

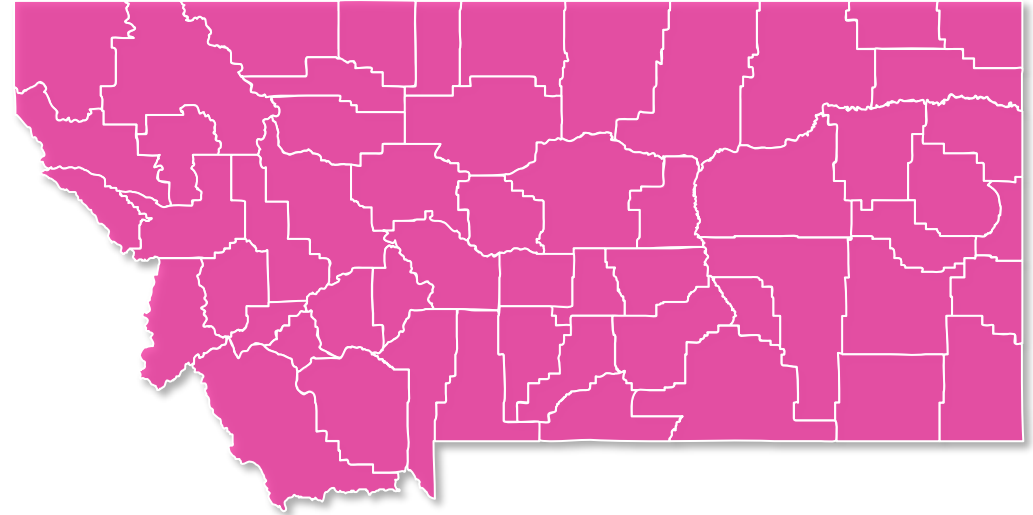
University of Montana Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Initiative

Montana Statewide Survey *March 2020*



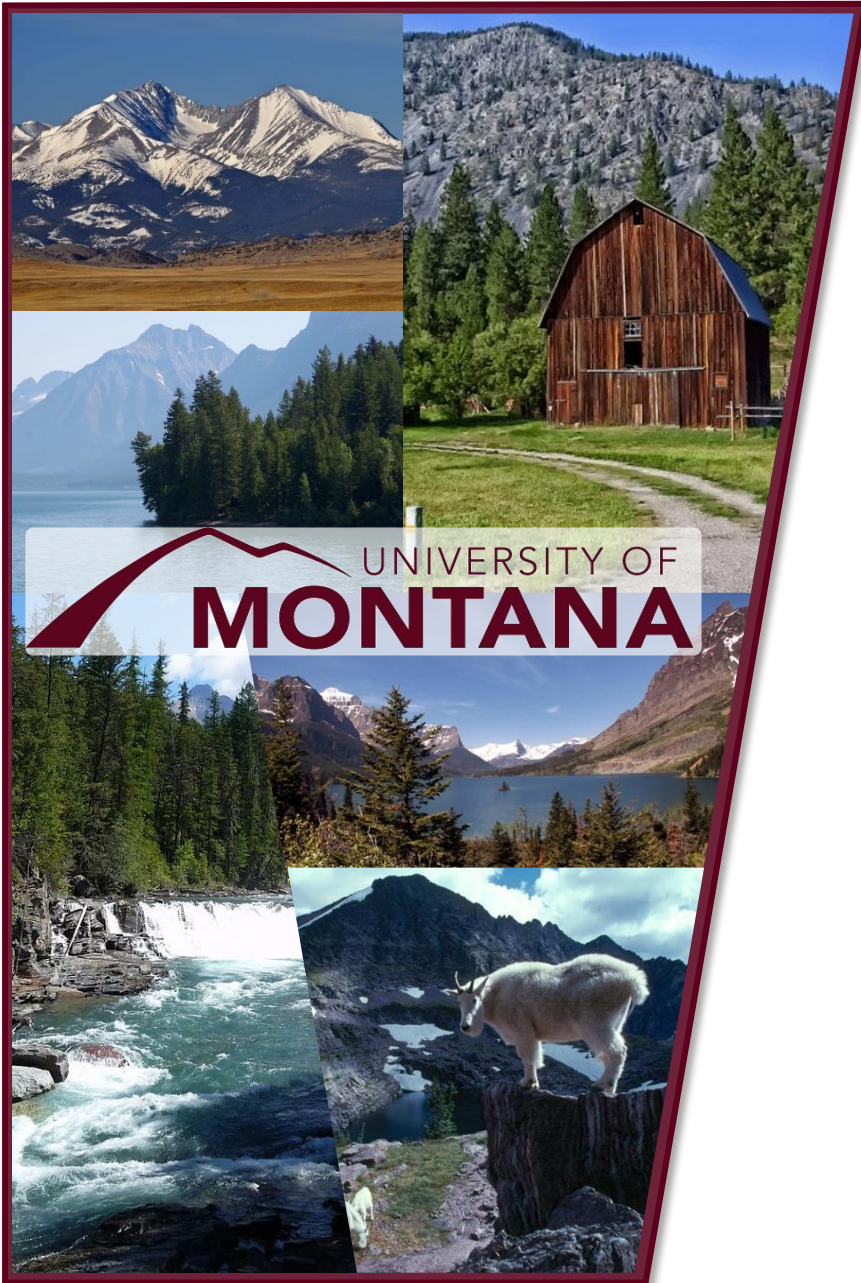
Methodology

- Survey was conducted by a bipartisan research team of New Bridge Strategies (Republican) and FM3 Research (Democrat).
- 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 March 19-24, 2020, on landline and cell phones.
- Trend data from similarly conducted surveys of N=500 registered voters conducted June 2014, May 2016, and April 2018.



