

2022 University of Montana Statewide Survey

Interview Schedule

New Bridge Strategy / FM3 Research

April 4-10, 2022

N=500 Voters in MT

Margin of Error: $\pm 4.38\%$



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 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the sample, N=252. Sample B was asked of $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.*
 - *3/20: Trend data from a telephone survey of 500 Registered Voters conducted March 19-24, 2020.*
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1. 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... **(READ; DO NOT ROTATE)**

<u>6/14</u>	<u>5/16</u>	<u>4/18</u>	<u>4/22</u>	
48%	41%	48%	44%	Very important, they are a primary factor in deciding whether to support an elected public official
38%	48%	39%	41%	Somewhat important; they are one of several issues you consider
9%	7%	9%	8%	Not too important; they are not a significant factor considering in deciding whether to support an elected public official
4%	4%	4%	6%	Not at all important for you in deciding whether to support an elected official
1%	*	*	1%	UNSURE/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
86%	88%^	87%	85%	TOTAL IMPORTANT
13%	11%	13%	14%	TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

2. How long have you lived in Montana? **(DO NOT READ CHOICES – FIT TO CATEGORY)**

3%	Less than 5 years
6%	5-10 years
5%	11-15 years
8%	16-20 years
16%	21-29 years
36%	30+ years
26%	All my life/native (DO NOT READ)
--	Unsure/refused (DO NOT READ)

(ASK IF Q2:2-7)

3. And, compared to five years ago, would you say that the quality of life in your area of Montana is... **(ROTATE)**

<u>Asked</u>	<u>All</u>	
7%	7%	BETTER
55%	53%	WORSE
		...Or...
36%	35%	ABOUT THE SAME
--	--	WAS NOT HERE FIVE YEARS AGO (DO NOT READ)
2%	2%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

The following is a list of issues some people say are problems in Montana. For each one, please indicate if you think it is **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)** an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in the state.

RANKED BY % EXTREMELY SERIOUS

	Ext/Very Serious	Total Serious	Ext Serious	Very Serious	Somewhat Serious	Not a Problem	DK/Ref (DNR/Not Online)
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The first/next one is... **(RANDOMIZE)**

5.	Lack of affordable housing	77%	92%	44%	33%	15%	7%	1%
4.	Development sprawling into what were once ranches or open lands	52%	85%	22%	30%	33%	14%	1%
6.	Changing character of the state	45%	77%	19%	26%	32%	17%	6%
8.	Crowding and more people at places where you recreate outdoors	45%[^]	76%[^]	18%	26%	31%	22%	2%
7.	Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife	43%	77%	16%	27%	34%	21%	2%
9.	Loss of access to national forests, lakes and other public lands	41%	70%[^]	15%	26%	30%	27%	2%

10. In general, do you think the rate of growth and development in your community is **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)** too fast, about right, or too slow?

57% Too fast
32% About right
10% Too slow

1% UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

11. Would you **(ROTATE)** agree or disagree with the following statement: "Wildlife are an important part of my daily life."

(IF CHOICE GIVEN THEN ASK) And do you (agree/disagree) strongly or just somewhat?

61% Strongly agree
19% Somewhat agree
16% Somewhat disagree
2% Strongly disagree

1% UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

80% TOTAL AGREE
19%^ TOTAL DISAGREE

Every year, big game animals including pronghorn antelope, mule deer and elk migrate between summer and winter habitat and feeding grounds in Montana.

12. How important do you think it is for big game to be able to move between summer and winter habitat? Do you think it is... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

78% Very important
18% Somewhat important
2% Not too important
2% Not important at all

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

96% TOTAL IMPORTANT
3%^ TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

Let me ask you about some specific actions which Montana is currently taking or could take in the future regarding migrating animals. For each one, please indicate whether you (**ROTATE**) support or oppose that proposal.

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

RANKED BY % STRONGLY SUPPORT

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Str Support	Smwt Support	Smwt Oppose	Str Oppose	(DNR) DK	(DNR) Ref
The first/next one is...(RANDOMIZE)								
15.	87%	11%	63%	24%	4%	7%	1%	1%
Constructing wildlife crossing structures, such as over-passes or under-passes across major highways that intersect with known, concentrated migration routes								
13.	86%	12%	54%	32%	5%	7%	2%	*
Providing incentives to private landowners like ranchers who voluntarily agree to conserve some of their land in migration routes as wildlife habitat								
14.	81%	14%^	49%	32%	7%	8%	4%	1%
Identifying large blocks of existing public lands that would be managed and conserved, with an emphasis on conserving wildlife migration routes								

Thinking about you some more—

16.	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)							
	4/18	3/20	4/22					
	14%	18%	16%	Once or Twice				
	14%	16%	16%	3-5 times				
	16%	12%	16%	6-10 times				
	14%	15%	9%	11-19 times				
	32%	27%	36%	More than 20 times				
	11%	12%	7%	NEVER (DO NOT READ)				
	*	*	*	UNSURE/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)				
	89%^	88%	93%	TOTAL VISITED				

17. 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)**

<u>3/20</u>	<u>4/22</u>	
15%	11%	Once or twice
13%	16%	3-5 times
14%	14%	6-10 times
18%	15%	11-19 times
30%	36%	More than 20 times
11%	7%	NEVER (DO NOT READ)
--	*	UNSURE/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
89%^	92%	TOTAL VISITED

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

<u>4/18</u>	<u>3/20</u>	<u>4/22</u>	
82%	89%	78%	Helps our economy
3%	2%	5%	Hurts our economy
12%	7%	14%	Has little impact on our economy
3%	2%	3%	UNSURE/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

19. In Montana, Native American tribes are interested in stronger partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and other agencies which manage public lands. How important would you say it is for tribes to have a strong role in helping to manage public lands they consider to be sacred or historically important to them? Is it...**(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

52%	Very important
27%	Somewhat important
7%	Not very important
12%	Not at all important
2%	UNSURE (DO NOT READ)
79%	TOTAL IMPORTANT
19%	TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

20. One national proposal, the America the Beautiful Initiative, is to support locally led and community-designed conservation efforts to meet an overall national goal of conserving thirty percent of land and inland waters in America, and thirty percent of its ocean areas by the year 2030. Does that sound like something you would **(ROTATE)** support or oppose?

