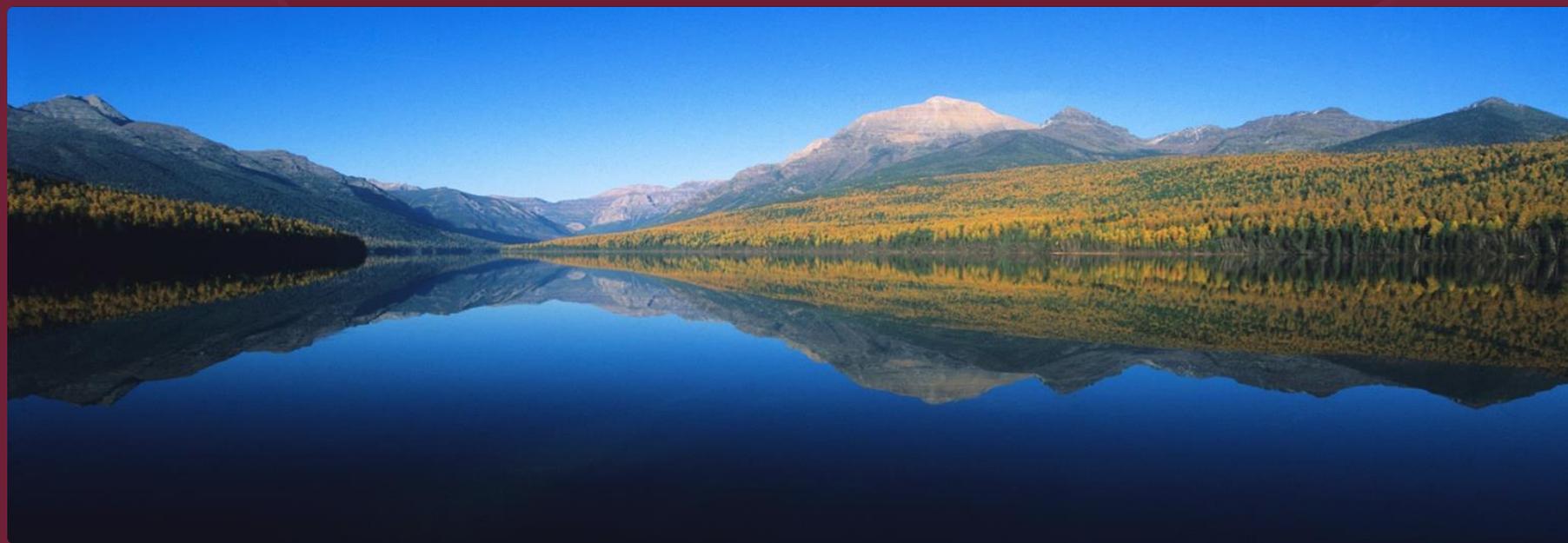


University of Montana Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Initiative

Key Findings from a Montana Statewide Survey *April 2018*



Lori Weigel

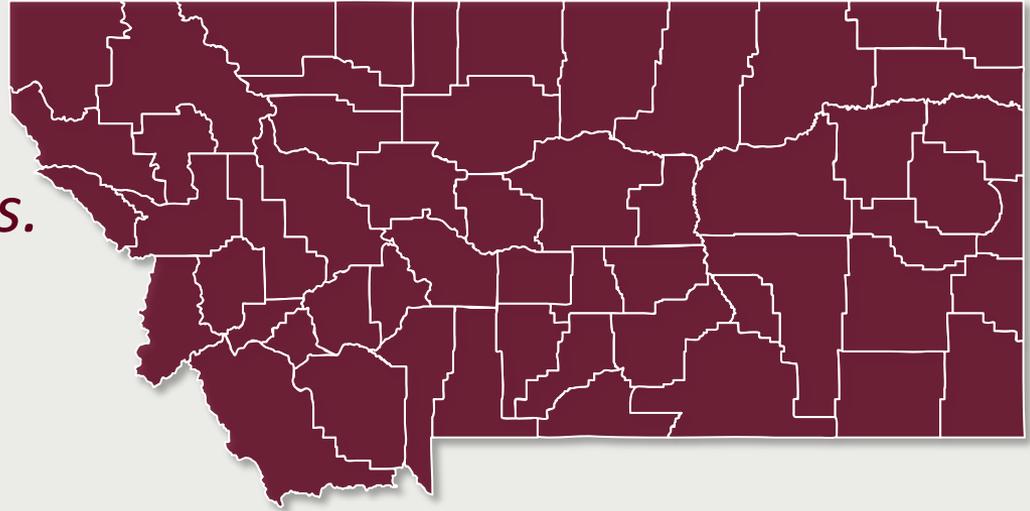


Dave Metz



Methodology

- *N=500 interviews conducted with registered Montana voters.*
- *Statistically valid sample with an overall margin of sampling error of $\pm 4.38\%$ at the 95% confidence interval for the total sample.*
- *Interviews conducted April 12-17, 2018, on landline and cell phones.*
- *Trend data from similarly conducted surveys of N=500 registered voters conducted June 2014 and May 2016.*



The Bottom Line

- The overwhelming majority of Montana voters recreate frequently on national public lands, including engaging in hunting and fishing. They view these lands as beneficial to the economy of the state.
- Even in comparison to front page issues, conservation-related issues involving clean water, clean air, open spaces and public lands are deemed as very important to Montanans when considering the records of elected officials. That perspective is especially true among sportsmen.
- On every policy proposal we tested, Montana voters side squarely with stronger protections of national public lands, including on National Monuments and the Antiquities Act. They perceive the benefits for access to recreation and conservation of wildlife habitat as most important.
- Voters also express support for continued additions to Wilderness lands and reject elimination of 29 WSAs in the state.

Montanans continue to say conservation issues are important to their vote decision.

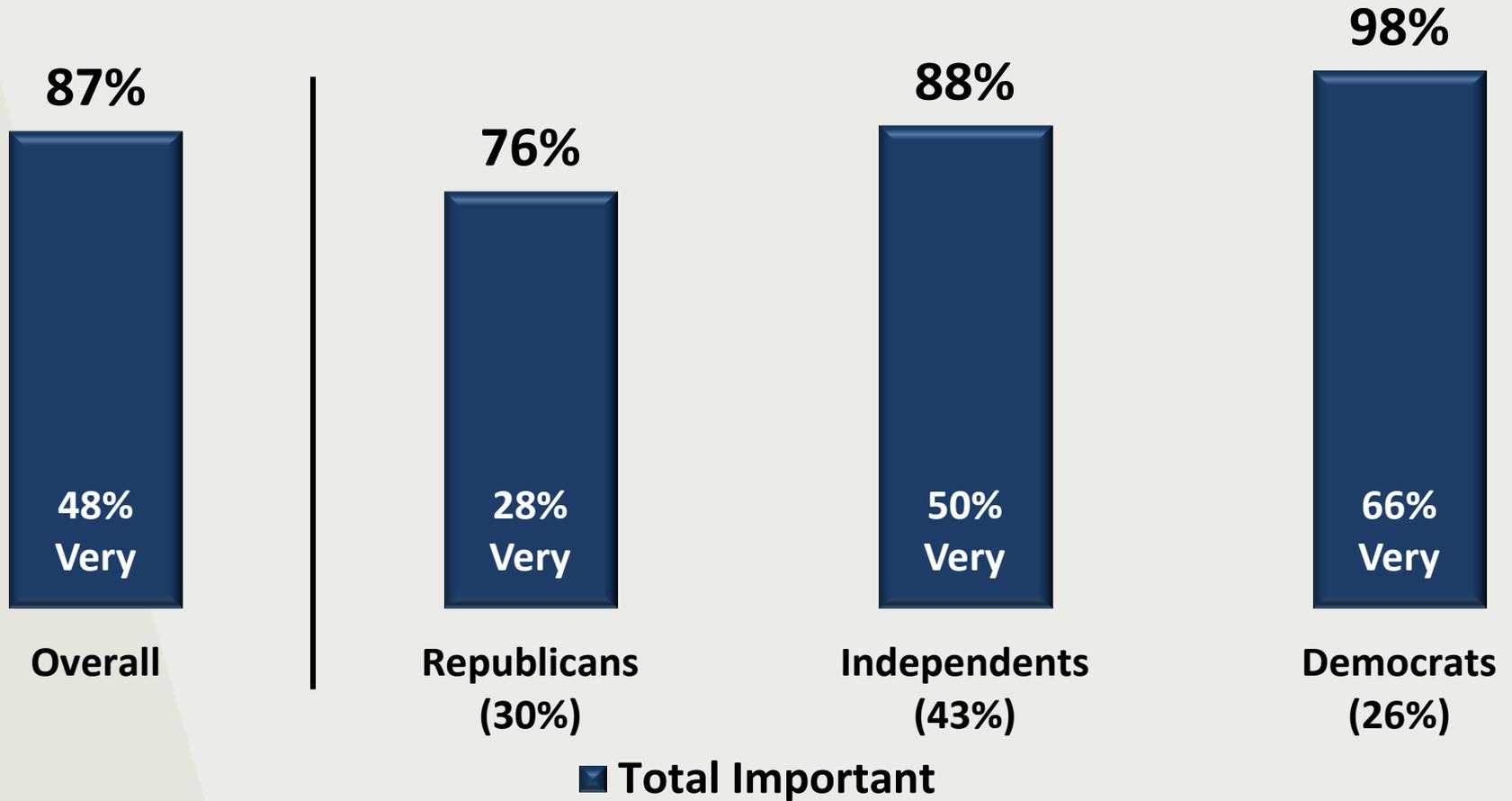
Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, open spaces and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official?

	<u>May 2016</u>	<u>April 2018</u>
Very important ; they are a primary factor in deciding whether to support an elected public official	41%	48%
Somewhat important ; they are one of several issues you consider	48%	39%
TOTAL IMPORTANT	88%*	87%
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	11%	13%
Not too important ; they are not a significant factor considering in deciding whether to support an elected public official	7%	9%
Not at all important for you in deciding whether to support an elected official	4%	4%

* Denotes rounding.

The importance of conservation issues extends across partisan lines.

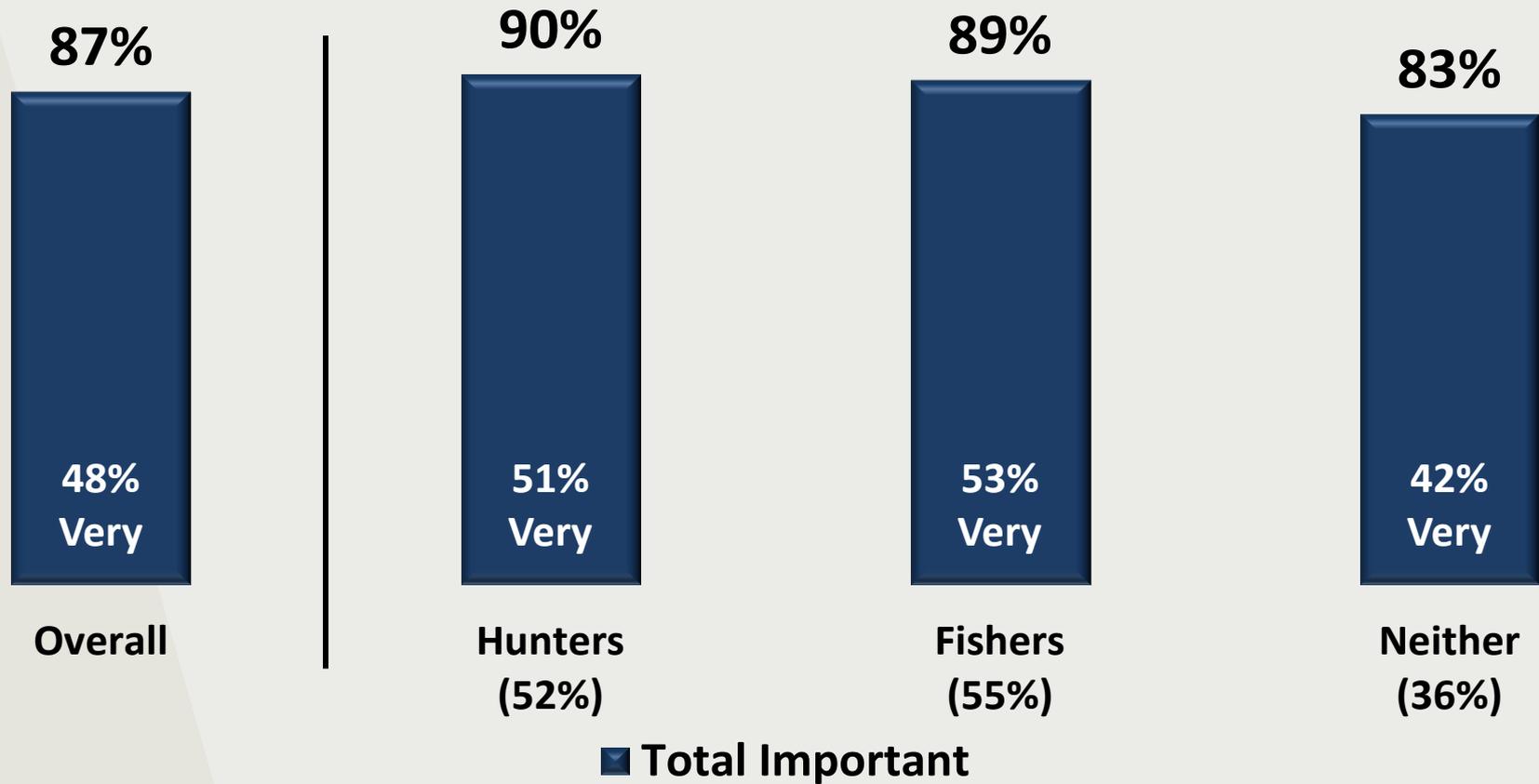
Importance of Environmental Issues by Party