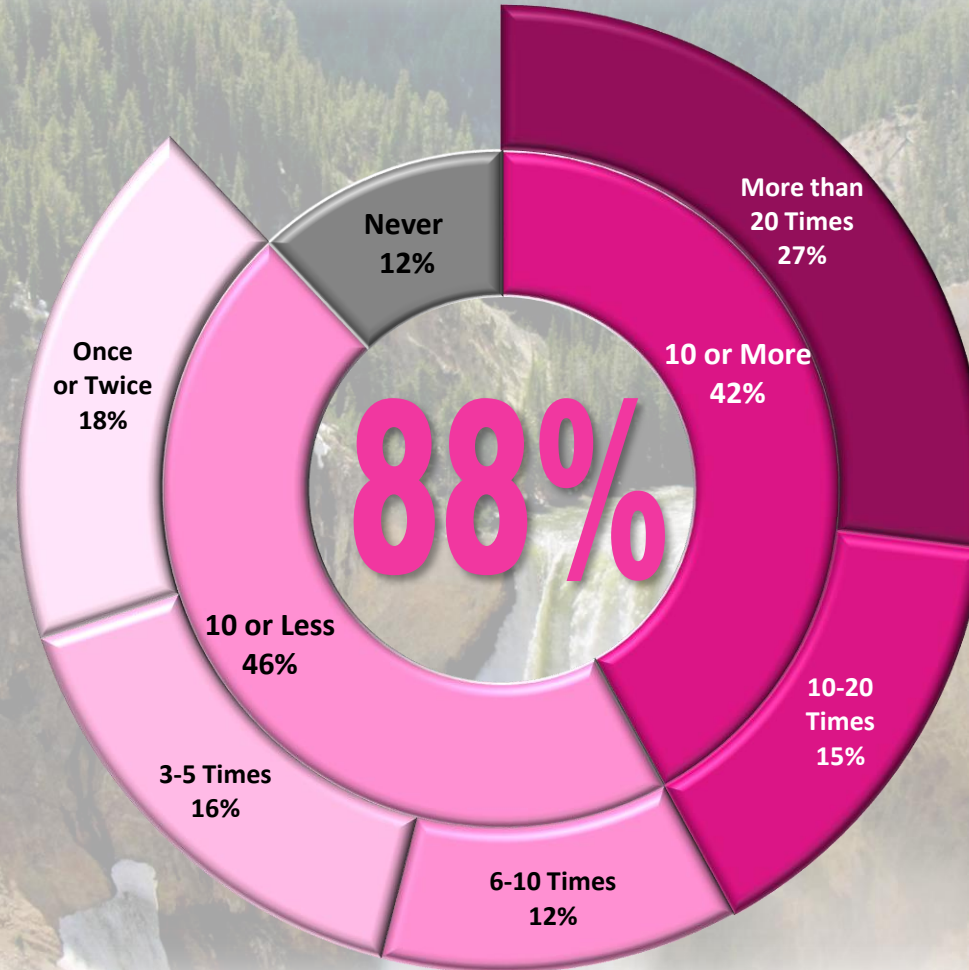
Bottom Line

- Montanans love their outdoor lifestyle of visiting national and state public lands, and engaging in a variety of outdoor recreation activities.
- Public lands and outdoor recreation businesses/jobs are considered critical to Montana's economy.
- Most voters indicate Wilderness Study Areas should be kept as is or have their protections increased.
- There is vast support across political parties, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and regionally for proposals aimed at increasing protections for existing public lands.
- Two-thirds of voters want publicly processed proposals acted on by Congress within one year.



Outdoor Recreation Habits

Nearly all Montanans have visited national public lands this past year; more than one-quarter have visited 20 or more times.

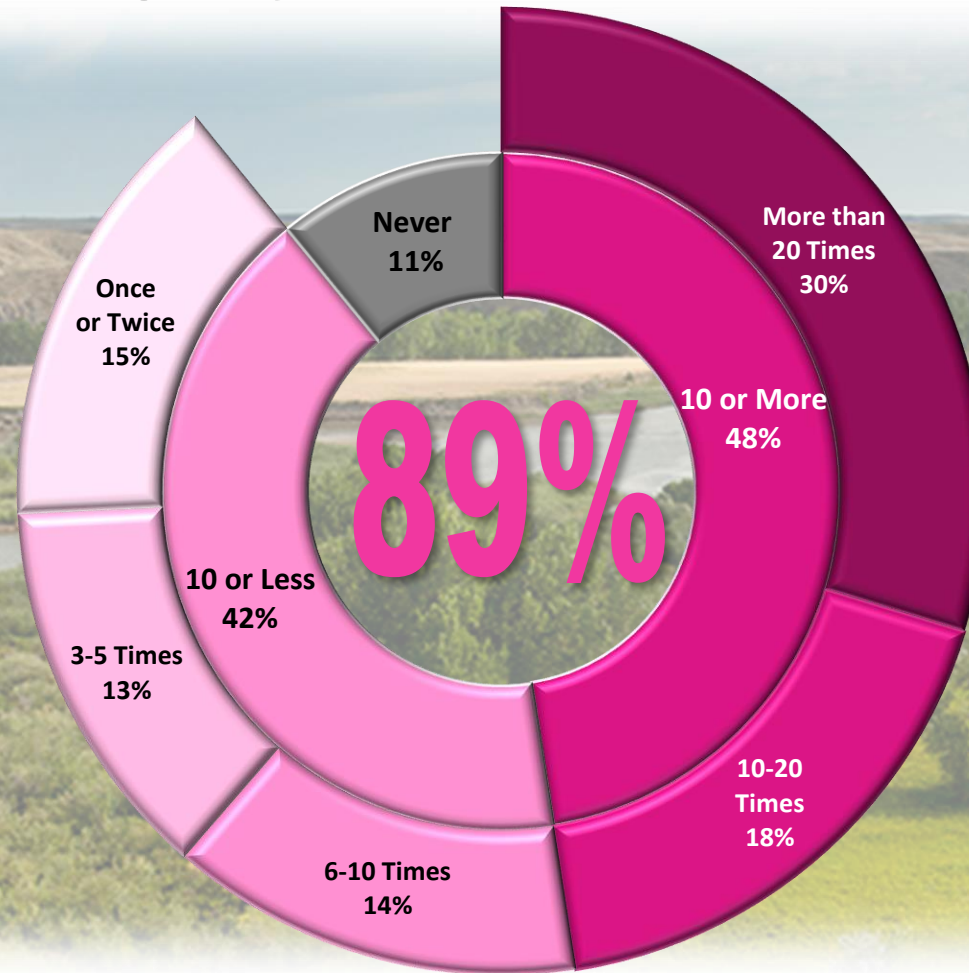


2018:
89% Visited Park
46% Visited 10+ Times
44% Visited <10 Times

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?

Due to rounding, totals may not equal the sum of individual answer choices or add up to 100%.

Montanans also enjoy visiting state lands, indicating they go to a state-run area slightly more often than a national park.



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?

Due to rounding, totals may not equal the sum of individual answer choices or add up to 100%.

Montanans regularly participate in a variety of outdoor activities.



68%

Hiking and
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

*Which of the following types of outdoor activities do you participate in regularly?
Multiple answers accepted.*

Nearly two-thirds of Montana residents consider themselves a sportsmen.



