

# 2020 University of Montana Statewide Survey

## Interview Schedule

New Bridge Strategy / FM3 Research

March 19-24, 2020

N=500 Voters in MT

Margin of Error:  $\pm 4.38\%$



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In this document:

- *An asterisk (\*) in a response category means that less than 0.5% of respondents chose that response category and a dash (-) represents no response.*
  - *A caret (^) denotes rounding. Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half of one percent.*
  - *Sample A was asked of ½ of the sample, N=252. Sample B was asked of ½ of the sample, N=248.*
  - *6/14: Trend data from a telephone survey of 500 Registered Voters conducted June 17-19, 2014.*
  - *5/16: Trend data from a telephone survey of 500 Registered Voters conducted May 7, 9-11, 2016.*
  - *4/18: Trend data from a telephone survey of 500 Registered Voters conducted April 12-17, 2018.*
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Thinking about you some more—

1. 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? **(ROTATE PUNCHES 1-5 TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

<b><u>4/18</u></b>	<b><u>3/20</u></b>	
14%	18%	Once or Twice
14%	16%	3-5 times
16%	12%	6-10 times
14%	15%	10-20 times
32%	27%	More than 20 times
11%	12%	NEVER <b>(DO NOT READ)</b>
*	*	UNSURE/REFUSED <b>(DO NOT READ)</b>
<b>89%^</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>TOTAL VISITED</b>

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2. And what about state lands, such as Montana wildlife management areas, state parks, fishing access sites and trust lands? How many times do you think you have visited those areas over the past year? **(ROTATE PUNCHES 1-5 TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

15%	Once or Twice
13%	3-5 times
14%	6-10 times
18%	10-20 times
30%	More than 20 times
11%	NEVER <b>(DO NOT READ)</b>
--	UNSURE/REFUSED <b>(DO NOT READ)</b>
<b>89%^</b>	<b>TOTAL VISITED</b>

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3. When you think about the presence of national public lands in Montana – do you think that having such lands ... **(ROTATE PUNCHES 1 AND 2)**

<b><u>4/18</u></b>	<b><u>3/20</u></b>	
82%	89%	Helps our economy
3%	2%	Hurts our economy
12%	7%	Has little impact on our economy
3%	2%	UNSURE/REFUSED <b>(DO NOT READ)</b>

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4. Here in Montana, there are seven areas of public lands protected as Wilderness Study Areas managed by the U.S. Forest Service. These seven Wilderness Study Areas include such places as the Big Snowy Mountains, the West Pioneers and the Gallatin Range. These public lands are accessible to hunters, anglers, hikers, and others on foot and horse, and allow grazing, mountain bikes, and motorized vehicle use in limited areas, but do not allow mining, drilling, or logging. Only Congress can change the status of these areas, so would you prefer that Congress --

**(ROTATE PUNCHES 1-3; ALWAYS ASK 4 LAST)**

- 8% Eliminate existing protections in all seven areas
- 14% Add protections in some areas and eliminate protections in others
- 23% Increase protections in all seven areas
- 52% Keep the seven areas as they are now

3% UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

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5. And congressional action to address Wilderness Study Areas can often take years, so in the meantime, should these lands --

- 81% Continue to be treated as they are now, mostly to conserve them for recreation and wildlife habitat,

...OR...

- 15% Allow changes in the uses such as oil and gas exploration and establishment of new or expanded motorized recreation?

- 1% BOTH **(DO NOT READ)**
  - 1% NEITHER **(DO NOT READ)**
  - 2% UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**
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Thinking specifically about the following proposals regarding public lands here in Montana – For each one, please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

**(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK:) Is that strongly SUPPORT/OPPOSE or just somewhat?**

6. 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?

<u>5/16</u>	<u>4/18</u>	<u>3/20</u>	
35%	36%	36%	Strongly Support
39%	37%	39%	Somewhat Support
7%	8%	9%	Somewhat Oppose
11%	8%	8%	Strongly Oppose
6%	11%	8%	UNSURE (DO NOT READ)
1%	*	*	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
<b>74%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
<b>18%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>

7. The Badger-Two Medicine area of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, which connects Glacier National Park with the Bob Marshall Wilderness is considered sacred by the Blackfeet Tribe. Along with outdoor recreation groups and others from the surrounding area, the Blackfeet Tribe proposes designating the land a Cultural Heritage Area in order to protect its cultural and wildlife values. Under this, the Badger-Two Medicine would continue to be accessible to hunters, anglers, hikers, and others on foot and horseback and remain off-limits to mining, oil and gas development, and the use of motorized or off-road vehicles. Does this sound like something you would support or oppose for this area?