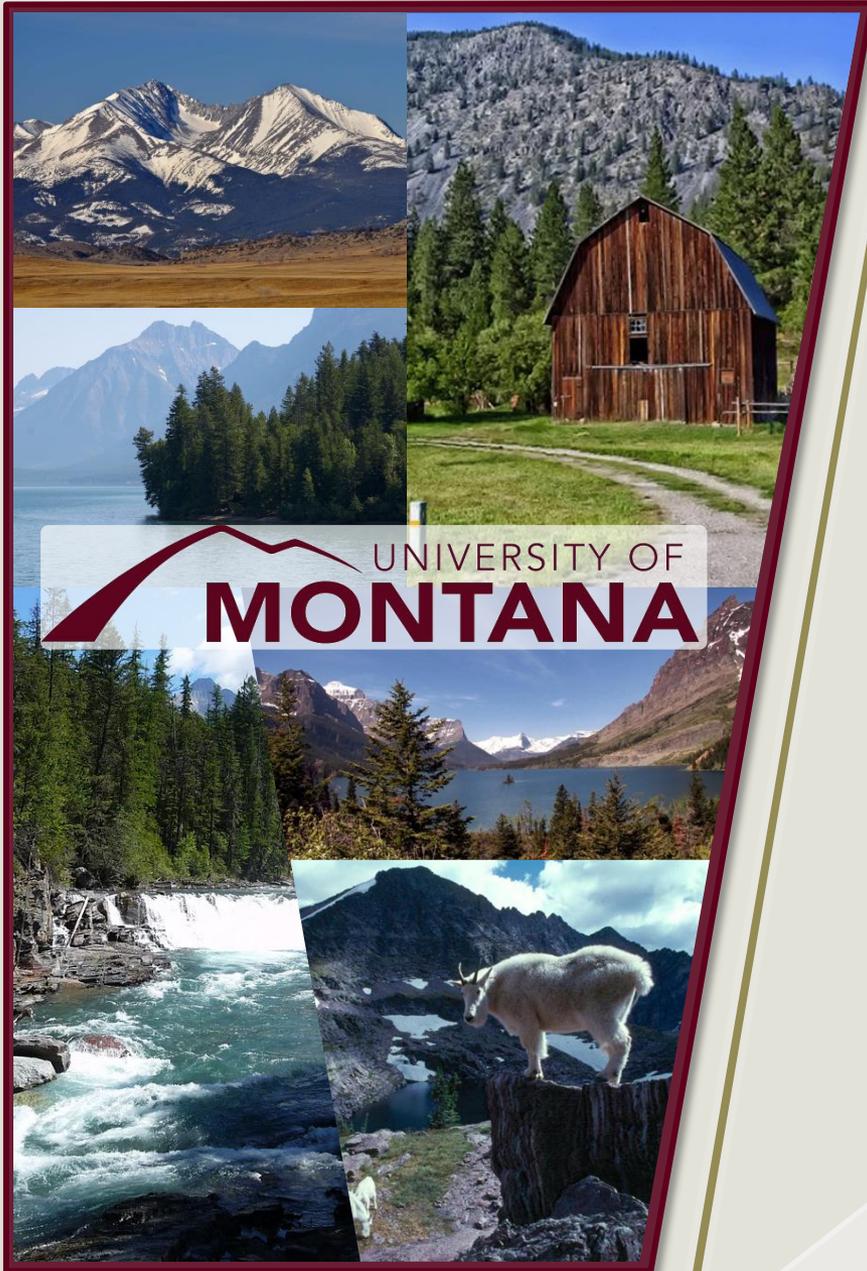
Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, open spaces and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official? Are they...

Sportsmen are driving much of the intensity in the scrutiny of an elected officials' record on conservation issues.

Importance of Environmental Issues by Sportsmen



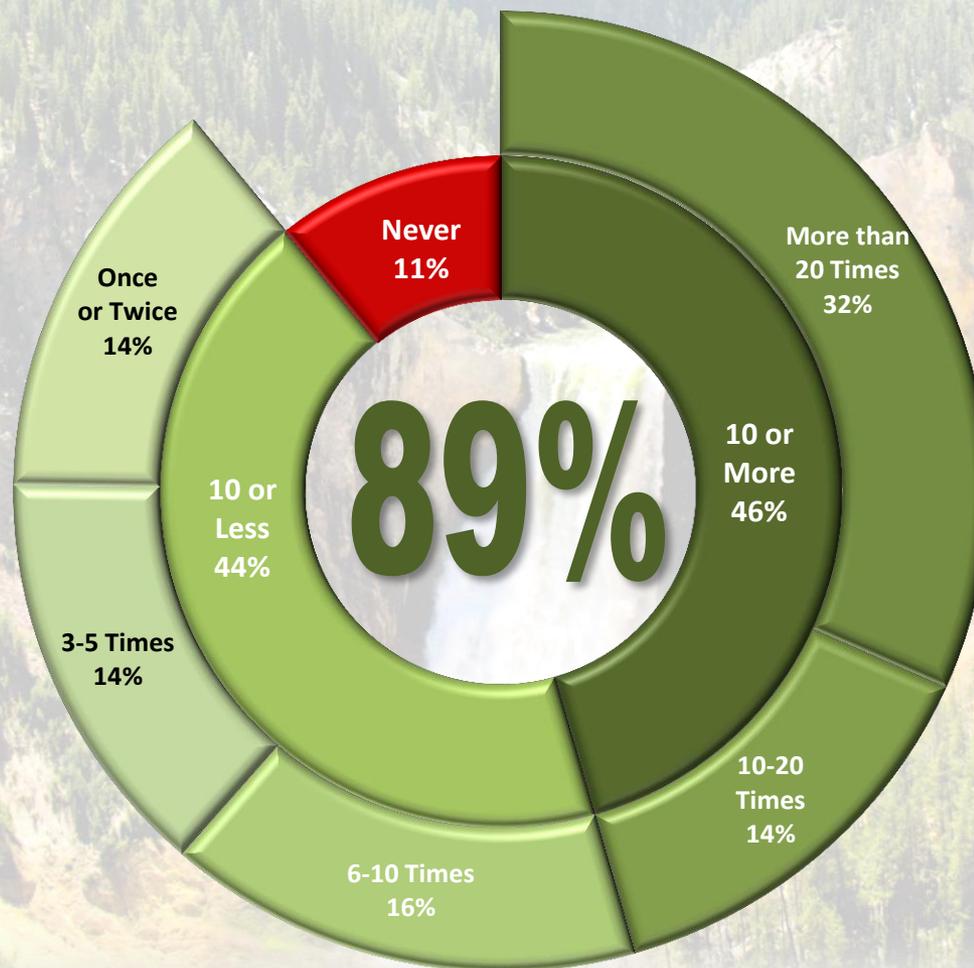
Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, open spaces and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official? Are they...



Montanans' Views of Public Lands

Nine-in-ten Montanans tell us they have visited national public lands in the past year, with one-in-three going 20+ times.

National Public Land Visitation Frequency



Over the past year, how many times do you think you have visited national public lands such as national parks, national forests, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, or other national public lands?

Most Montanans have visited public lands in the state and another state in the past year.



And in the last year have you visited national public lands –

Most Montanans participate in a wide array of outdoor recreation activities...

	Montana	National
 Hiking and trail running	67%	49%
 Camping	66%	42%
 Bird watching and viewing wildlife	49%	30%
 Kayaking, canoeing or boating	48%	30%
 Riding an off-road vehicle or snowmobile	35%	15%
 Mountain biking	27%	12%

Which of the following types of outdoor recreation, if any, do you participate in regularly?

...Including hunting and fishing.

Hunters



Montana

National

52%

28%

Anglers



55%

29%

Do you consider yourself a hunter, an angler or both?

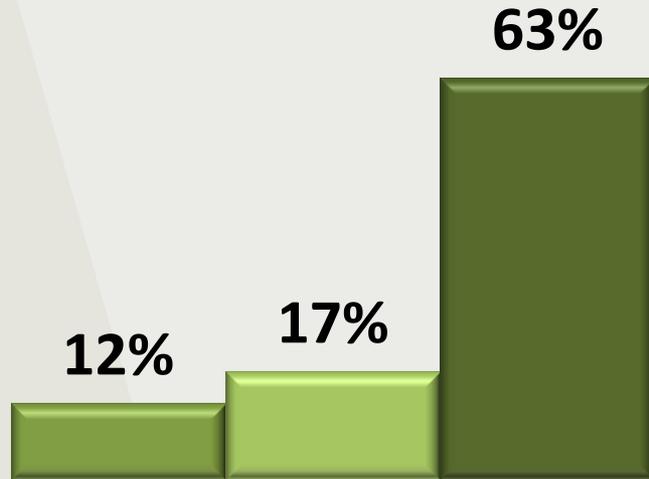
The vast majority of sportsmen have utilized public lands for their sport.



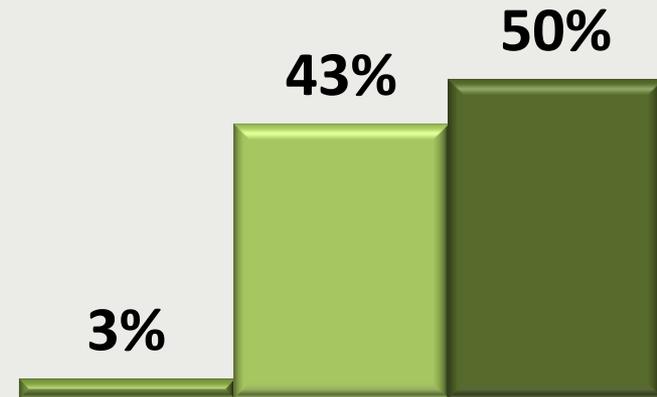
80%
Hunted on
Public Lands



93%
Fished on
Public Lands



- Hunted on privately owned land
- Hunted on public lands
- Both

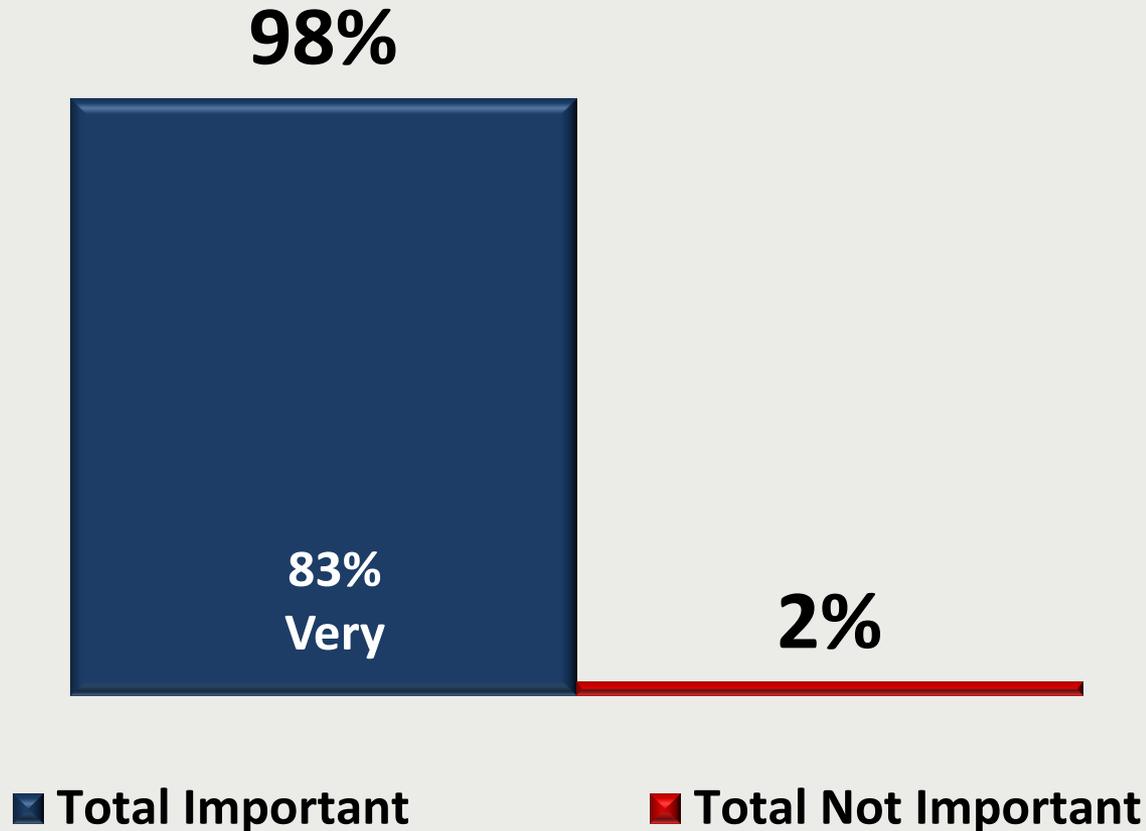


- Fished on privately owned land
- Fished on public lands
- Both

In the last five years have you...