12%

Hunter Only



13%

Angler Only

39%

**Both Hunter
& Angler**

64%

Sportsmen

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

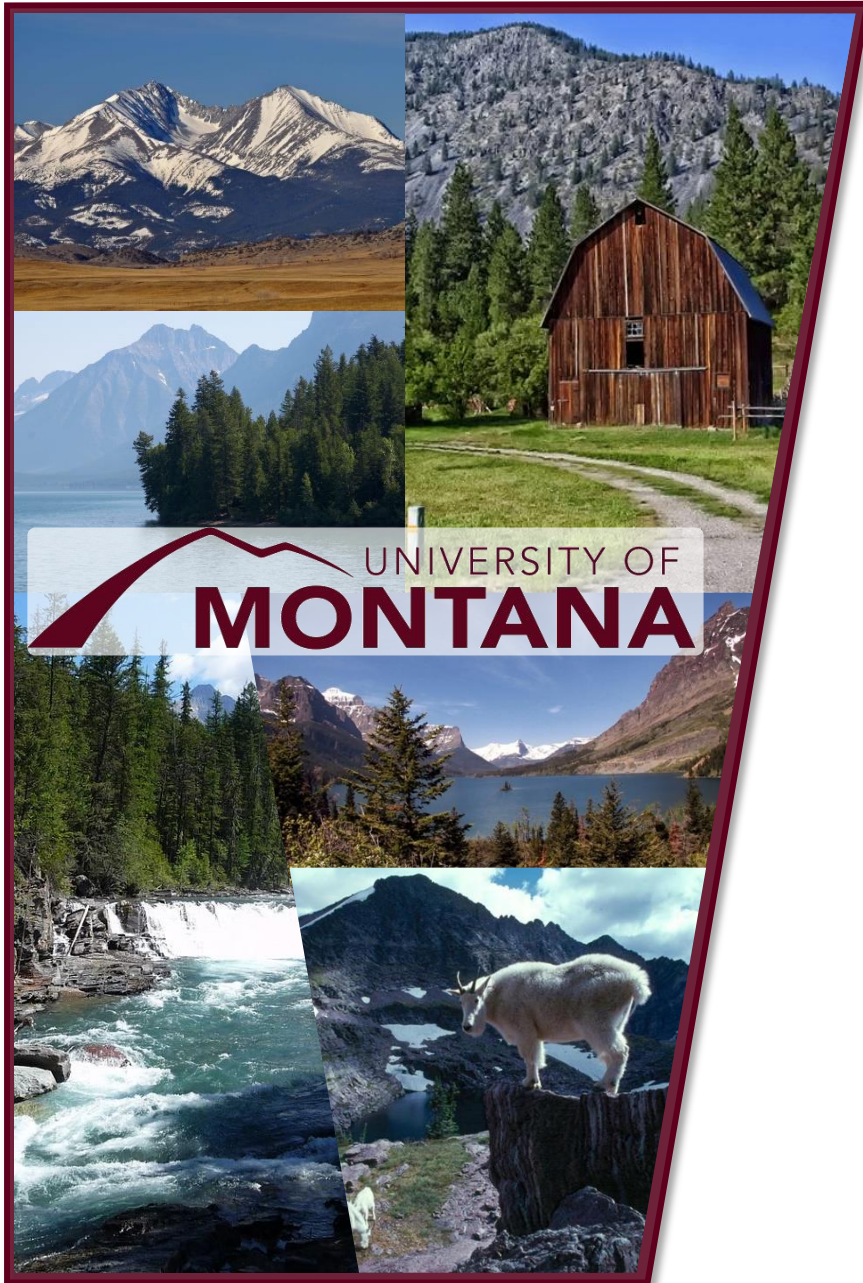
Four out of five voters consider themselves to be a conservationist.

79%

**Yes, I'm a
conservationist**

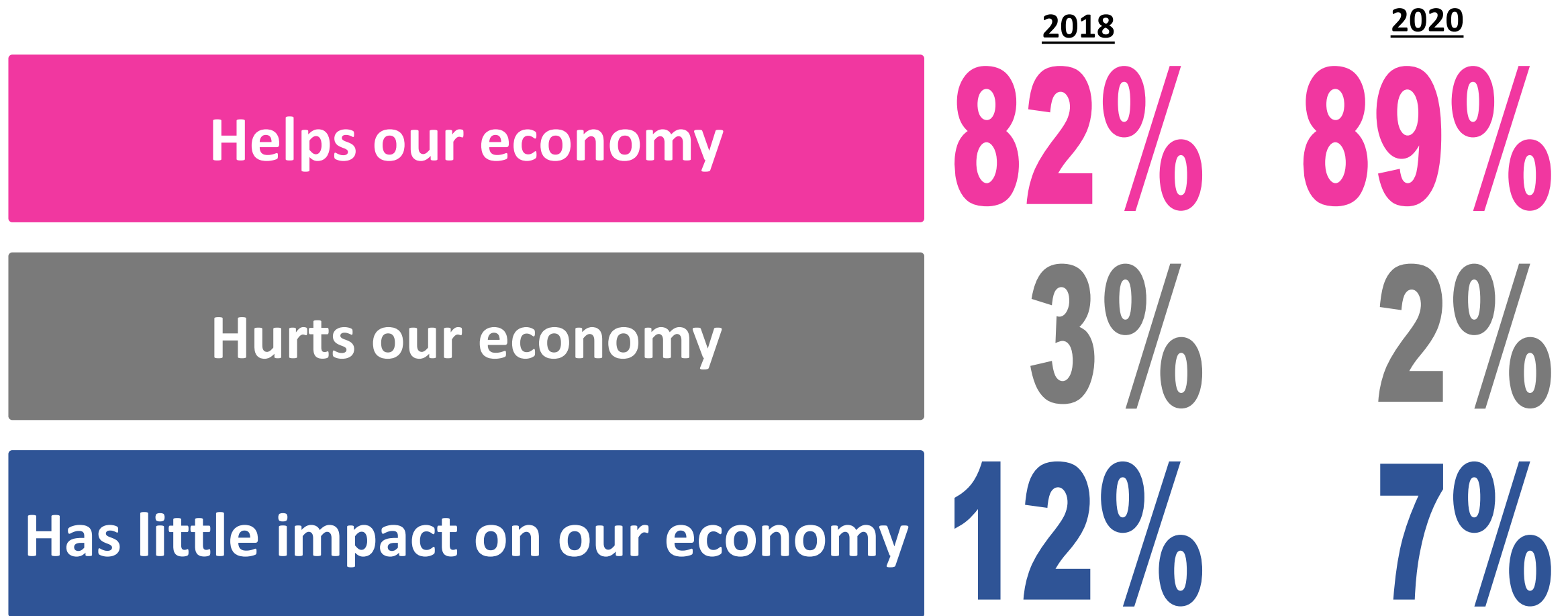


Do you consider yourself to be a conservationist?



