

# MONTANA SURVEY

## Interview Schedule

New Bridge Strategy/FM3

March 23-28, 2024

N=500 Voters Statewide

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 carrot (^) 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=250. Sample B was asked of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the sample, N=250.*
- *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.*
- *4/22: Trend data from a telephone survey of 500 Registered Voters conducted April 4-10, 2022.*

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**(ASKED OF N=259)**

1. **ONLINE ONLY** When you think about life here in Montana and what you would like to keep for future generations growing up in the state, what are the two or three things you would NOT want to change about Montana?

**SEE VERBATIM RESPONSES**

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2. 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>	<u>3/24</u>	
48%	41%	48%	44%	47%	Very important, they are a primary factor in deciding whether to support an elected public official
38%	48%	39%	41%	36%	Somewhat important; they are one of several issues you consider
9%	7%	9%	8%	10%	Not too important; they are not a significant factor considering in deciding whether to support an elected public official
4%	4%	4%	6%	7%	Not at all important for you in deciding whether to support an elected official
1%	*	*	1%	*	UNSURE/REFUSED <b>(DO NOT READ)</b>
<b>86%</b>	<b>88%^</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>TOTAL IMPORTANT</b>
<b>13%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT</b>

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

10%	Less than 5 years
10%	5-10 years
7%	11-15 years
6%	16-20 years
14%	21-29 years
24%	30+ years
29%	All my life/native <b>(DO NOT READ)</b>
1%	Unsure/refused <b>(DO NOT READ/NOT ONLINE)</b>

**(ASKED IF Q3:2-7, N=447)**

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

**SHOWN AMONG THOSE ASKED THIS QUESTION**

<b>4/22</b>	<b>3/24</b>	
7%	6%	BETTER
55%	62%	WORSE
		...or...
36%	31%	ABOUT THE SAME
--	--	WAS NOT HERE FIVE YEARS AGO <b>(DO NOT READ/NOT ONLINE)</b>
2%	1%	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED <b>(DO NOT READ/NOT ONLINE)</b>

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. The first/next one is... **(RANDOMIZE)**

**RANKED BY % EXTREMELY/VERY SERIOUS**

	<b>EXT/VERY SERIOUS</b>	<b>TOTAL SERIOUS</b>	<b>EXTRMLY SERIOUS</b>	<b>VERY SERIOUS</b>	<b>SMWHT SERIOUS</b>	<b>NOT A PROBLEM</b>	<b>DK/REF (DNR/NOT ONLINE)</b>
9. Drought <b>(ASKED OF SAMPLE B, N=250)</b>	<b>60%^</b>	<b>90%^</b>	23%	36%	30%	10%	*
7. Development sprawling into what were once ranches or open lands							
<b>3/24</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>90%</b>	32%	27%	31%	9%	1%
<b>4/22</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>85%</b>	22%	30%	33%	14%	1%
5. (T) Changing character of the state							
<b>3/24</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>84%</b>	30%	27%	27%	15%	1%
<b>4/22</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>77%</b>	19%	26%	32%	17%	6%
8. Low snowpack <b>(ASKED OF SAMPLE A, N=250)</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>78%</b>	29%	27%	22%	22%	*
6. Crowding and more people at places where you recreate outdoors							
<b>3/24</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>78%</b>	23%	23%	32%	22%	--
<b>4/22</b>	<b>45%^</b>	<b>76%^</b>	18%	26%	31%	22%	2%

10. In general, do you think the rate of growth and development in your community is too fast, about right, or too slow?

<u>4/22</u>	<u>3/24</u>	
57%	57%	TOO FAST
32%	33%	ABOUT RIGHT
10%	9%	TOO SLOW
1%	1%	UNSURE/REFUSED ( <b>DO NOT READ/NOT ONLINE</b> )

Thinking about you some more—

11. 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**)

<u>4/18</u>	<u>3/20</u>	<u>4/22</u>	<u>3/24</u>	
14%	18%	16%	17%	Once or Twice
14%	16%	16%	16%	3-5 times
16%	12%	16%	15%	6-10 times
14%	15%	9%	16%	11-19 times
32%	27%	36%	31%	More than 20 times
11%	12%	7%	5%	NEVER ( <b>DO NOT READ</b> )
*	*	*	*	UNSURE/REFUSED ( <b>DO NOT READ</b> )
<b>89%<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>TOTAL VISITED</b>

12. 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>	<u>3/24</u>	
82%	89%	78%	83%	Helps our economy
3%	2%	5%	4%	Hurts our economy
12%	7%	14%	12%	Has little impact on our economy
3%	2%	3%	1%	UNSURE/REFUSED ( <b>DO NOT READ</b> )

**(RANDOMIZE Q13-15)**

13. The Bureau of Land Management, the agency that manages more than 8 million acres and 2500 miles of streams in Montana's public lands, recently proposed a new rule, under which land restoration and conservation would be given the same level of consideration as uses like mining, oil and gas drilling, recreation, grazing, and timber harvesting. Do you support or oppose allowing conservation and restoration to be considered a use of these lands?

41%	STRONGLY SUPPORT
29%	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
12%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
16%	STRONGLY OPPOSE
1%	UNSURE ( <b>DO NOT READ/NOT ONLINE</b> )
1%	REFUSED ( <b>DO NOT READ/NOT ONLINE</b> )
<b>70%</b>	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
<b>28%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>

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14. The Smith River flows for 60 miles and empties into the Missouri River, just upstream of Great Falls. Do you support or oppose the U.S. Forest service having a public process that allows Montanans to weigh in on whether to allow any new hardrock mining on public lands at the headwaters of the Smith River?