There is a ubiquitous sense that National Parks are important to the state.

Importance of National Parks to Montana



*Thinking just about National Parks for a moment –
How important would you say the presence of National Parks here in Montana is to our state?*

Montanans overwhelmingly say public lands help their economy.

National Lands Impact on Economy

Helps our economy

82%

Hurts our economy

3%

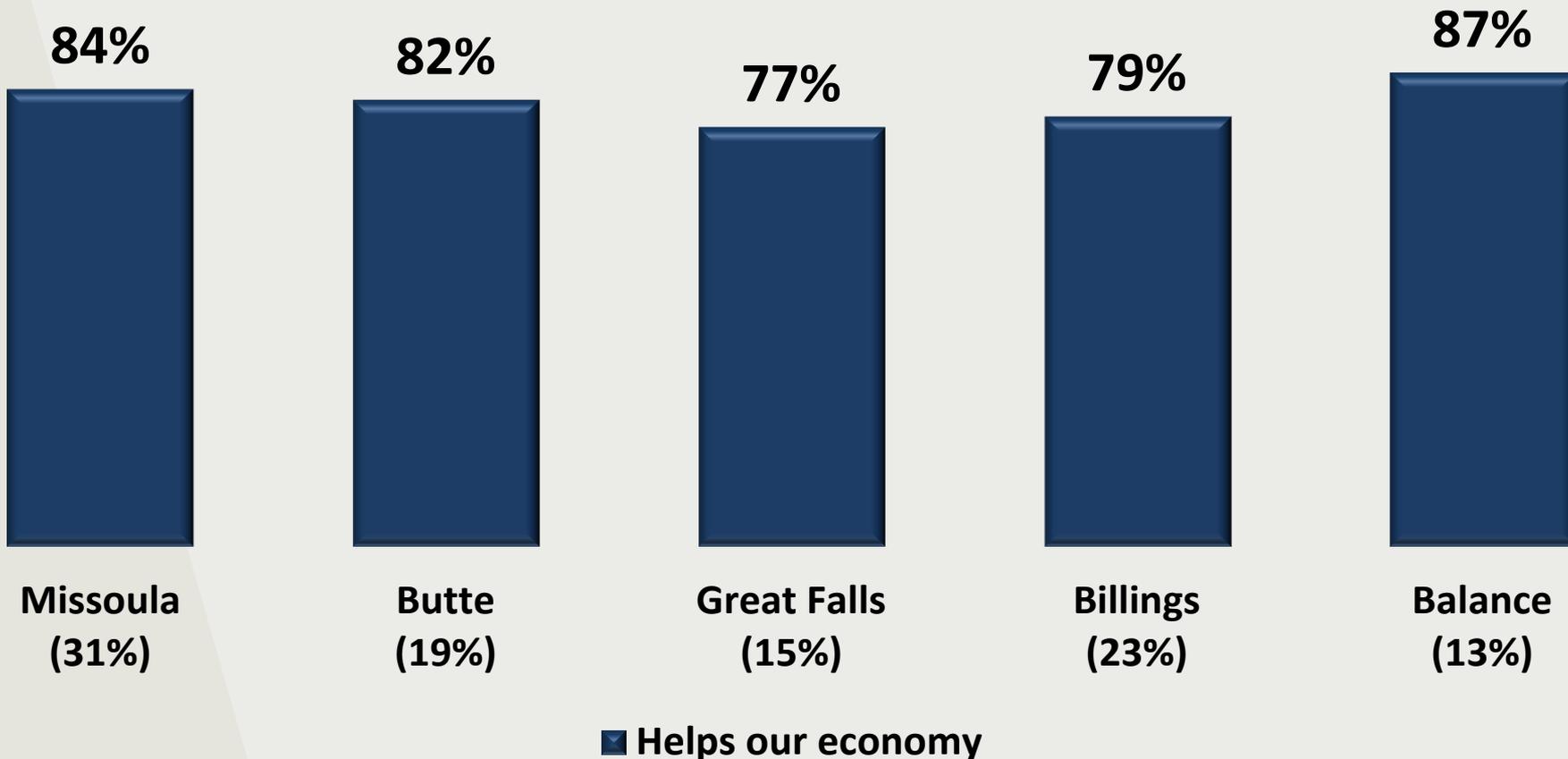
Has little impact on our economy

12%

When you think about the presence of national public lands, such as national forests, national monuments, or wildlife refuges in Montana – do you think that having such lands...

Voters across the state view national public lands as beneficial to Montana's economy.

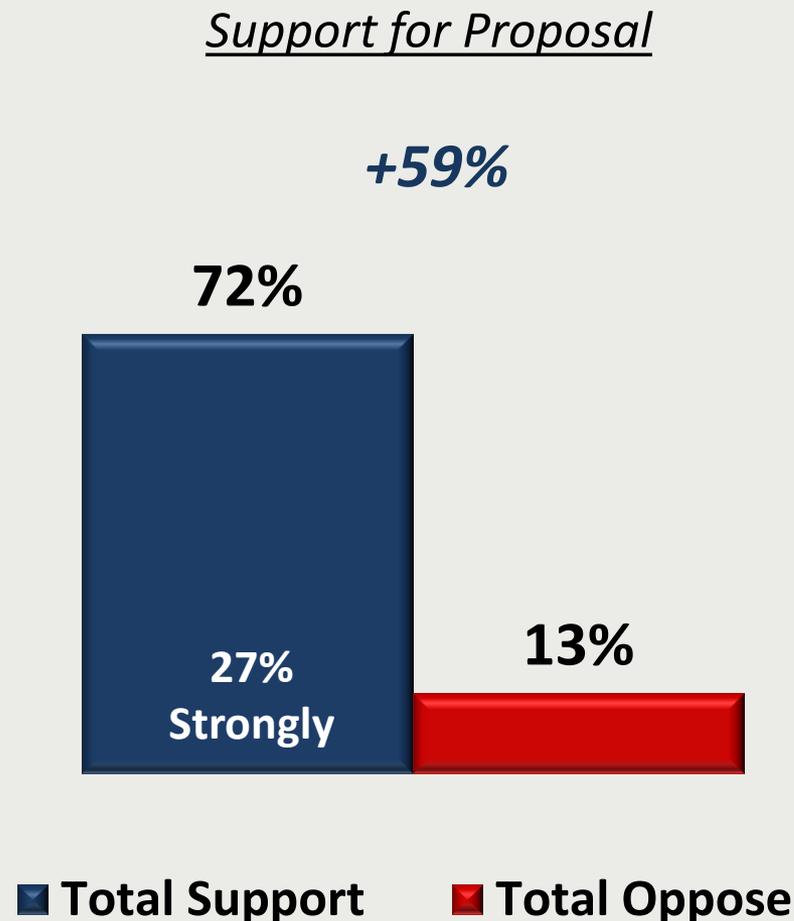
National Lands Impact on Economy by Media Market



When you think about the presence of national public lands, such as national forests, national monuments, or wildlife refuges in Montana – do you think that having such lands...

A solid majority support a proposal that would inform voters about other less visited places around the state.

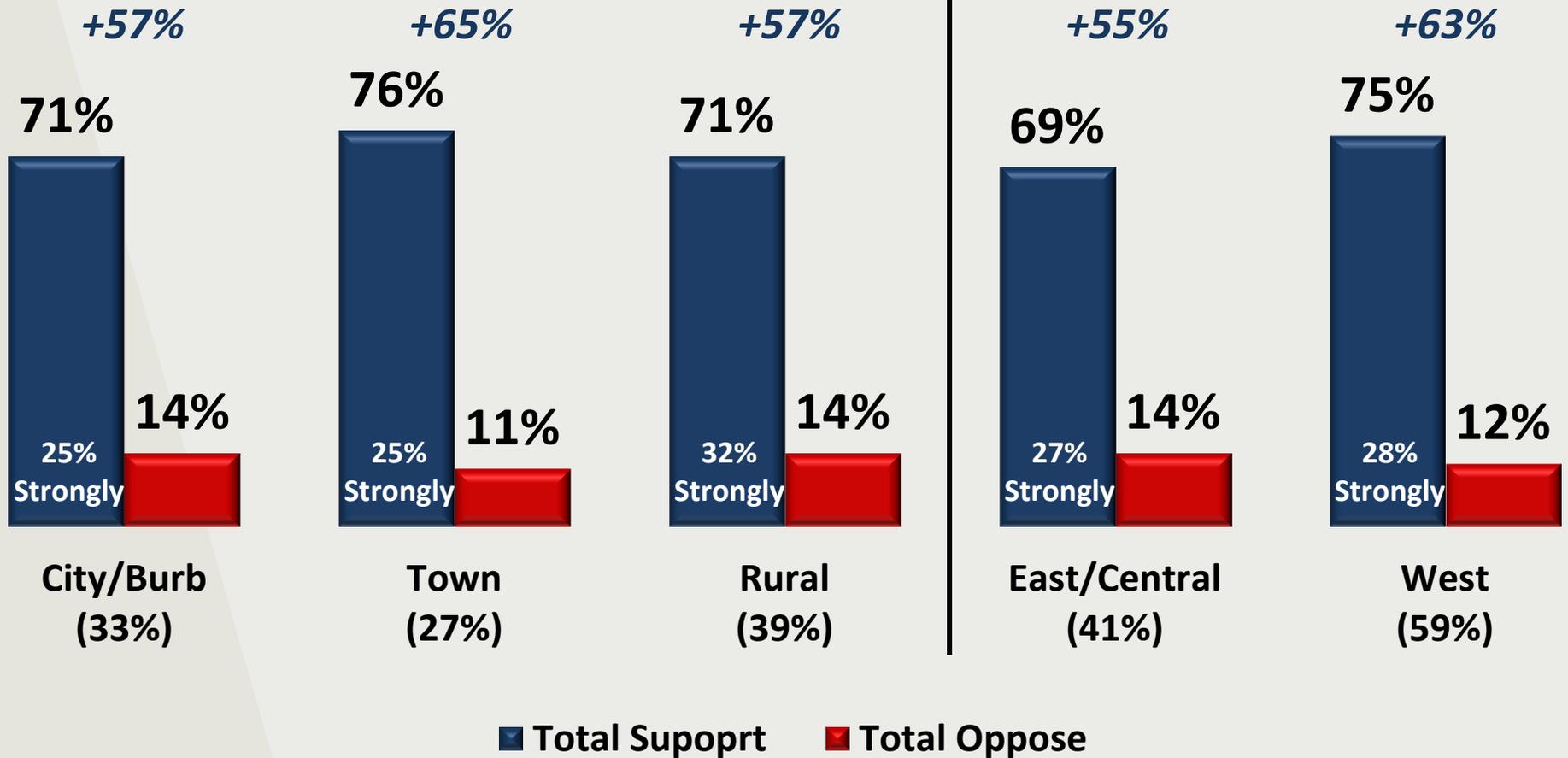
As you may know, National Parks in Montana, like some others around the country, have seen record numbers of visitors in the last few years. One proposal would feature less visited public lands in the state's tourism promotion efforts, to inform voters about other places around the state, like Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge or the Terry Badlands Wilderness Study Area.



Does that sound like something you would support or oppose?

Support is strong across geographies and regions.

Support for Proposal by Geography and Region



Does that sound like something you would support or oppose?