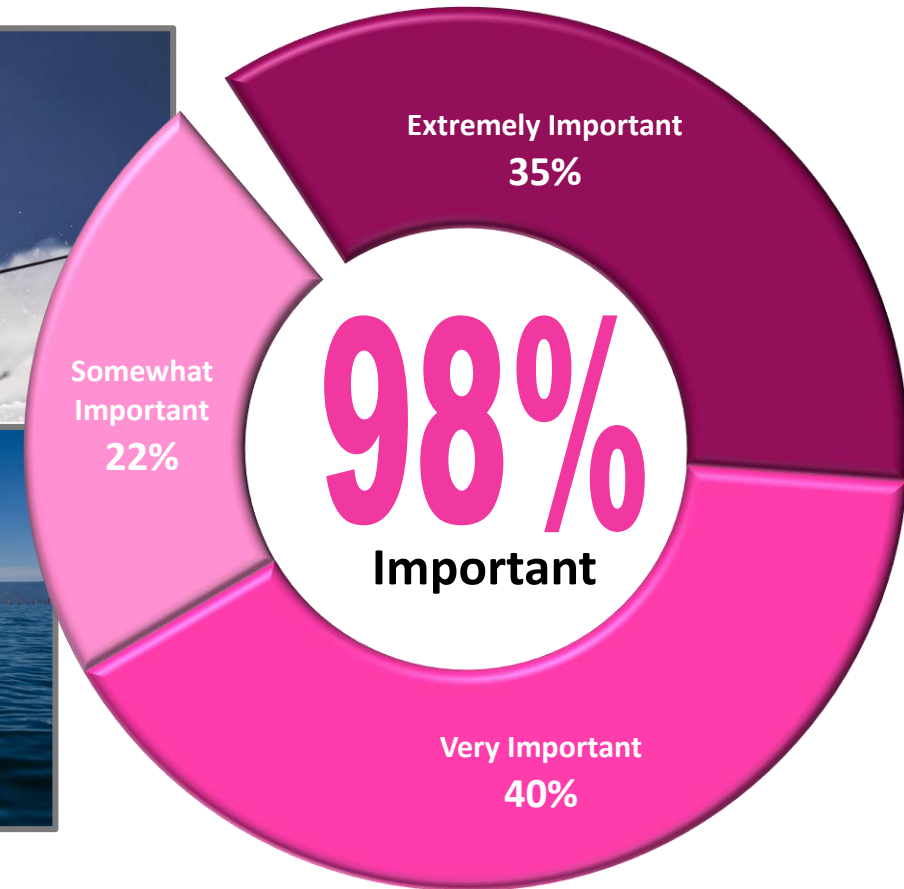
Public Lands and the Economy

Public lands are helpful to Montana's economy.



When you think about the presence of national public lands in Montana – do you think that having such lands helps our economy, hurts our economy, or has little impact on our economy?

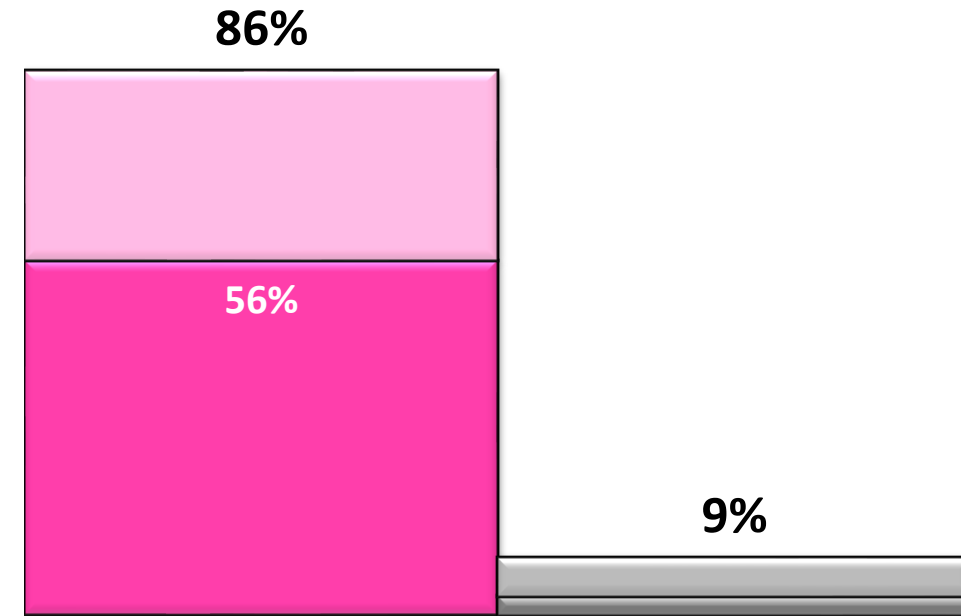
Outdoor recreation businesses and jobs are universally considered an important part of the state's economy.



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 extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not that important, or not at all important?

Due to rounding, totals may not equal the sum of individual answer choices or add up to 100%.

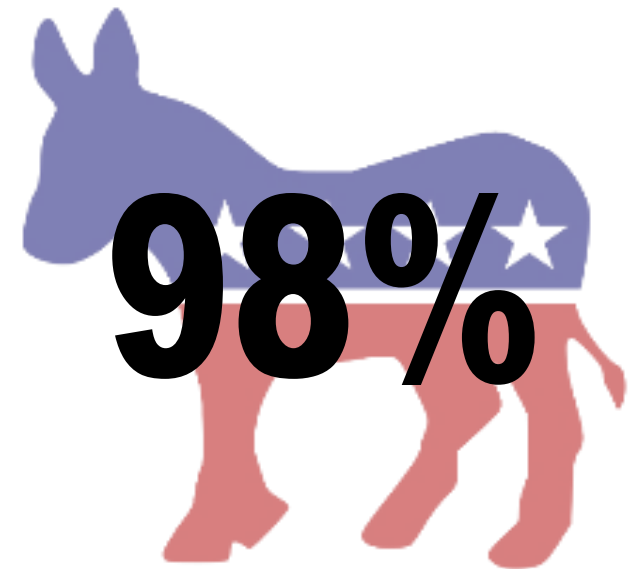
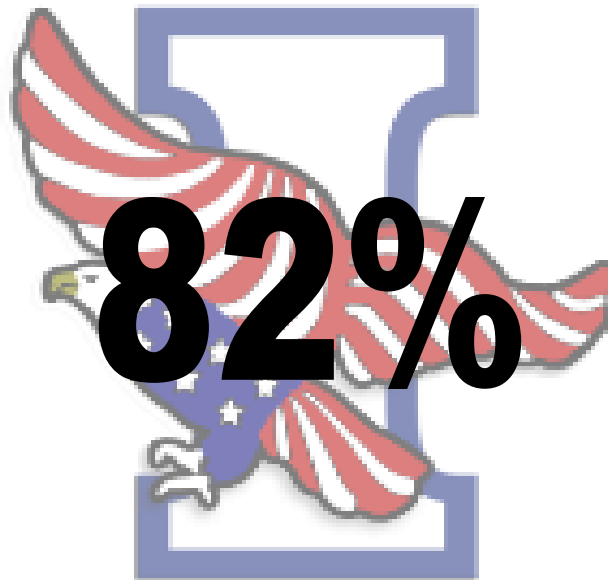
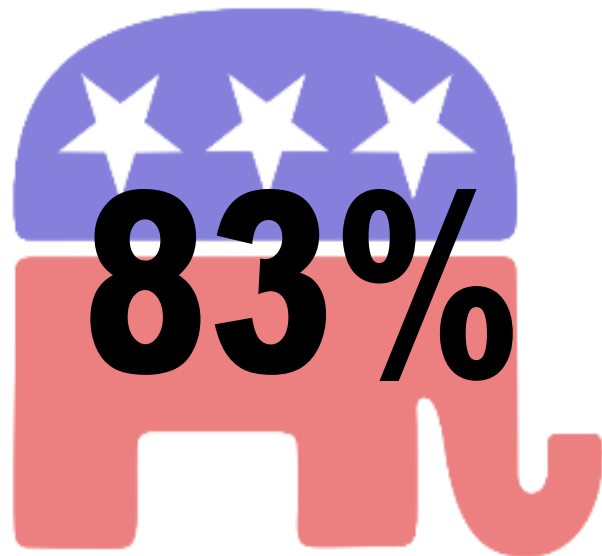
Montana voters are highly supportive of the work being done by the Office of Outdoor Recreation.



