

- **Traditionalist**  
High on Utilitarian, Low on Mutualism
- **Mutualist**  
High on Mutualism, Low on Utilitarian
- **Pluralist**  
High on both Utilitarian and Mutualism
- **Distanced**  
Low on both Utilitarian and Mutualism



# Executive Summary

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## National/Nevada Reports Combined

- **Across the U.S. – Traditionalists 28%, Mutualists 35%, Pluralists 21%, and Distanced 15% of the population**
- **Across Nevada – Traditionalists 22%, Mutualists 44%, Pluralists 19%, and Distanced 15% of the population**
- **States with higher % of Mutualists are more likely to agree that we should strive for environmental protection over economic growth and that the earth is getting warmer because of human activities and they are least likely to trust their government**
- **Members of the public are much more trusting of their state wildlife agencies (60%) than they are of their state (36%) or federal (25%) governments**

# Executive Summary

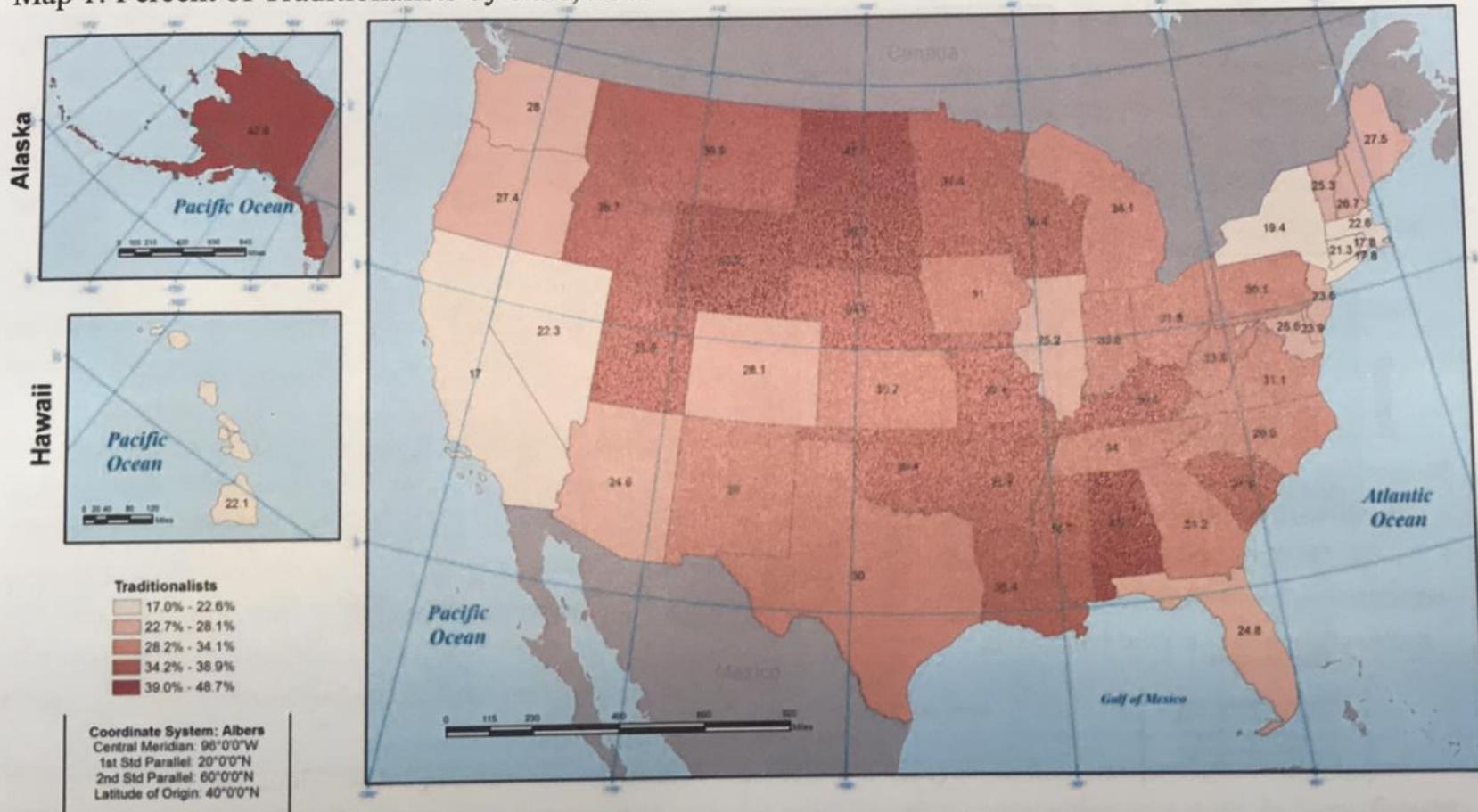
National/Nevada Reports Combined

- **Some hunters are Mutualists**
- **Vegas contains the highest percentage of Distanced**
- **Vegas and Reno are the most Mutualist**
- **Mutualists and Distanced had the least trust in NDOW while Pluralists had the most**
- **From 2004 to 2018 the Western U.S. experienced a 5.7% decrease in Traditionalists and 4.7% increase in Mutualists (- 8% +12.5 respectively in NV)**
- **Urbanization, modernization, education, and earnings all play a role**