58%	STRONGLY SUPPORT
21%	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
8%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
8%	STRONGLY OPPOSE
5%	UNSURE (DO NOT READ)
--	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
<b>79%</b>	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
<b>16%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>

I'm going to read you a number of potential aspects of a plan to protect the Badger-Two Medicine area's natural and cultural values. For each one, please tell me how important you think it is that the plan for this area include that particular element - is it **(ROTATE)** extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important?

**RANKED BY % 2020 EXTREMELY/VERY IMPORTANT**

	TOT IMPT	EXT/VERY IMPT	EXT IMPT	VERY IMPT	SMWT IMPT	NOT IMPT	(DNR) DK	(DNR) REF
The first/next one is...(RANDOMIZE)								
8.	Conserve wildlife habitat for species such as elk, native trout and mountain goats <b>(ASKED OF N=291 RESPONDENTS)</b>							
4/18	94%^	73%	31%	42%	21%	5%	*	1%
3/20	93%^	80%^	44%	35%	13%	6%	1%	*
11.	Continue to allow all existing recreational opportunities for those who come to hike, camp, fish, hunt, and recreate here either on foot or horseback <b>(ASKED OF N=288 RESPONDENTS)</b>							
	94%	75%	32%	43%	19%	4%	1%	1%
12.	Provide opportunities for community input in how the land is managed and conserved <b>(ASKED OF N=288 RESPONDENTS)</b>							
4/18	96%	69%	22%	47%	27%	3%	1%	*
3/20	95%^	71%^	31%	41%	24%	3%	1%	--
13.	Protect archaeological and cultural sites considered sacred by the Blackfeet Tribe <b>(ASKED OF N=291 RESPONDENTS)</b>							
4/18	92%^	69%	32%	37%	22%	7%	*	1%
3/20	92%	67%	36%	31%	25%	8%	*	--
10.	Create jobs in nearby communities <b>(ASKED OF N=291 RESPONDENTS)</b>							
4/18	92%	58%	21%	37%	34%	8%	*	--
3/20	89%	61%^	26%	34%	29%	8%	1%	1%
9.	Provide a role for the Blackfeet tribe in managing these lands, which does not exist today <b>(ASKED OF N=288 RESPONDENTS)</b>							
4/18	77%	49%	20%	29%	28%	19%	3%	1%
3/20	79%	52%	24%	28%	27%	18%	3%	--

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There are two other proposals concerning existing public lands here in Montana that have been developed by local land users such as hunters, anglers, ranchers, business owners and others over several years – For each one, please tell me if that seems like something you would **(ROTATE)** support or oppose – **(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK:)** Is that strongly **SUPPORT/OPPOSE** or just somewhat?

<b>TOT SUPPORT</b>	<b>STRONGLY SUPPORT</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT SUPPORT</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT OPPOSE</b>	<b>STRONGLY OPPOSE</b>	<b>UNSURE/REF (DNR)</b>
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The first/next one is...**(RANDOMIZE)**

14. Increasing protections on national forest lands in western Montana, near the town of Lincoln, by promoting forest restoration, protecting existing snowmobile access, and providing a better trail system for motorized recreation and mountain bikes to help avoid conflicts with local property owners. The proposal would add fifty-five thousand acres of Wilderness in the headwaters of the Big Blackfoot River, including additions to the Scapegoat Wilderness and exclude new mining and oil and gas development for around one hundred and twenty thousand acres mostly along the continental divide and in the Blackfoot River’s headwaters.

<b>72%<sup>^</sup></b>	40%	31%	11%	12%	5%
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15. Increasing protections for the Wilderness Study Area in the Gallatin Range, which borders Yellowstone National Park, by maintaining the existing recreation uses, conserving some areas for wildlife migration, protecting the headwaters of the Gallatin and Yellowstone rivers and designating some new wilderness. Mining, new road building, oil and gas development would not be allowed on these lands. The proposal was put forward by a partnership of local residents including sportsmen, business owners, recreationists, conservationists and others.