■ Strongly Support ■ Strongly Oppose
■ Total Support ■ Total Oppose

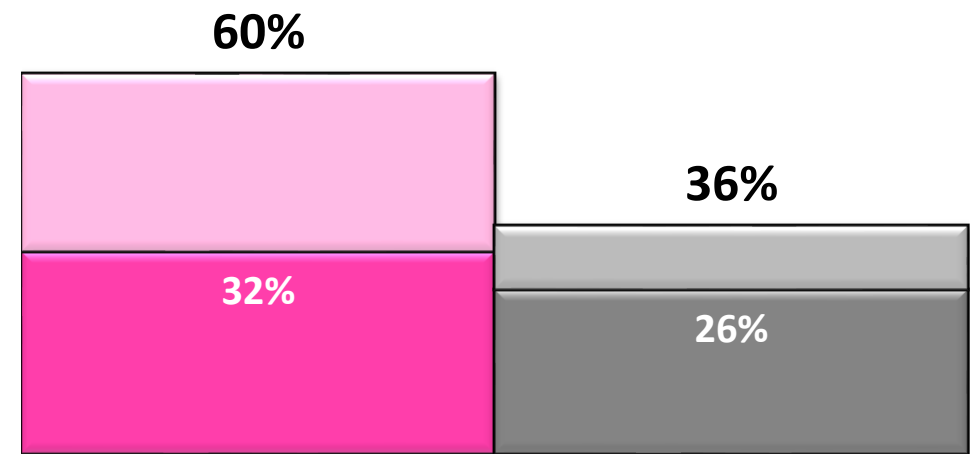
Three years ago, Montana created an Office of Outdoor Recreation to work with these mostly small businesses to help grow the outdoor recreation economy and to support the public lands, wildlife habitat and waters on which these jobs depend. Do you support or oppose the Office of Outdoor Recreation continuing to work with these Montana businesses and efforts in the state?

Support for the Office of Outdoor Recreation extends across party lines.



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?

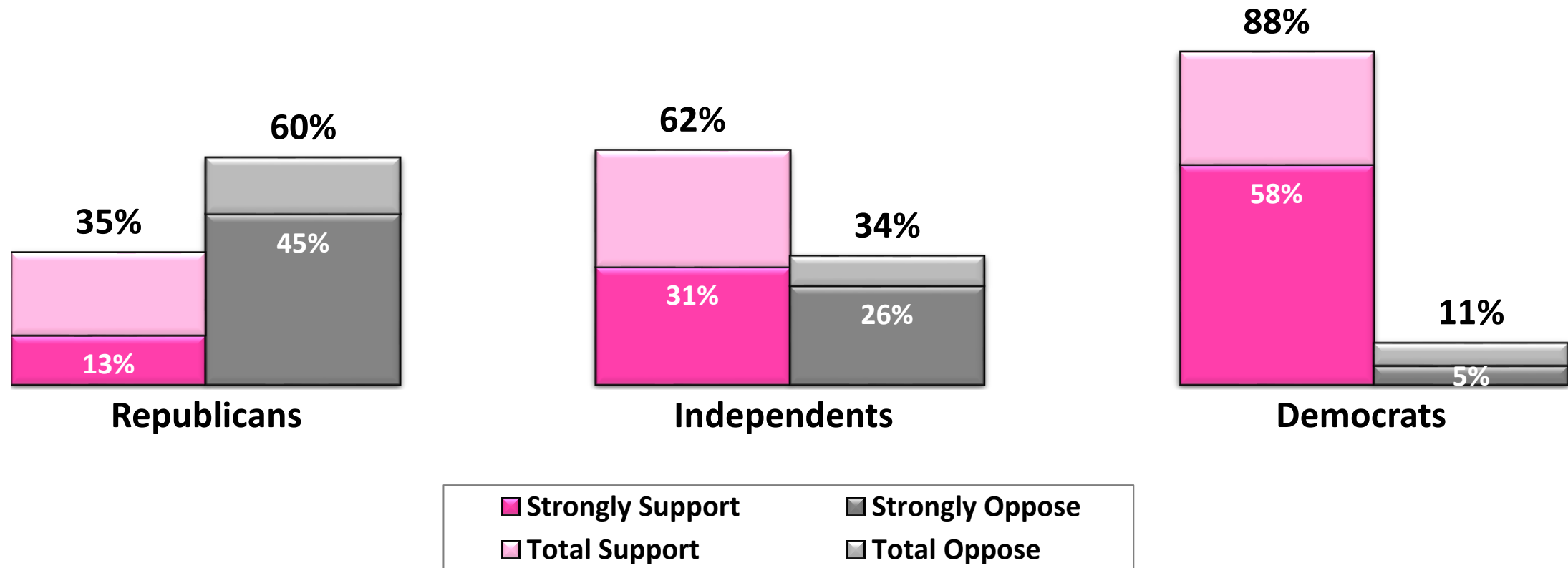
Overall, voters are supportive of increases taxes or fees to protect water, habitats, and recreation.



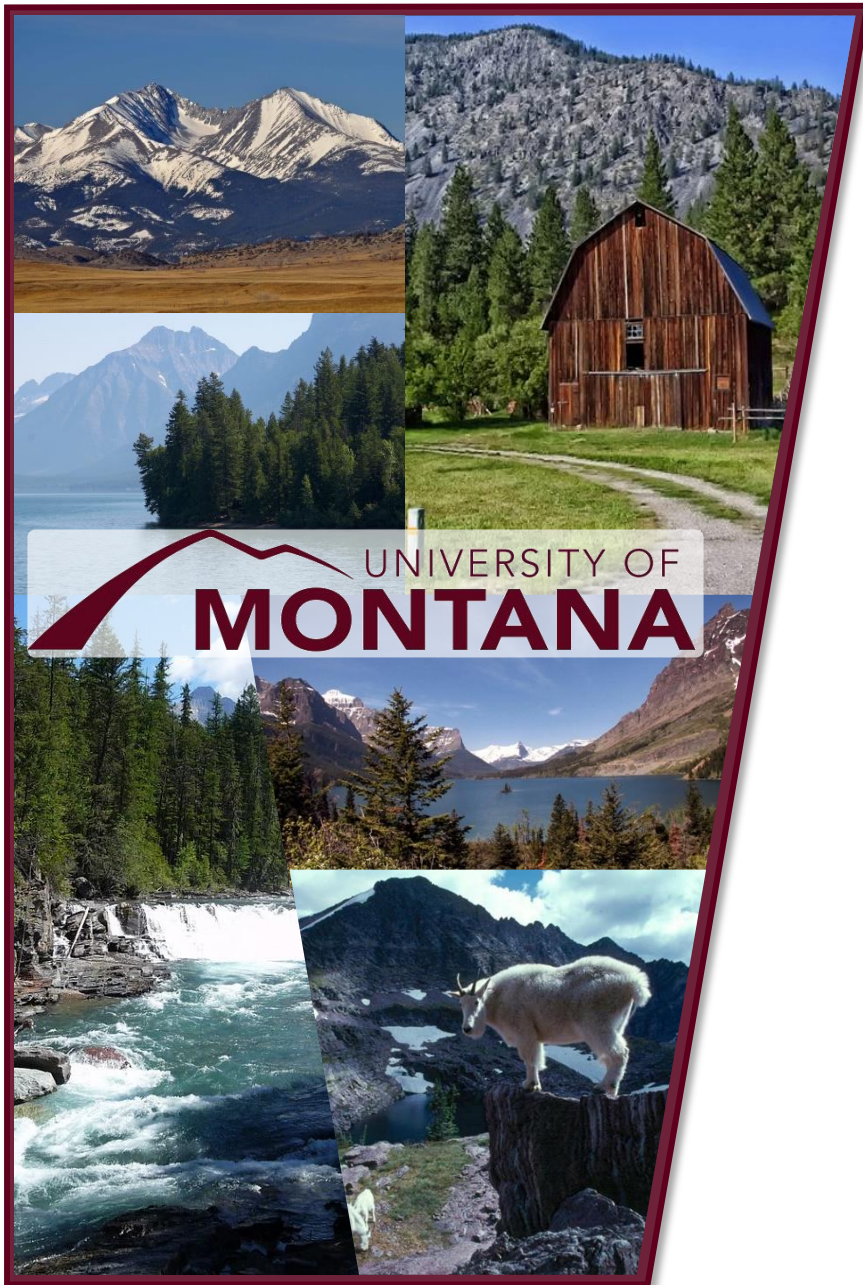
Would you support or oppose a small increase in local taxes or fees in order to protect water, conserve wildlife habitat and ensure opportunities for outdoor recreation in your part of Montana?