# National Overview

## Percent Traditionalists by State

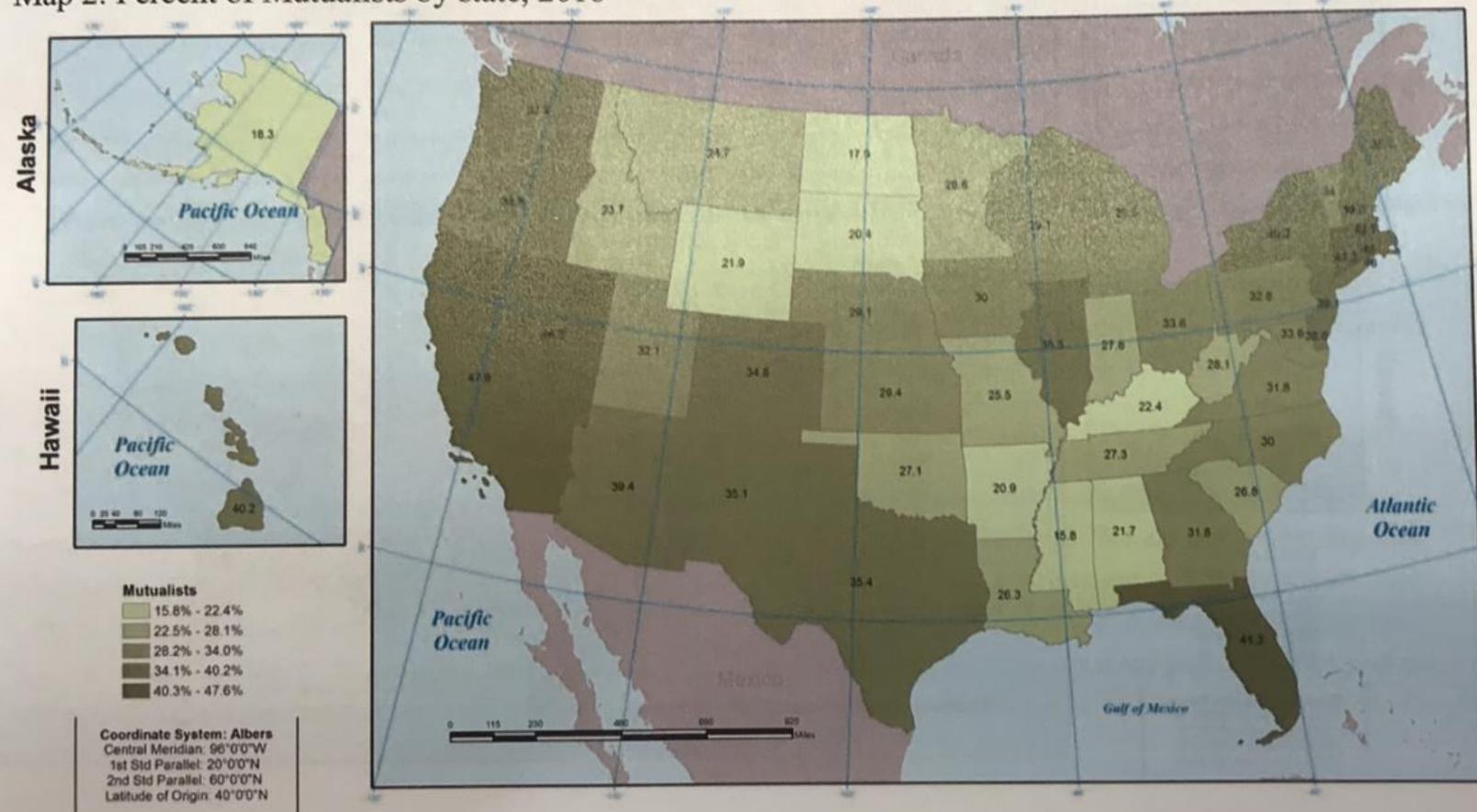
Map 1: Percent of Traditionalists by state, 2018



# National Overview

## Percent Mutualists by State

Map 2: Percent of Mutualists by state, 2018



Questions?

A dark silhouette of a mountain range is set against a sky with a warm, orange-to-yellow gradient, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The mountains are dark and jagged, with the highest peaks on the right side of the frame.