Montanans are increasingly likely to say public lands broadly provide many positive benefits.

Items Ranked by 2018 Positive Impact

Positive Impact

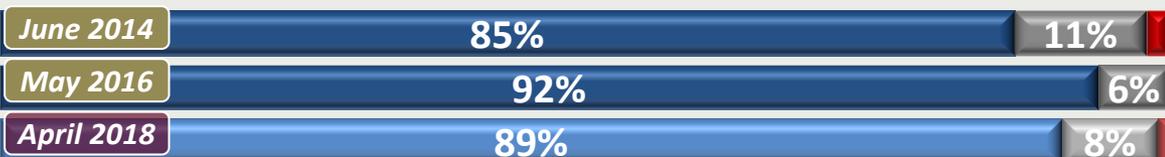
No Impact

Negative Impact

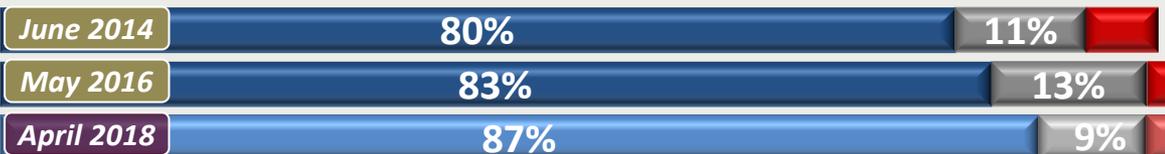
Maintaining what is best about Montana



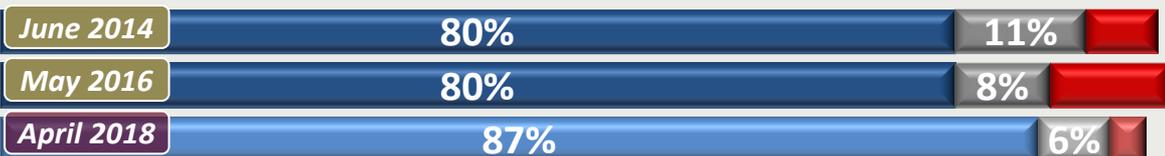
Opportunities for children to explore and learn about nature



The overall quality of life in Montana



Opportunities for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation



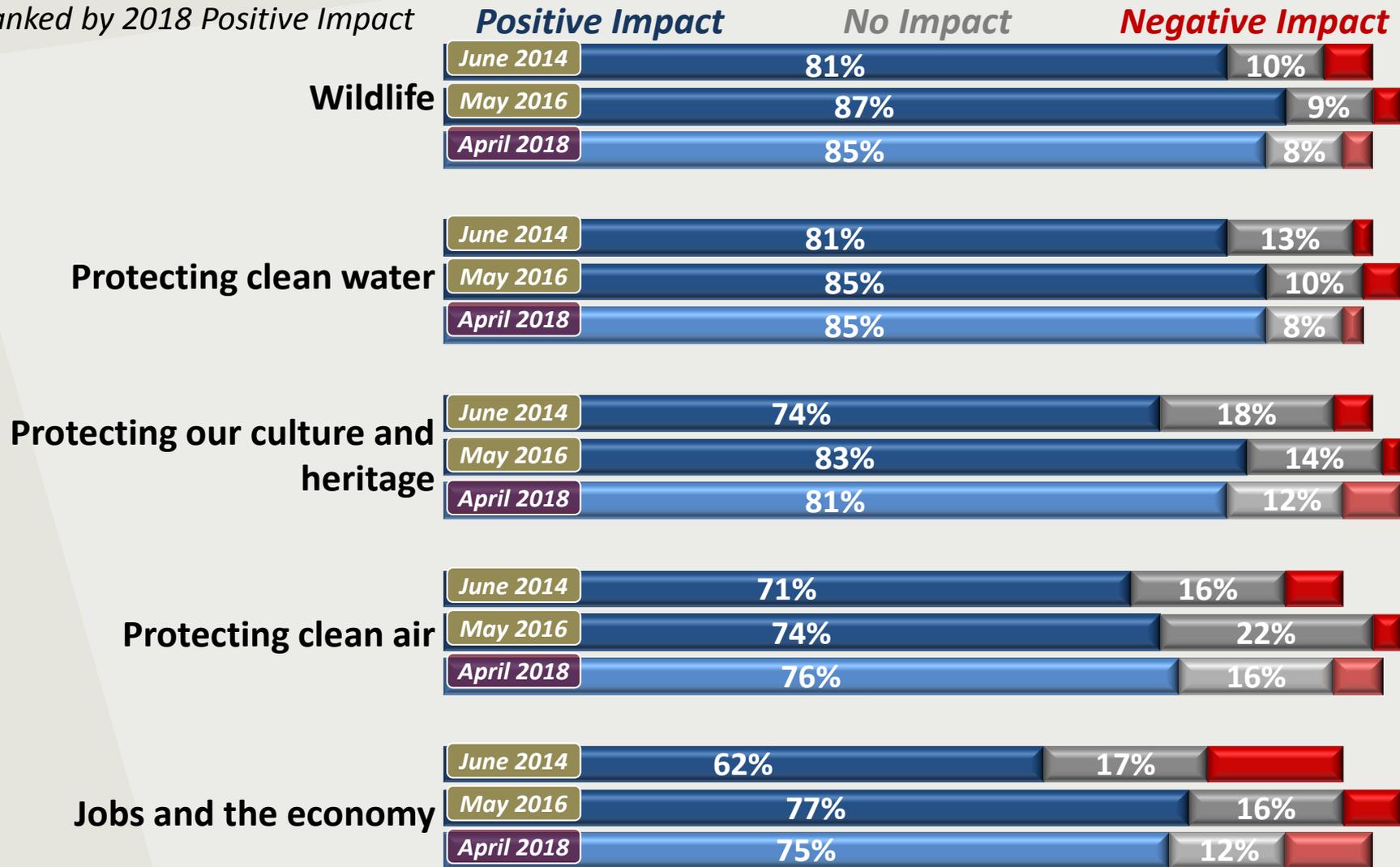
Tourism



Taking a step back and thinking about all publicly owned lands – Generally speaking, do you believe enhancing and protecting public lands, such as local, state and national parks, national forests, and wilderness has a positive impact, a negative impact, or no real impact on each of the following:

Three-quarters view the economic impact of public lands as positive - on par with many other benefits.

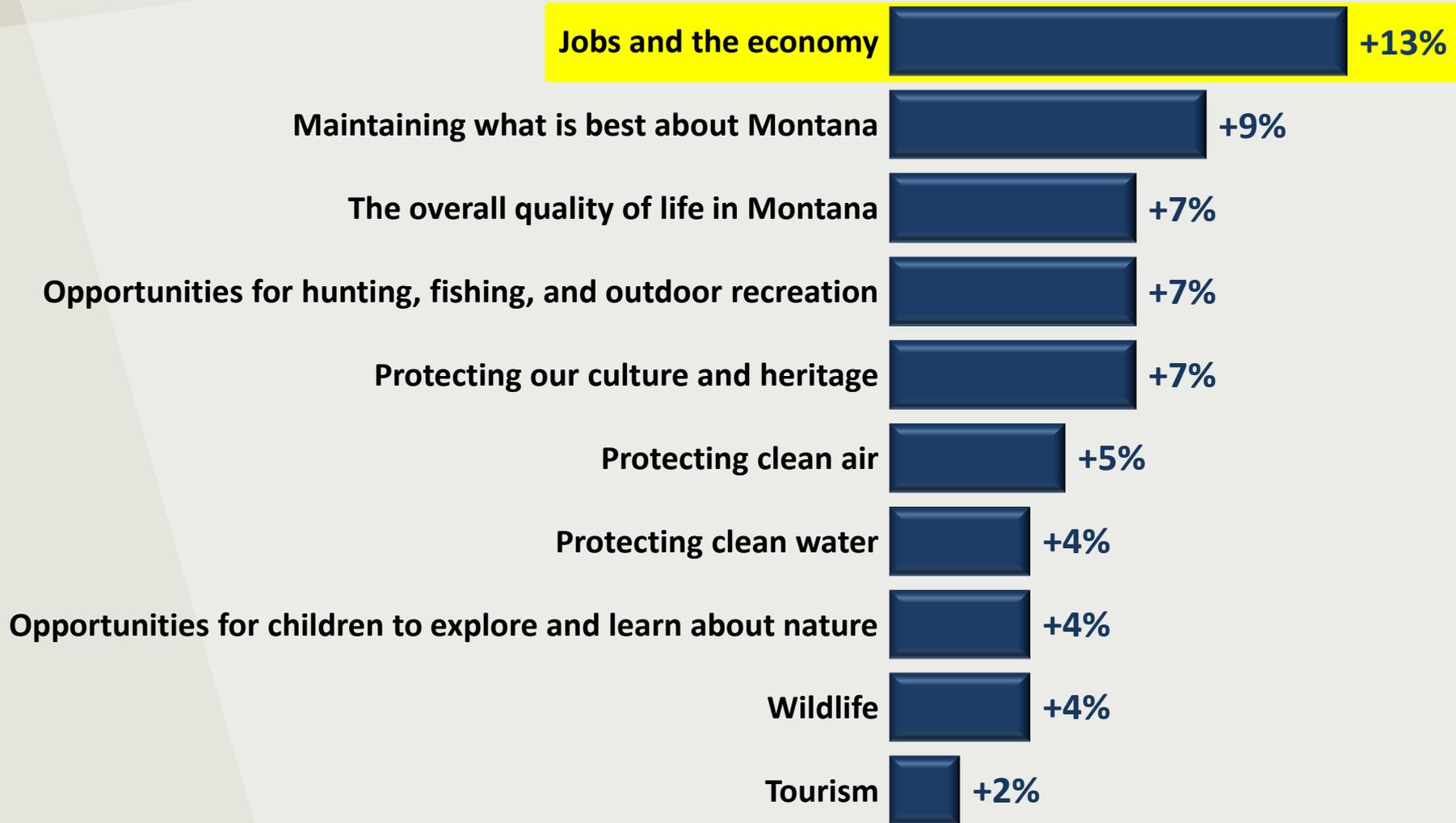
Items Ranked by 2018 Positive Impact



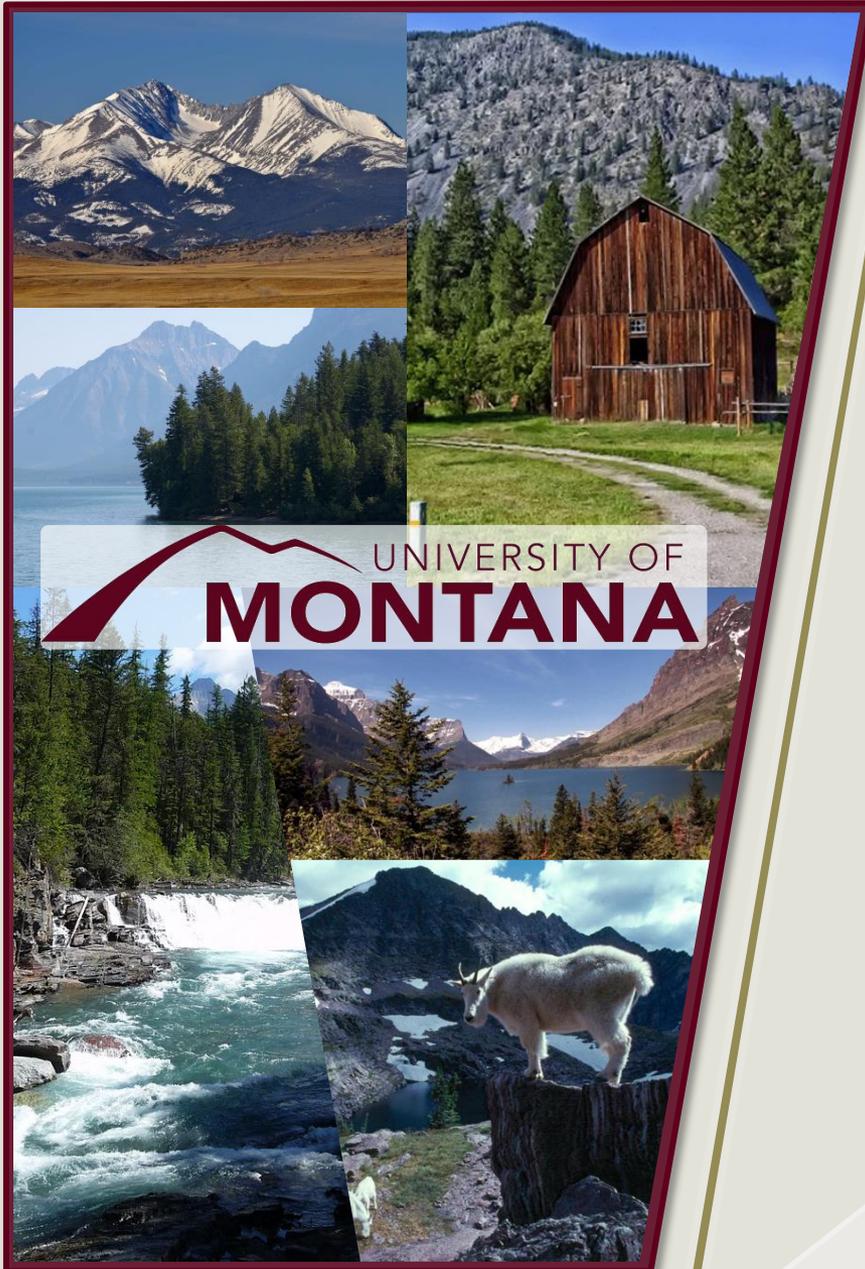
Taking a step back and thinking about all publicly owned lands – Generally speaking, do you believe enhancing and protecting public lands, such as local, state and national parks, national forests, and wilderness has a positive impact, a negative impact, or no real impact on each of the following:

In fact, the economic impact of public lands is far more likely to be recognized today than just four years ago.