However, an increase in taxes or fees invokes a political divide.

Increase in Taxes or Fees to Protect Water, Habitats, and Recreation by Party



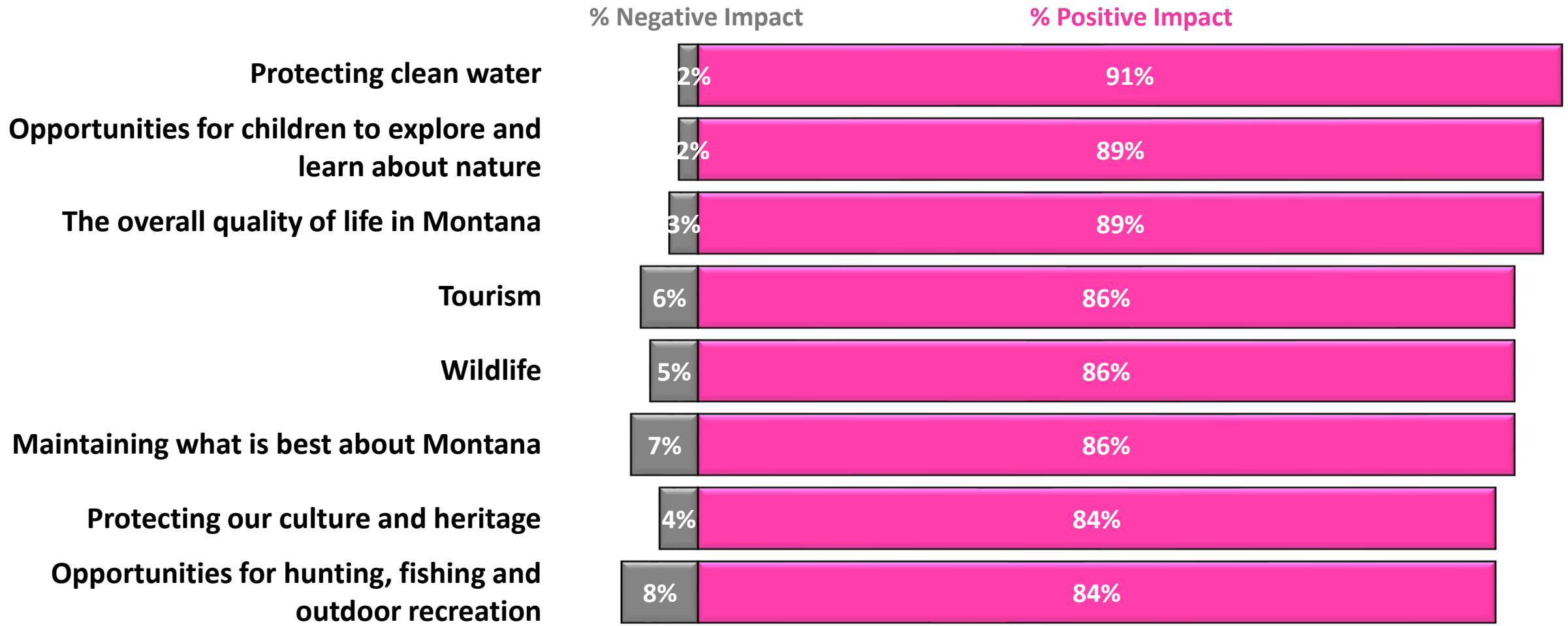
Would you support or oppose a small increase in local taxes or fees in order to protect water, conserve wildlife habitat and ensure opportunities for outdoor recreation in your part of Montana?



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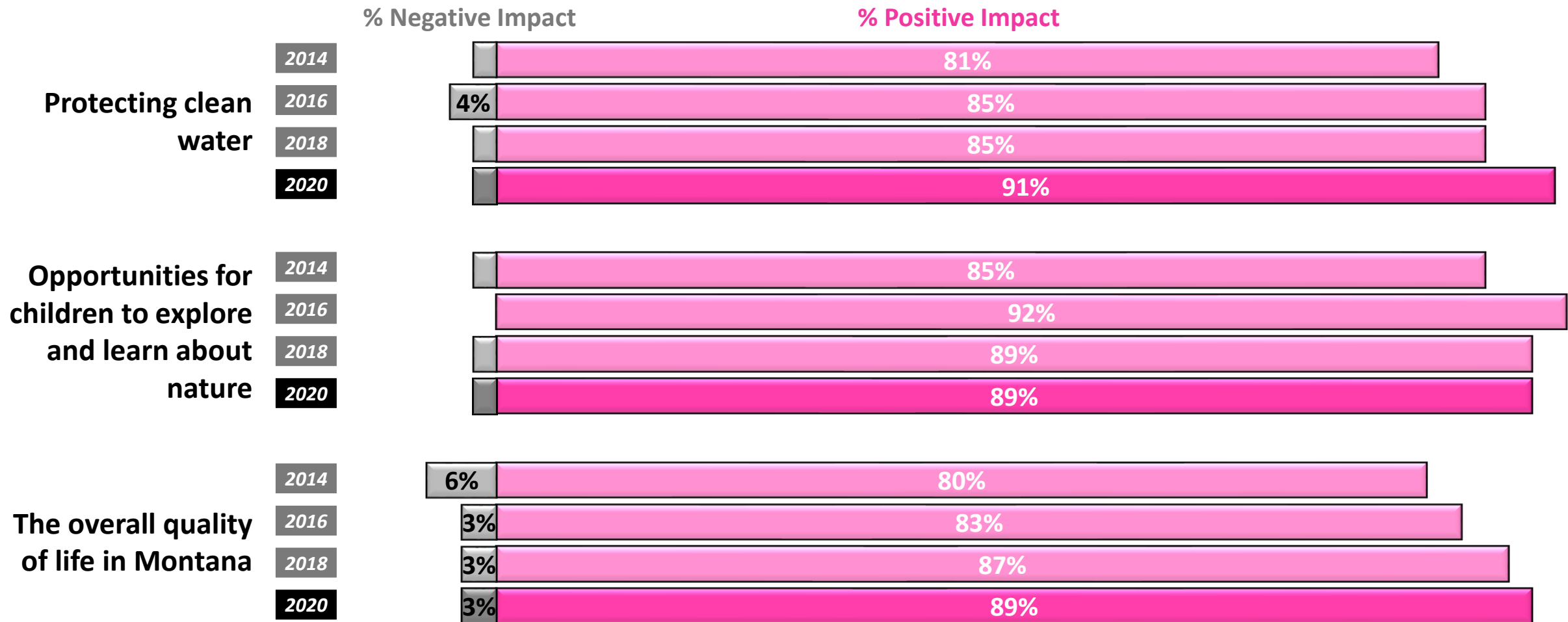
Benefits of Public Lands