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

36%	Strongly Support
30%	Somewhat Support
8%	Somewhat Oppose
17%	Strongly Oppose
8%	UNSURE (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
66%	TOTAL SUPPORT
25%	TOTAL OPPOSE

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21. 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)**

3/20	4/22	
8%	6%	Eliminate existing protections in all seven areas
14%	19%	Add protections in some areas and eliminate protections in others
23%	23%	Increase protections in all seven areas
52%	49%	Keep the seven areas as they are now
3%	3%	UNSURE/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

22. And congressional action to address Wilderness Study Areas can often take years, so in the meantime, should these lands – **(ROTATE :1-2)**

<u>3/20</u>	<u>4/22</u>	
81%	72%	Continue to be treated as they are now, mostly to conserve them for recreation and wildlife habitat, ...OR...
15%	23%	Allow changes in the uses such as oil and gas exploration and establishment of new or expanded motorized recreation?
1%	1%	BOTH (DO NOT READ)
1%	1%	NEITHER (DO NOT READ)
2%	3%	UNSURE/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

There are three 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?

RANKED BY % STRONGLY SUPPORT

Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Unsure/Ref (DNR)
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The first/next one is...**(RANDOMIZE)**

24. Passing legislation to enhance current 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.

77%[^]	21%	50%	26%	9%	12%	3%
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Continued...

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Unsure/Ref (DNR)
25. Enacting the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act in western Montana, which would ensure hunting and fishing access, safeguard streams flowing into the Blackfoot River, add nearly eighty thousand acres of existing public lands to the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Mission Mountains wilderness areas, and create two new recreation areas and sustain timber harvest and habitat restoration	83%	14%	48%	35%	6%	8%	3%
23. 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.	2021 72%^	23%	40%	31%	11%	12%	5%
	2022 71%	25%	41%	30%	11%	14%	4%

Presidents of both parties, including most recently President Trump, have used the ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments in order to maintain public access and protect the land and wildlife for future generations. Knowing that –

26. Do you support or oppose Presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments?

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

<u>4/18*</u>	<u>4/22</u>	
41%	43%	Strongly Support
37%	34%	Somewhat Support
6%	8%	Somewhat Oppose
10%	10%	Strongly Oppose
4%	3%	UNSURE (DO NOT READ)
1%	1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
78%	78%^	TOTAL SUPPORT
17%^	18%	TOTAL OPPOSE

*In 2018, we asked about Presidents having the ability, rather than continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments. The introduction was updated to reflect President Trump’s use of this tool as well.

27. Currently, about one third of taxes from the sale of recreational marijuana in the state are dedicated to maintaining state parks, improving trails and recreation opportunities, expanding public access, and conserving wildlife habitat at risk of development. Knowing this, would you prefer that the State Legislature...(ROTATE :1-2)

- 82% Continue to have one third of marijuana taxes dedicated as they are now – specifically to state parks, trails, public access and wildlife habitat
...OR...
 - 12% Redirect these funds to other purposes
 - 6% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)
-

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

- 19% 18 to 34
 - 24% 35 to 44
 - 14% 45 to 54
 - 22% 55 to 64
 - 20% 65 and over
 - 1% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)
-

Thinking about you for a moment –

D2. Do you consider yourself to be... a conservationist?

<u>6/14</u>	<u>5/16</u>	<u>4/18</u>	<u>3/20</u>	<u>4/22</u>	
67%	75%	74%	79%	79%	YES
27%	21%	21%	18%	16%	NO
5%	4%	5%	3%	5%	DK/REF (DO NOT READ)

D3. 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****

- 70% Hiking or trail running
 - 61% Camping
 - 52% Kayaking, canoeing or boating
 - 49% Bird watching and viewing wildlife
 - 36% Riding an off-road vehicle or snowmobile
 - 36% Snow shoeing, skiing or boarding
 - 22% Mountain biking

 - 7% OTHER (SPECIFY _____) (**DO NOT READ**)
 - 6% NONE OF THESE (**DO NOT READ**)
 - UNSURE/REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)
-

D4. How would you describe the area where you currently live?

- 25% A city
 - 12% A suburban area
 - 26% A small town
 - 37% A rural area

 - * DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE (**DO NOT READ**)
 - * REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

 - 37% TOTAL CITY/SUBURB**
 - 63% TOTAL SMALL TOWN/RURAL**
-

D5. Do you consider yourself a hunter, an angler or both?

- 7% HUNTER ONLY
 - 15% ANGLER ONLY
 - 43% BOTH
 - 35% NO/NEITHER

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

D6. And, in politics today, do you consider yourself to be**(ROTATE)**

33%	REPUBLICAN
23%	DEMOCRAT
43%	INDEPENDENT/ SOMETHING ELSE
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

D7. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

45%	CONSERVATIVE
32%	MODERATE
19%	LIBERAL
2%	DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ)
2%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

D8. Gender **(BY OBSERVATION)**

50%	Male
50%	Female