Change in Positive Impact (2018-2014)



Taking a step back and thinking about all publicly owned lands – Generally speaking, do you believe enhancing and protecting public lands, such as local, state and national parks, national forests, and wilderness has a positive impact, a negative impact, or no real impact on each of the following:



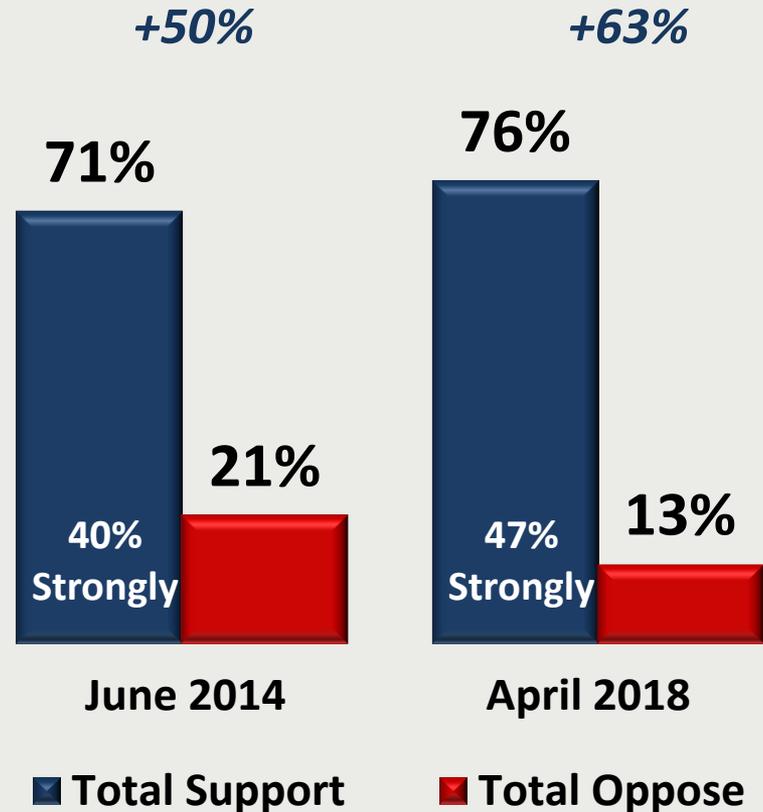
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Montanans' Views of Policies Affecting Public Lands

Support for funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund has increased while opposition dropped since 2014.

Would you support or oppose ensuring that a small portion of federal offshore drilling fees already being paid by oil and gas companies is dedicated to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was created by Congress to be used for conserving natural areas, wildlife, and clean water and providing access to outdoor recreation throughout the country?

Support for National Proposal

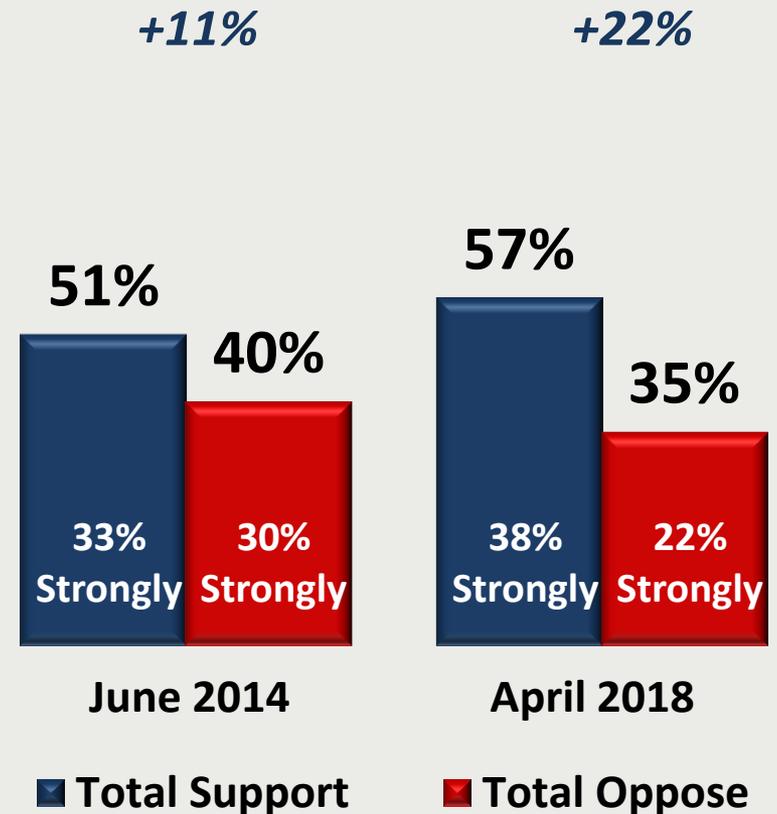


Thinking about one national proposal that may be considered by Congress –

Support for dedicating additional, existing public lands as wilderness areas in the state has also increased since 2014.

Just over fifty years ago Congress passed the Wilderness Act, which protected the Bob Marshall or the Beartooths here in Montana. These areas were designated by Congress as wilderness in order to keep that land conserved in its natural state. Wilderness lands can be used for hiking, camping, livestock grazing, horseback riding, wildlife watching, hunting and fishing. However, mining, oil and gas development, logging, and the use of motorized or off-road vehicles, and mountain biking are not allowed on wilderness lands.

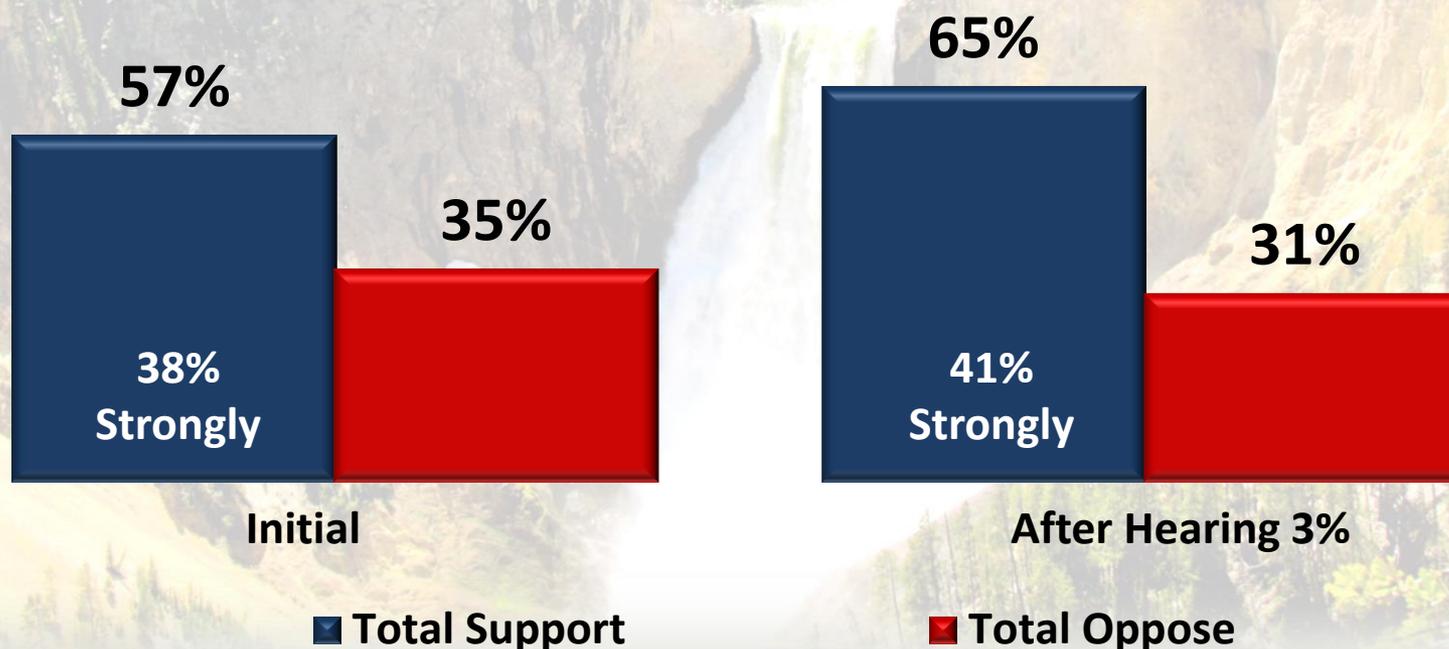
Support for Dedicating Additional Lands



Would you support or oppose dedicating additional, existing public lands as wilderness areas here in Montana?

After learning that three percent of the state's lands are currently dedicated as wilderness, support for dedicating additional lands as Wilderness increases.

Just three percent of Montana lands are currently dedicated as wilderness areas. Knowing this, would you support or oppose dedicating additional, existing public lands as wilderness areas here in Montana?



Most voters want to keep WSAs as they are now.

Here in Montana some areas of existing public lands are protected as Wilderness Study Areas, such as the Big Snowy Mountains and the Terry Badlands. These public lands are accessible to hunters, anglers, hikers, and others on foot and horse, and allow grazing and motorized vehicle use in some areas, but not mining or logging.

There are proposals in Congress that would eliminate protections for 29 wilderness study areas in Montana. That would potentially expand motorized recreation, oil and gas drilling, or industrial development in nearly 700 thousand acres.

Add new protections in some areas, and eliminate protections in others	24%
Keep all 29 wilderness study areas as they are now	57%
TOTAL ADD NEW/KEEP ALL	81%
Eliminate protections in all 29 Wilderness Study areas	11%

Which would you prefer Congress do –

Support to keep WSAs as they are now is strong across parties.

Wilderness Study Areas by Party

	Overall	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
Add new protections in some areas, and eliminate protections in others	24%	34%	27%	11%
Keep all 29 wilderness study areas as they are now	57%	40%	54%	83%
TOTAL ADD NEW/KEEP ALL	81%	74%	81%	94%
Eliminate protections in all 29 Wilderness Study areas	11%	22%	9%	1%

Which would you prefer Congress do –

As well as by geography.

Wilderness Study Areas by Geography

	Overall	City/Burb	Town	Rural
Add new protections in some areas, and eliminate protections in others	24%	25%	27%	23%
Keep all 29 wilderness study areas as they are now	57%	61%	58%	53%
TOTAL ADD NEW/KEEP ALL	81%	86%	85%	76%
Eliminate protections in all 29 Wilderness Study areas	11%	8%	11%	13%

Which would you prefer Congress do –

Stakeholder and community input is seen as very important by Montanans.

And in legislation related to the level of protections on existing public lands, how important is it to you that a wide range of stakeholders and local communities have the opportunity to provide their input before decisions are made?