Enhancing and protecting publicly owned lands are viewed as having a positive effect for many aspects of life in Montana.



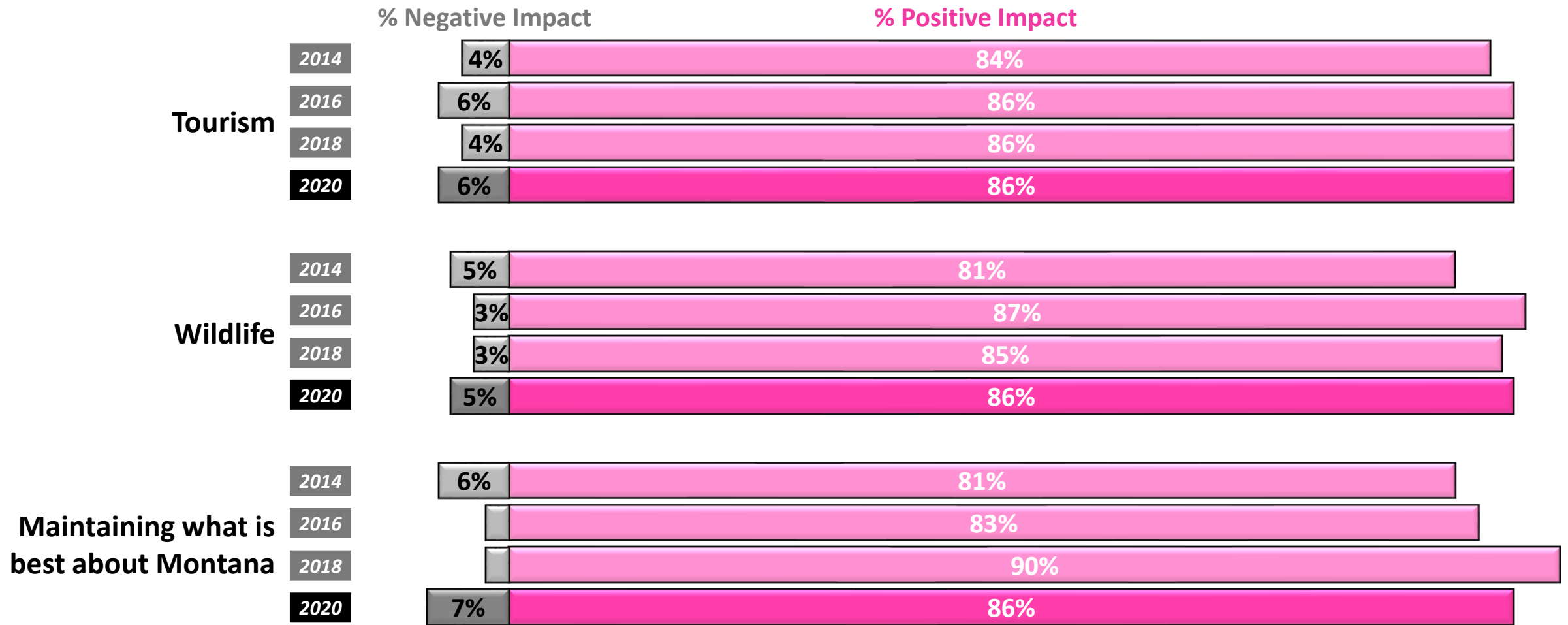
Taking a step back and thinking about all publicly owned lands -- Generally speaking, do you believe enhancing and protecting public lands, such as local, state and national parks, national forests, and wilderness has a positive impact, a negative impact, or no real impact on each of the following: (Statements were split sampled; Asked of N= 248/252 Respondents)

Nine-in-ten Montanans say public lands have a positive impact on clean water, children's education on nature, and quality of life.



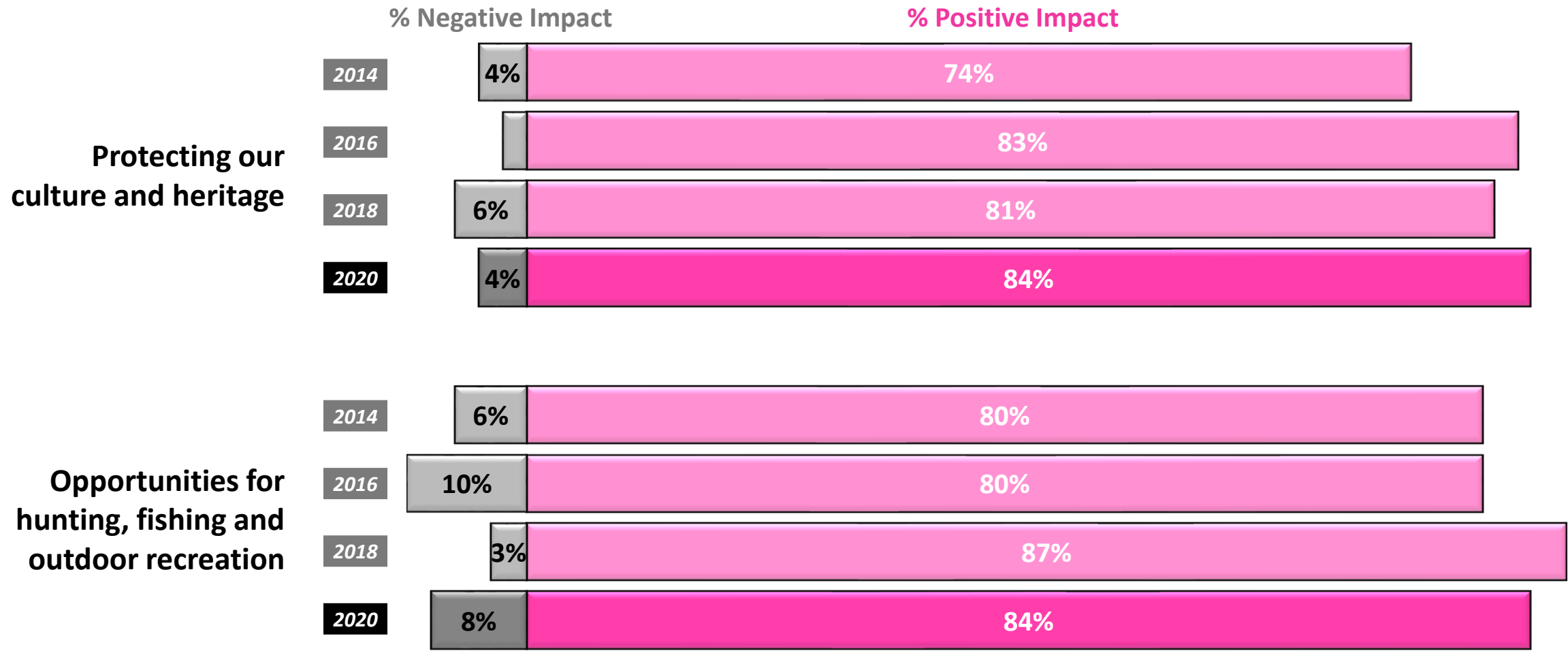
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The next tier of positive benefits include tourism, wildlife, and maintaining the best of Montana.