50%	STRONGLY SUPPORT
23%	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
11%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
13%	STRONGLY OPPOSE
3%	UNSURE ( <b>DO NOT READ/NOT ONLINE</b> )
1%	REFUSED ( <b>DO NOT READ/NOT ONLINE</b> )
<b>73%</b>	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
<b>24%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>

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15. 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 ("GAL-uh-tin"), 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)**

<u>3/20</u>	<u>4/22</u>	<u>3/24</u>	
8%	6%	9%	ELIMINATE EXISTING PROTECTIONS IN ALL SEVEN AREAS
14%	19%	15%	ADD PROTECTIONS IN SOME AREAS AND ELMINATE PROTECTIONS IN OTHERS
23%	23%	31%	INCREASE PROTECTIONS IN ALL SEVEN AREAS
52%	49%	44%	KEEP THE SEVEN AREAS AS THEY ARE NOW
3%	3%	1%	UNSURE/REFUSED <b>(DO NOT READ/NOT ONLINE)</b>

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There are some 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 –

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

**RANKED BY % TOTAL SUPPORT**

	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	<b>STRONGLY SUPPORT</b>	<b>SMWHT SUPPORT</b>	<b>SMWHT OPPOSE</b>	<b>STRONGLY OPPOSE</b>	<b>DK/REF (DNR/NOT ONLINE)</b>
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The first/next one is...**(ROTATE)**

17. 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

<b>3/24</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>14%</b>	52%	33%	6%	8%	1%
<b>4/22</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>14%</b>	48%	35%	6%	8%	3%

18. Designating segments of twenty rivers and streams flowing through public lands as Wild and Scenic rivers, including segments of the Gallatin (“GAL-uh-tin”), Madison, Yellowstone and Smith rivers, which ensures those rivers remain free-flowing, clean, and not harmed by new projects or development, such as new dams, without affecting private property rights, water rights or public access

<b>83%</b>	<b>16%</b>	59%	24%	8%	8%	1%
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16. 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>3/24</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>22%</b>	45%	31%	9%	13%	2%
<b>4/22</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>25%</b>	41%	30%	11%	14%	4%
<b>3/20</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>23%</b>	40%	31%	11%	12%	5%

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Presidents of both parties 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...

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

<u>4/18*</u>	<u>4/22**</u>	<u>3/24</u>	
41%	43%	52%	Strongly Support
37%	34%	30%	Somewhat Support
6%	8%	8%	Somewhat Oppose
10%	10%	9%	Strongly Oppose
4%	3%	1%	UNSURE (DO NOT READ)
1%	1%	*	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
<b>78%</b>	<b>78%^</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
<b>17%^</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>

\*In 2018, we asked about Presidents having the ability, rather than continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments.

\*\* In 2022, the introduction was changed to reflect President Trump's use of this tool as well.

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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.

20%	18-34
23%	35-44
17%	45-54
19%	55-64
21%	65 AND ABOVE

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

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Thinking about you for a moment –

D3. Do you consider yourself a hunter, an angler or both?

8%	HUNTER ONLY
9%	ANGLER ONLY
48%	BOTH
34%	NO/NEITHER

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

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

- 71% HIKING OR TRAIL RUNNING
  - 68% CAMPING
  - 57% BIRD WATCHING AND VIEWING WILDLIFE
  - 56% KAYAKING, CANOEING OR BOATING
  - 45% SNOW SHOEING, SKIING OR BOARDING
  - 37% RIDING AN OFF-ROAD VEHICLE OR SNOWMOBILE
  - 26% MOUNTAIN BIKING
  
  - 13% OTHER **(DO NOT READ)**
  - 7% NONE OF THESE **(DO NOT READ/DO NOT ONLINE)**
  - UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ/DO NOT ONLINE)**
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**(ASK IF D4:1-3 OR D4:1-8)(N=480)**

21. In the last two or three years, have you made changes in where or when you recreate outdoors, due to ... **(ROTATE PUNCHES 1 AND 2. ACCEPT MULTIPLE PUNCHES)**

**DATA SHOWN AMONT THOSE ASKED THIS QUESTION**

- 52% CROWDING AND MORE PEOPLE
  - 35% CHANGES IN THE CLIMATE, SUCH AS FIRES OR LESS SNOW OR WATER
  
  - 1% OTHER REASONS **(DO NOT READ/DO NOT SHOW ONLINE)**
  - 36% NO/NOT CHANGED **(DO NOT READ/DO NOT SHOW ONLINE)**
  - \* UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ/DO NOT SHOW ONLINE)**
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And for statistical purposes only --

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

- 25% A CITY
  - 12% A SUBURBAN AREA
  - 27% A SMALL TOWN
  - 36% A RURAL AREA
  
  - DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ/DO NOT SHOW ONLINE)**
  - UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ/DO NOT SHOW ONLINE)**
-

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

34% REPUBLICAN  
23% DEMOCRAT  
43% INDEPENDENT/SOMETHING ELSE

\* REFUSED (DO NOT READ/DO NOT SHOW ONLINE)

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

43% CONSERVATIVE  
40% MODERATE  
17% LIBERAL

-- DON'T KNOW (DO NOT READ/DO NOT SHOW ONLINE)

\* REFUSED (DO NOT READ/DO NOT SHOW ONLINE)

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D8. Gender (BY OBSERVATION)

49% MALE  
49% FEMALE  
1% PREFER NOT TO SAY

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