**VERY
IMPORTANT**

77%

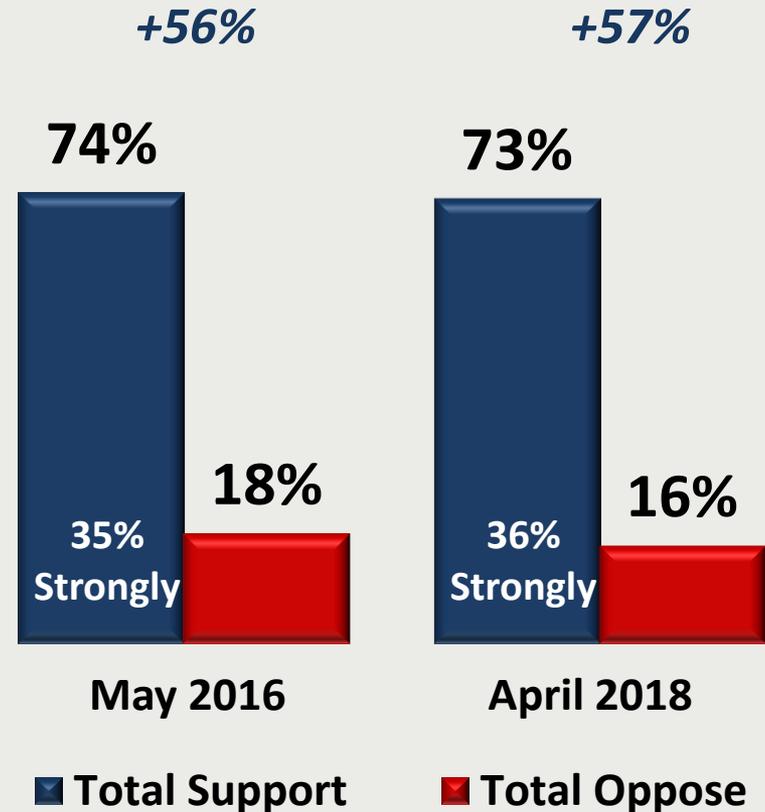
**TOTAL
IMPORTANT**

97%

Almost three-quarters of Montana voters support the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project.

The Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project in western Montana would ensure access to hunting and fishing sites, increasing protections for approximately eighty thousand acres of existing public lands by adding them to the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Mission Mountains wilderness areas; open a high quality area for snowmobiling, and maintain timber harvesting. Do you support or oppose this project?

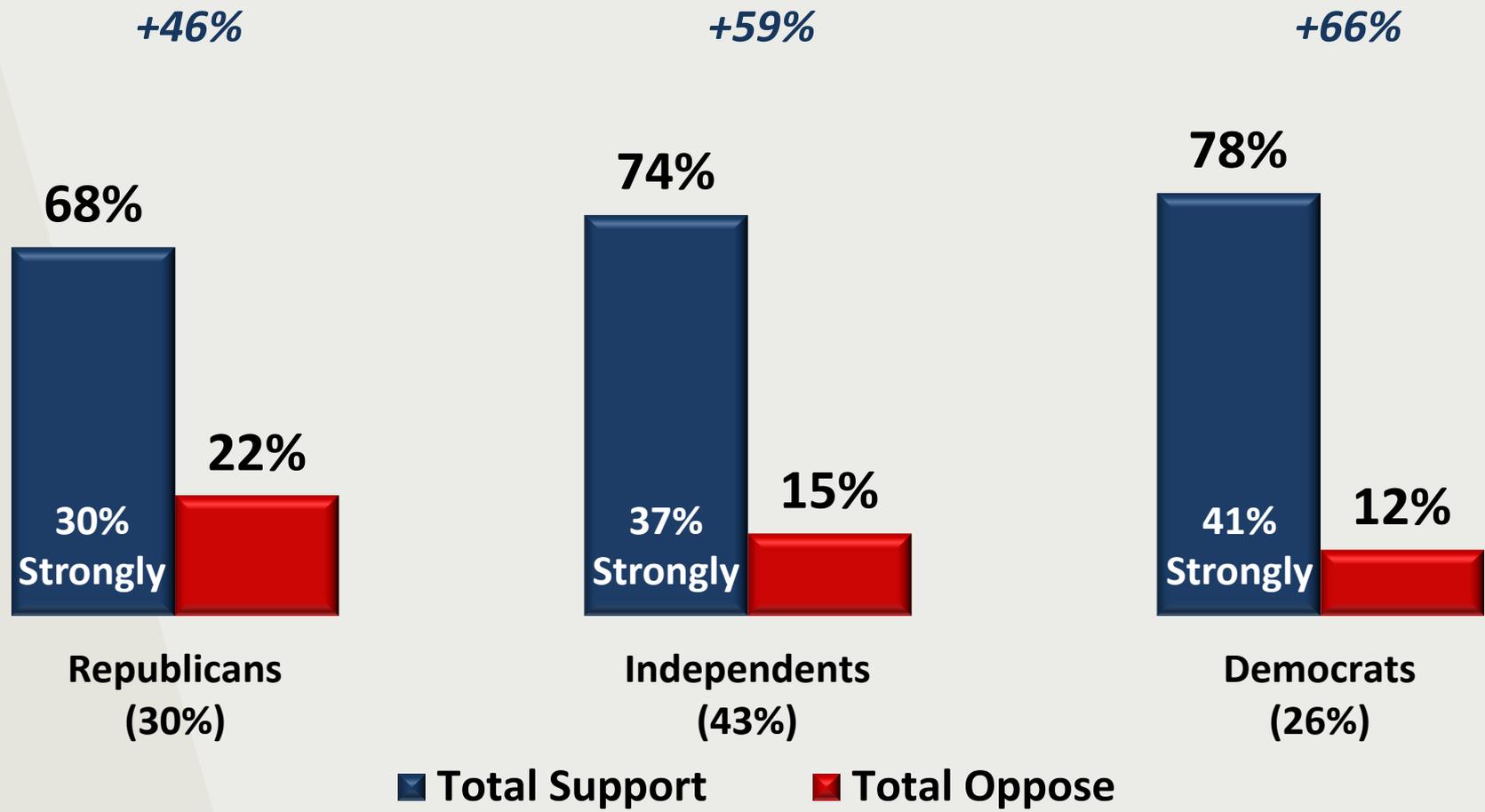
Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project



Thinking more specifically about some proposals that would affect public lands here in Montana – for each one, please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

More than two-thirds of GOP voters in Montana as well as more than three-quarters of other voters express support.

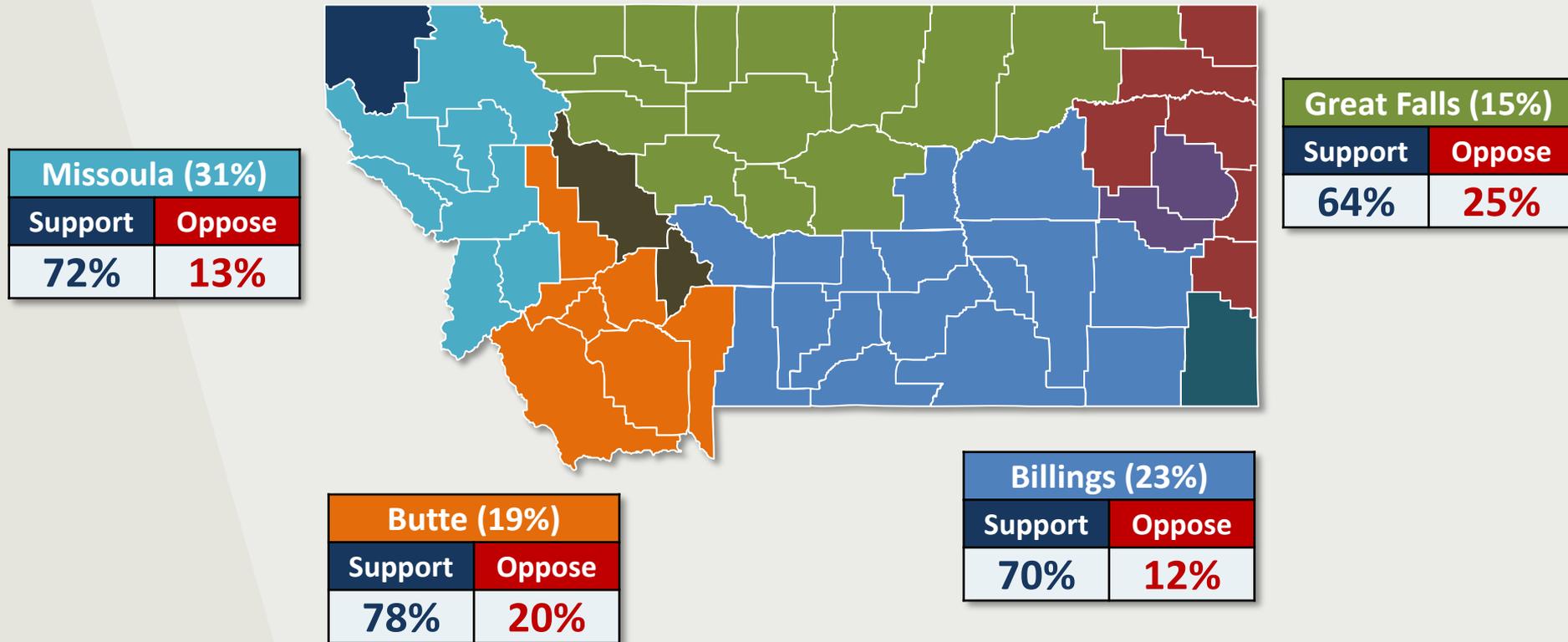
Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project by Party



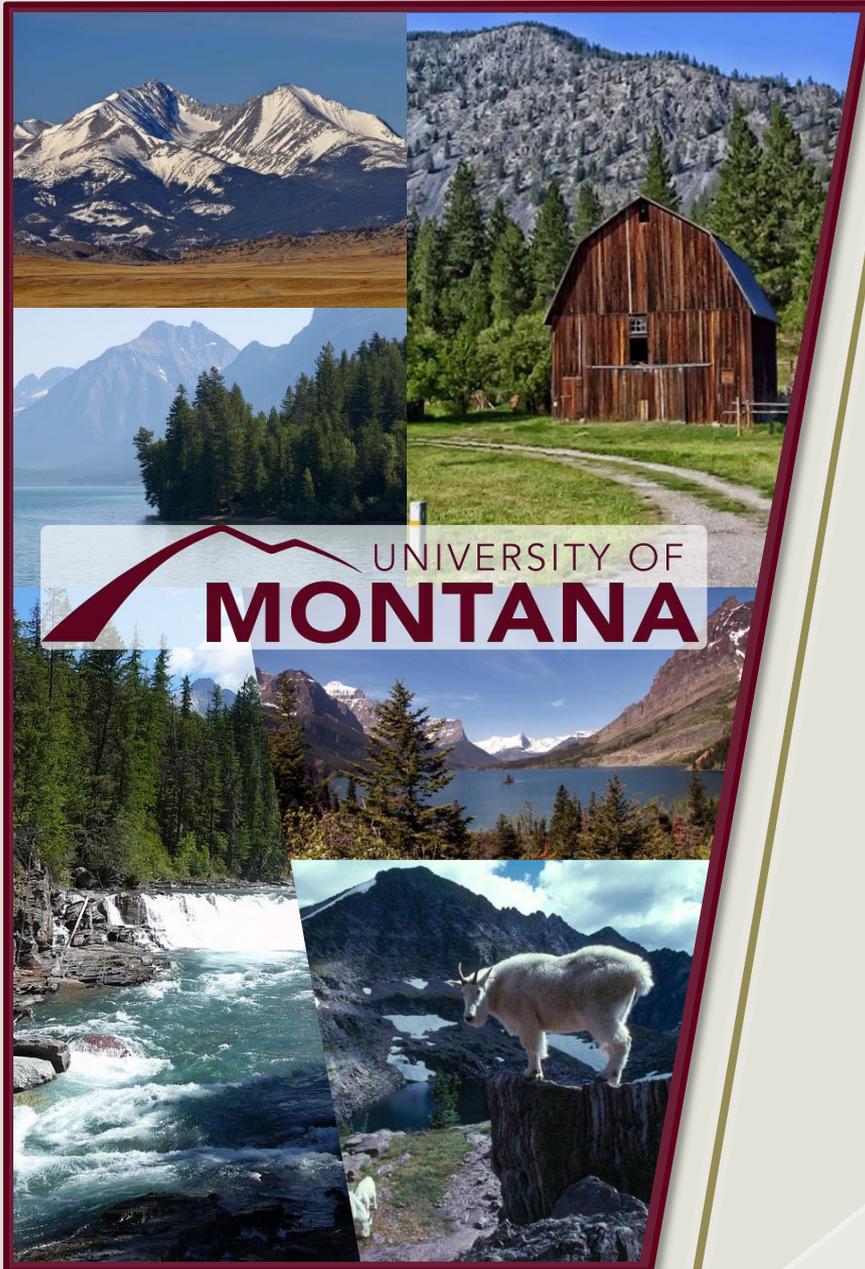
Thinking more specifically about some proposals that would affect public lands here in Montana – for each one, please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

Support is strong throughout the state.

Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project by Media Market



Thinking more specifically about some proposals that would affect public lands here in Montana – for each one, please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.



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National Monuments

More than three-quarters of Montanans support the power of the President to designate National Monuments under the Antiquities Act.