<b>77%</b>	52%	25%	7%	11%	5%
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16. As you may know, all of these proposals we have described must be approved by Congress in order to be put in place. Assuming that each proposal is developed through a public process including community input in Montana, would you say that Congress should act on each of these proposals **(READ IN ORDER. DO NOT ROTATE)**

27%	Within six months of the plan being submitted to congress
39%	Within one year
19%	Within two years
5%	Within five years
6%	Five years or longer

2%	No real timeline is needed <b>(do not read)</b>
3%	Unsure/refused <b>(do not read)</b>

<b>84%<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>LESS THAN 5 YEARS</b>
<b>12%<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>WITHIN 5 YEARS OR LONGER</b>

17. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is our nation’s strongest rivers protection law. It safeguards rivers by ensuring that they remain free-flowing, clean, and not harmed by new projects or development, such as new dams. It does not affect private property rights, water rights, or public access. Currently Montana has five wild and scenic rivers. The Montana Headwaters Legacy Act asks Congress to designate segments of seventeen rivers flowing through public lands as Wild and Scenic rivers, including segments of the Gallatin (“GAL-uh-tin”), Madison, Yellowstone and Smith rivers. Would you support or oppose this proposal?

**(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK:) Is that strongly SUPPORT/OPPOSE or just somewhat?**

50%	STRONGLY SUPPORT
28%	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
7%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
8%	STRONGLY OPPOSE
6%	UNSURE <b>(DO NOT READ)</b>
*	REFUSED <b>(DO NOT READ)</b>
<b>79%^</b>	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
<b>15%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>

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:

**RANKED BY % POSITIVE IMPACT IN 2020**

	<b>POSITIVE IMPACT</b>	<b>NO IMPACT</b>	<b>NEGATIVE IMPACT</b>	<b>(DNR) DK/REF</b>
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The first/next one is...(RANDOMIZE)

22. Protecting clean water **(SAMPLE B, N=248 RESPONDENTS)**

<b>6/14</b>	81%	13%	2%	4%
<b>5/16</b>	85%	10%	4%	2%
<b>4/18</b>	85%	8%	2%	5%
<b>3/20</b>	91%	5%	2%	2%

25. Opportunities for children to explore and learn about nature **(SAMPLE B, N=248 RESPONDENTS)**

<b>6/14</b>	85%	11%	2%	2%
<b>5/16</b>	92%	6%	*	1%
<b>4/18</b>	89%	8%	2%	1%
<b>3/20</b>	89%	8%	2%	1%

Continued...

	<b>POSITIVE IMPACT</b>	<b>NO IMPACT</b>	<b>NEGATIVE IMPACT</b>	<b>(DNR) DK/REF</b>
24.	<b>The overall quality of life in Montana (SAMPLE B, N=248 RESPONDENTS)</b>			
<b>6/14</b>	80%	11%	6%	3%
<b>5/16</b>	83%	13%	3%	1%
<b>4/18</b>	87%	9%	3%	1%
<b>3/20</b>	89%	7%	3%	1%
18.	<b>Tourism (SAMPLE A, N=252 RESPONDENTS)</b>			
<b>6/14</b>	84%	9%	4%	4%
<b>5/16</b>	86%	7%	6%	1%
<b>4/18</b>	86%	5%	4%	5%
<b>3/20</b>	86%	6%	6%	2%
19.	<b>Wildlife (SAMPLE A, N=252 RESPONDENTS)</b>			
<b>6/14</b>	81%	10%	5%	4%
<b>5/16</b>	87%	9%	3%	1%
<b>4/18</b>	85%	8%	3%	4%
<b>3/20</b>	86%	5%	5%	4%
20.	<b>Maintaining what is best about Montana (SAMPLE A, N=252 RESPONDENTS)</b>			
<b>6/14</b>	81%	8%	6%	5%
<b>5/16</b>	83%	13%	2%	1%
<b>4/18</b>	90%	6%	2%	2%
<b>3/20</b>	86%	3%	7%	4%
23.	<b>Protecting our culture and heritage (SAMPLE B, N=248 RESPONDENTS)</b>			
<b>6/14</b>	74%	18%	4%	3%
<b>5/16</b>	83%	14%	2%	1%
<b>4/18</b>	81%	12%	6%	1%
<b>3/20</b>	84%	9%	4%	3%
21.	<b>Opportunities for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation (SAMPLE A, N=252 RESPONDENTS)</b>			
<b>6/14</b>	80%	11%	6%	3%
<b>5/16</b>	80%	8%	10%	2%
<b>4/18</b>	87%	6%	3%	4%
<b>3/20</b>	84%	6%	8%	2%