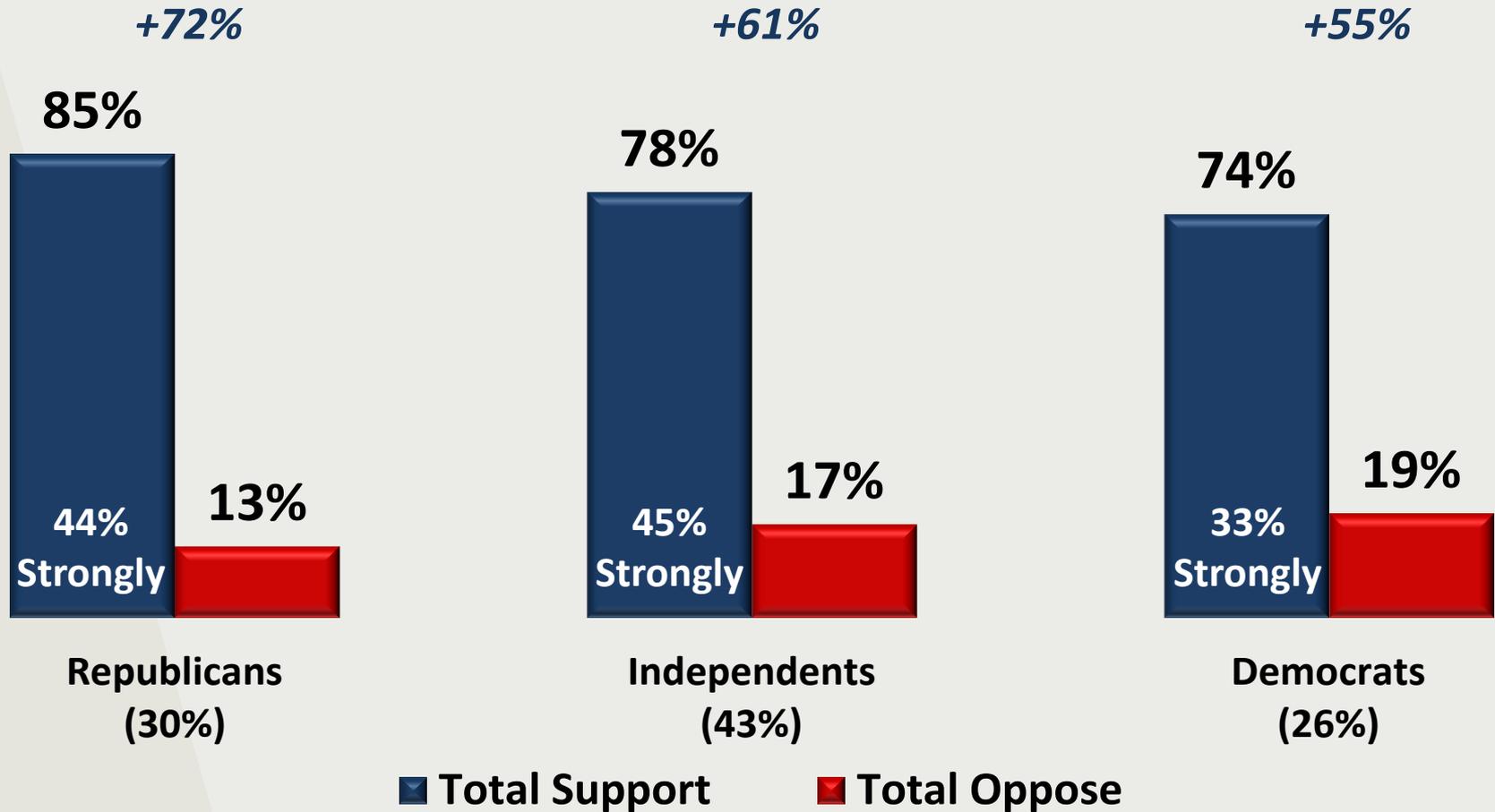
And do you support or oppose the President continuing to have the ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments?

Strongly Support	41%
Somewhat Support	37%
TOTAL SUPPORT	78%
TOTAL OPPOSE	17%
Somewhat Oppose	7%*
Strongly Oppose	10%

* Denotes rounding.

GOP voters are most strongly supportive of retaining the President's ability to declare National Monuments.

Support for President Ability to Protect Public Lands by Party

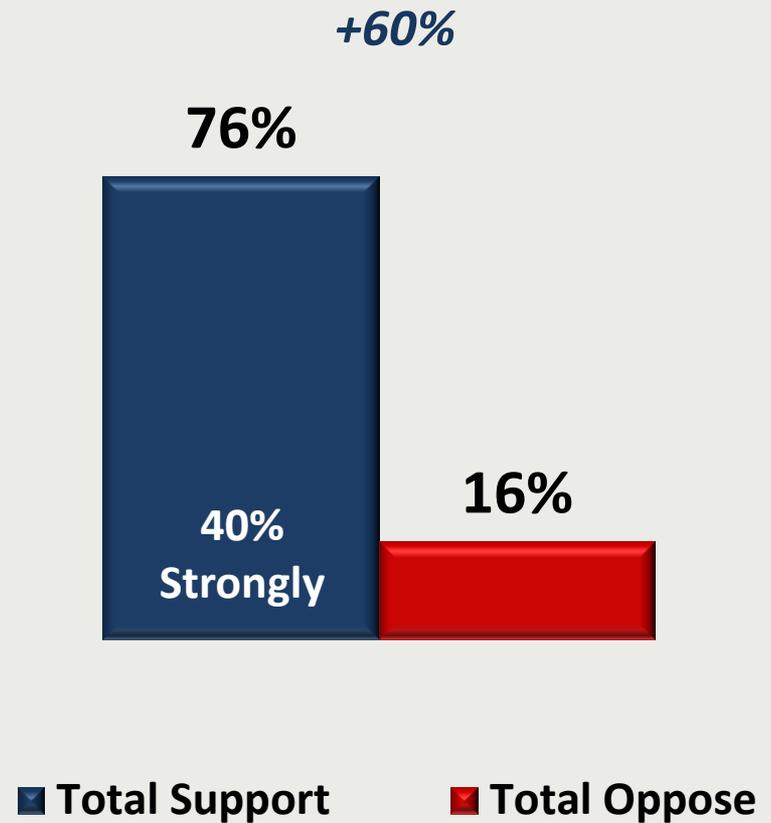


And do you support or oppose the President continuing to have the ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments?

Three-quarters support the Administration's proposal to establish a new National Monument in Montana.

Thinking specifically about the Badger-Two Medicine area of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, which connects Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The Trump Administration has proposed making this area a National Monument, largely due to the presence of sites that are sacred to the Blackfeet Tribe. These areas are accessible to hunters, anglers, hikers, and others on foot and horseback.

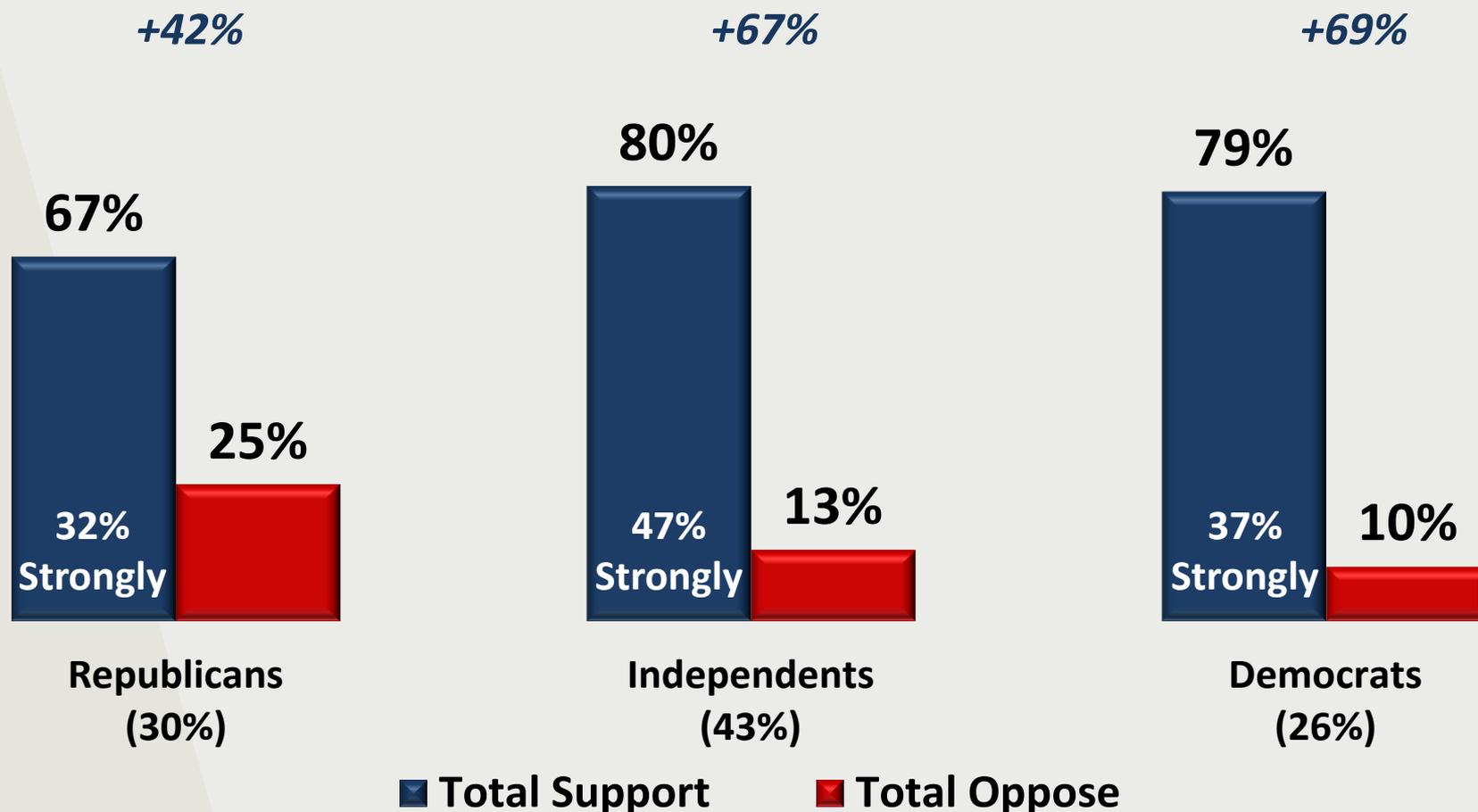
Badger-Two Medicine Area



Does this sound like something you would support or oppose for this area?

Three-quarters of GOP voters and four-in-five independents and Democrats support the proposal.

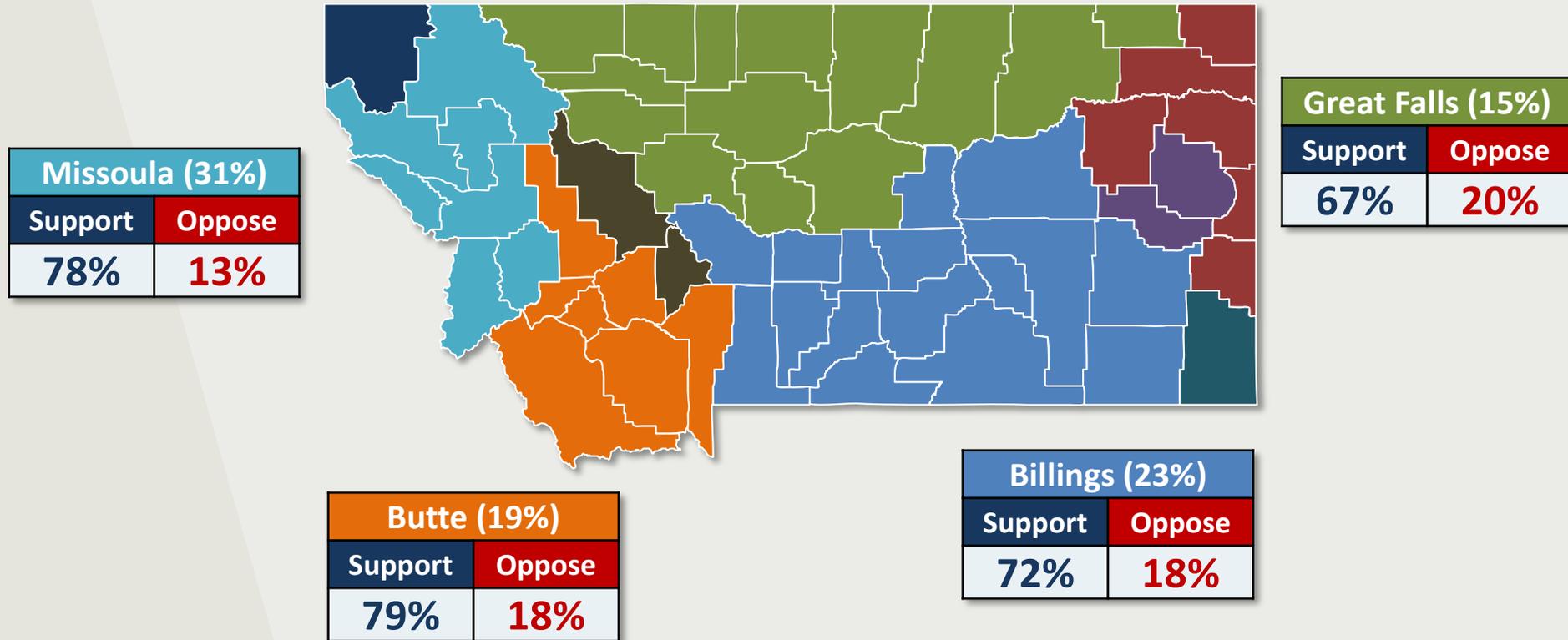
Badger-Two Medicine Region by Party



Does this sound like something you would support or oppose for this area?