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Thinking about some other issues here in Montana –

26. The outdoor recreation economy is made up of businesses that serve Montanans and visitors who want to hunt, fish, camp, boat, ski, and see wildlife, as well as businesses that manufacture and sell equipment for those activities. When you think of Montana’s economy do you think these types of business and jobs are... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

35% Extremely important  
40% Very important  
22% Somewhat important  
2% Not that important  
\* Not at all important

\* UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

**98%^ TOTAL IMPORTANT**

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27. Three years ago, Montana created an Office of Outdoor Recreation to work with these mostly small businesses to help grow the outdoor recreation economy and to support the public lands, wildlife habitat and waters on which these jobs depend.

Do you support or oppose the Office of Outdoor Recreation continuing to work with these Montana businesses and efforts in the state?

**(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK:)** And would that be STRONGLY (support/oppose) or just SOMEWHAT (support/oppose)?

56% STRONGLY SUPPORT  
31% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT  
6% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE  
3% STRONGLY OPPOSE

5% DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**  
\* REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

**86%^ TOTAL SUPPORT**

**9% TOTAL OPPOSE**

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28. Would you support or oppose a small increase in local taxes or fees in order to protect water, conserve wildlife habitat and ensure opportunities for outdoor recreation in your part of Montana?

**(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK:)** And would you STRONGLY (response) or just SOMEWHAT (response)?

32% STRONGLY SUPPORT  
28% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT  
10% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE  
26% STRONGLY OPPOSE  
  
4% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)  
  
**60% TOTAL SUPPORT**  
**36% TOTAL OPPOSE**

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D1. To ensure we have a representative sample of voters in your state, please tell me in what year you were born.

19% 18 - 34  
24% 35 - 44  
15% 45 - 54  
22% 55 - 64  
20% 65 AND ABOVE  
  
\* REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

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Thinking about you for a moment –

D3. Do you consider yourself to be... a conservationist?

<u>6/14</u>	<u>5/16</u>	<u>4/18</u>	<u>3/20</u>	
67%	75%	74%	79%	YES
27%	21%	21%	18%	NO
5%	4%	5%	3%	DK/REF ( <b>DO NOT READ</b> )

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D4. Which of the following types of outdoor activities do you participate in regularly? (**ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES**)

**\*\*PERCENTAGES ADD UP TO GREATER THAN 100% BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE ALLOWED\*\***

- 68% Hiking or trail running
  - 67% Camping
  - 49% Kayaking, canoeing or boating
  - 47% Bird watching and viewing wildlife
  - 39% Snow shoeing, skiing or boarding
  - 31% Riding an off-road vehicle or snowmobile
  - 23% Mountain biking
  
  - Other (**do not read**)
  - 7% None of these (**do not read**)
  - Unsure/refused (**do not read**)
- 

And for statistical purposes only --

D5. How would you describe the area where you currently live?

- 24% A CITY
  - 9% A SUBURBAN AREA
  - 27% A SMALL TOWN
  - 39% A RURAL AREA
  
  - 1% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE (**DO NOT READ**)
  - REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)
- 

D6. Do you consider yourself a hunter, an angler or both?

- 12% HUNTER ONLY
  - 13% ANGLER ONLY
  - 39% BOTH
  - 36% NO/NEITHER
  
  - \* UNSURE/REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)
-

D7. And, in politics today, do you consider yourself to be ....(ROTATE)

31%	REPUBLICAN
26%	DEMOCRAT
43%	INDEPENDENT/SOMETHING ELSE
*	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

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D8. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be (ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

40%	CONSERVATIVE
17%	LIBERAL
39%	MODERATE
3%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

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D9. Gender (BY OBSERVATION)

50%	MALE
50%	FEMALE

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