The National Monument proposal has overwhelming support around the state.

Badger-Two Medicine Area by Media Market

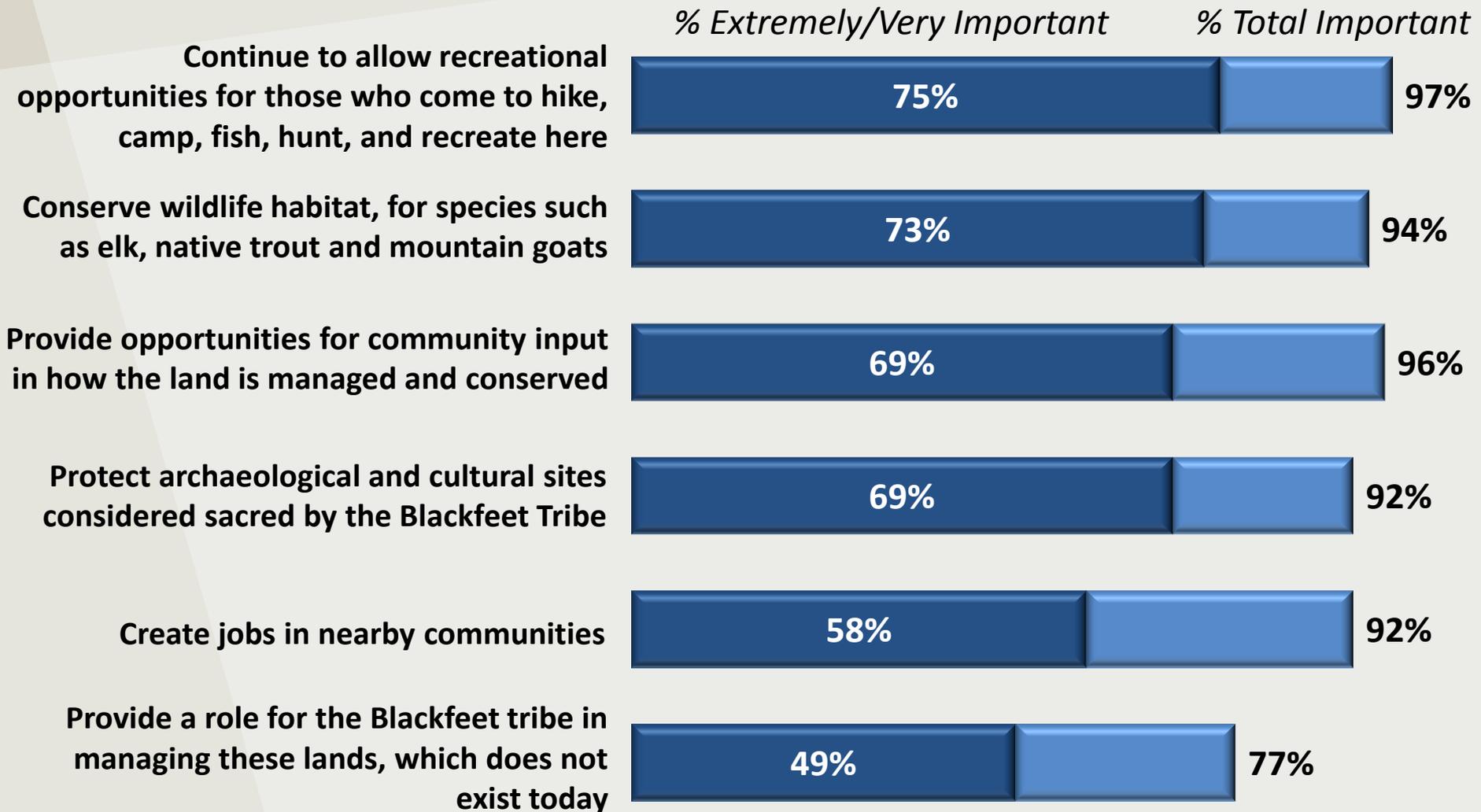


Does this sound like something you would support or oppose for this area?

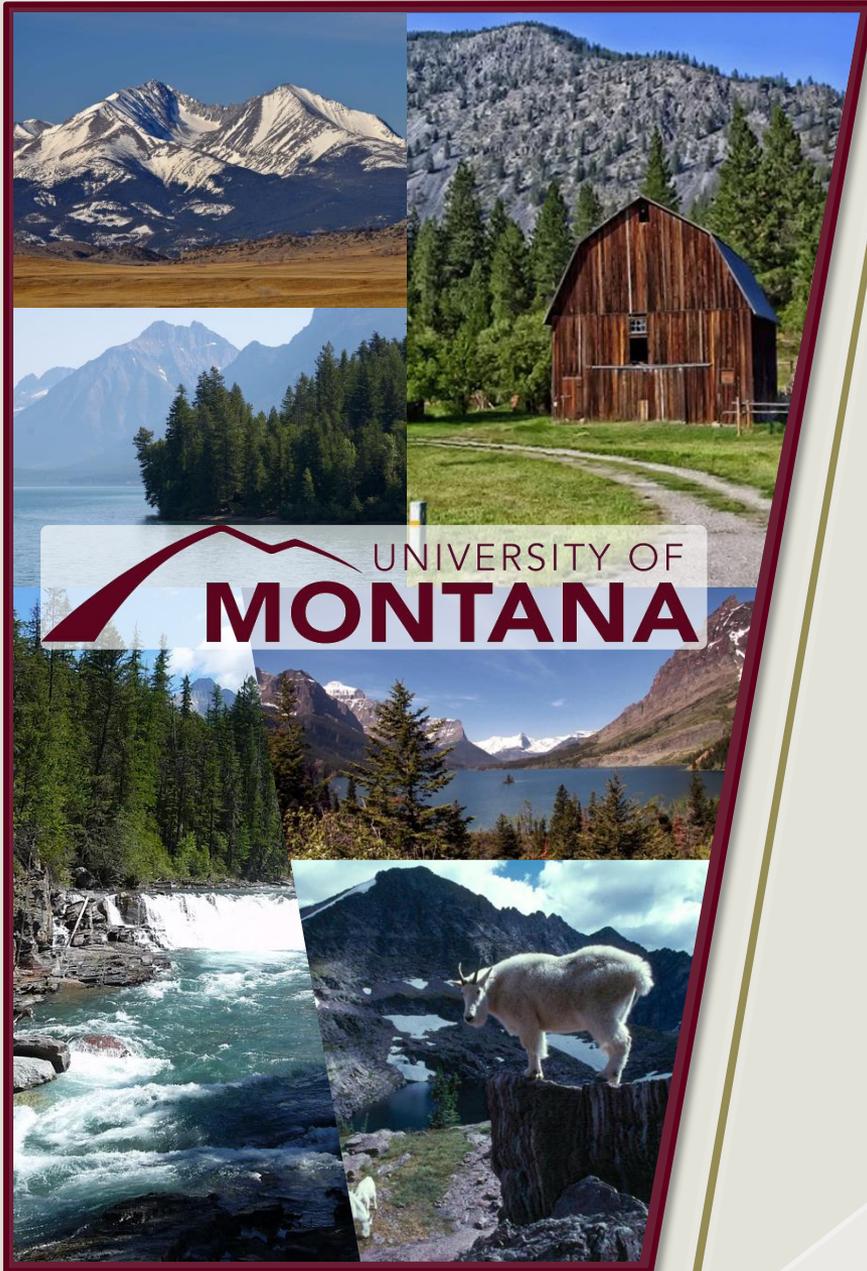
What We Did:

National Monuments can vary in different aspects. We tested six different potential elements that could be considered in creating a new National Monument in the Badger-Two Medicine area. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of each element as extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important.

Montanans are particularly focused on National Monuments' recreational and wildlife habitat elements.

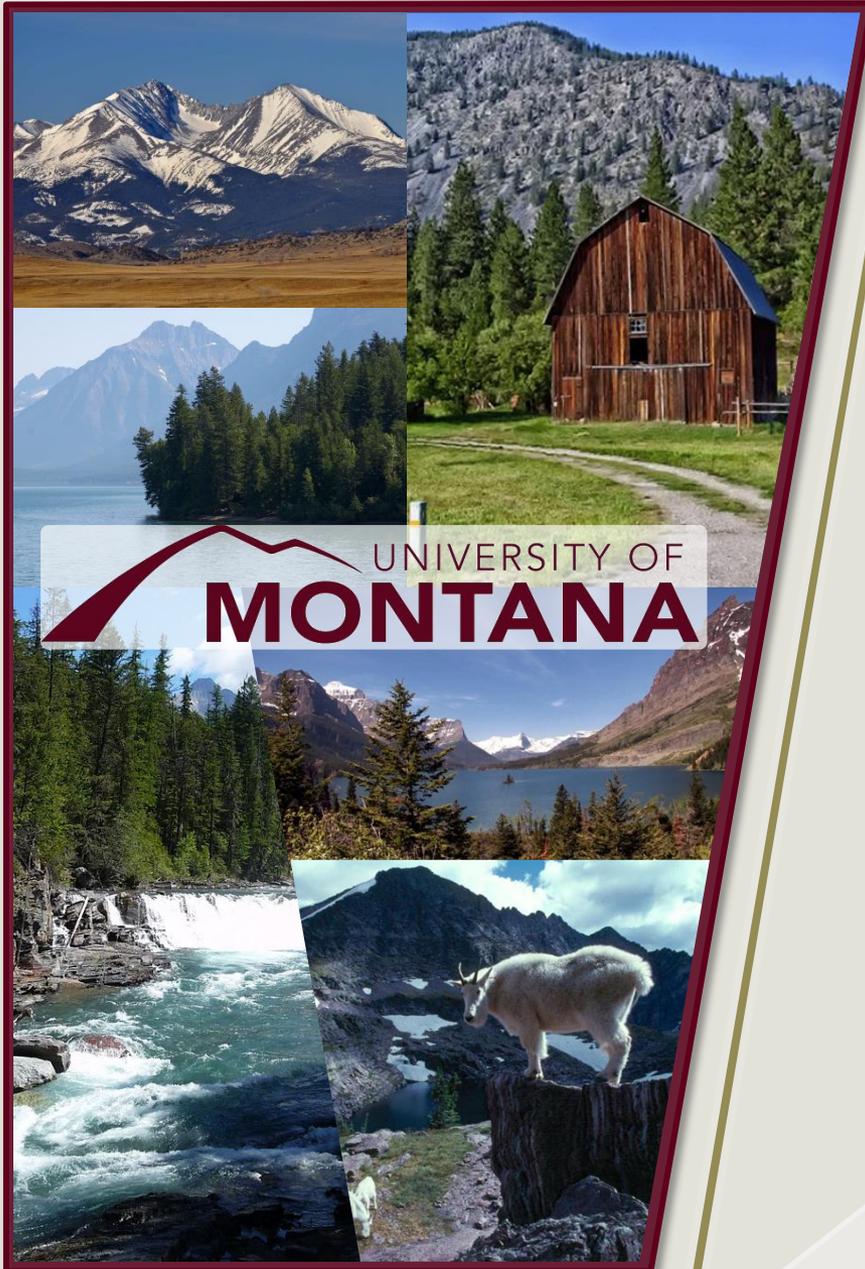


I'm going to read you a number of potential aspects of a National Monument in the Badger-Two Medicine area. For each one, please tell me how important you think it is that the National Monument include that particular element - is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important?



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Questions?



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**PUBLIC OPINION
STRATEGIES**

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