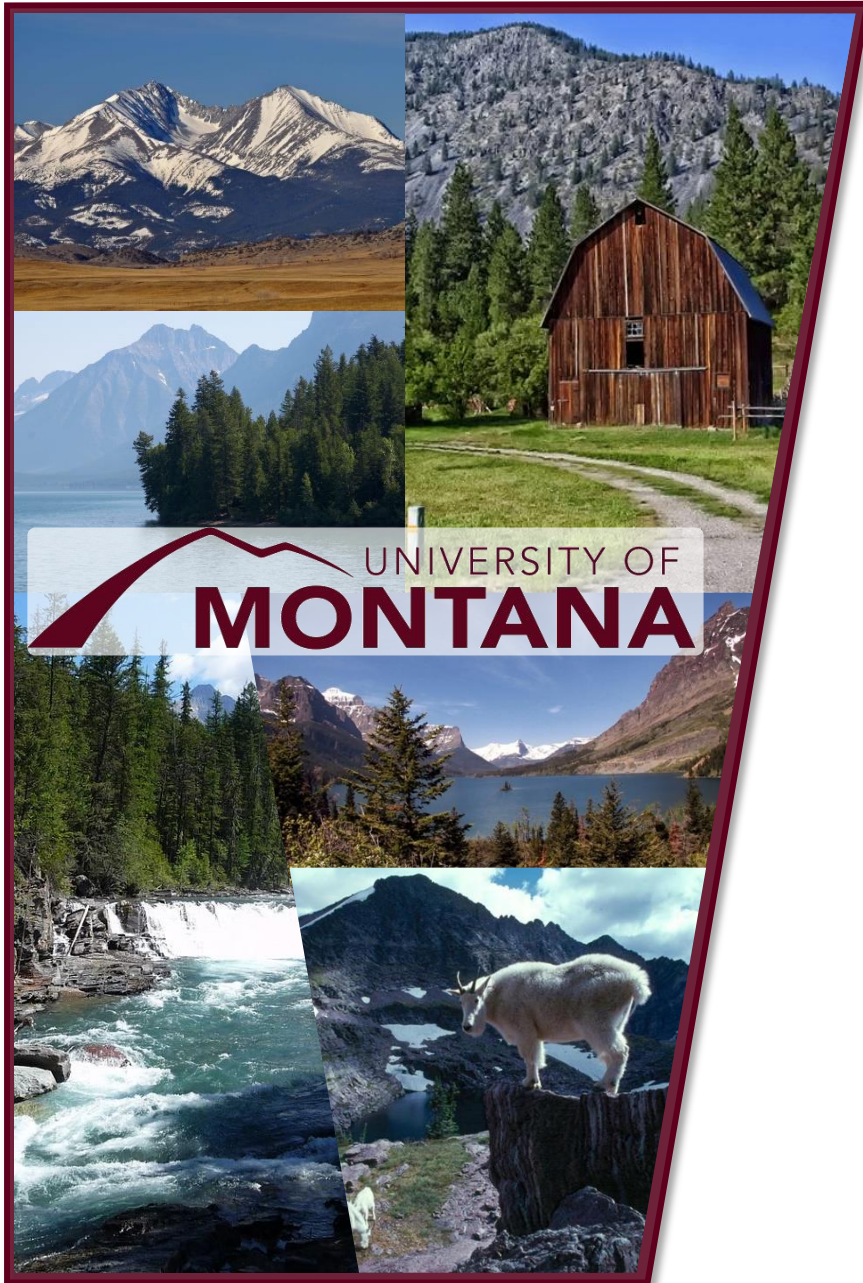


Taking a step back and thinking about all publicly owned lands -- Generally speaking, do you believe enhancing and protecting public lands, such as local, state and national parks, national forests, and wilderness has a positive impact, a negative impact, or no real impact on each of the following: (Statements were split sampled; Asked of N= 248/252 Respondents)

Voters also believe public lands help protect Montana's culture and provide opportunities for outdoor activities.



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: (Statements were split sampled; Asked of N= 248/252 Respondents)



Views of Wilderness Study Areas

Voters would like the Wilderness Study Areas to stay as is or more protections added; a mere 8% would eliminate their status.

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 --



Across party lines, a majority of voters want to increase or keep protections the same for the Wilderness Study Areas.

	Overall	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
Increase protections in all seven areas	23%	6%	19%	50%
Keep the seven areas as they are now	52%	51%	58%	41%
TOTAL INCREASE/KEEP	75%	57%	77%	91%
Add protections in some areas and eliminate protections in others	14%	23%	12%	7%
Eliminate existing protections in all seven areas	8%	15%	7%	2%

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 --

Residents in all community types also prefer more or the same amount of protections for these public lands.

	Overall	City/Suburbs	Small Town	Rural
Increase protections in all seven areas	23%	28%	19%	21%
Keep the seven areas as they are now	52%	53%	56%	47%
TOTAL INCREASE/KEEP	75%	81%	75%	68%
Add protections in some areas and eliminate protections in others	14%	9%	18%	16%
Eliminate existing protections in all seven areas	8%	7%	6%	10%

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 --

No matter a voter's preference for outdoor activities, they would like these study areas to be kept the same or have increased protections.

	Overall	Hikers/ Trail Runners	Campers	Kayakers/ Canoers/ Boaters	Bird Watchers/ Viewers of Wildlife	Snowshoers /Skiers/ Snow- boarders	Riders of Off-Road/ Snow- mobile	Mountain Bikers	Hunters	Anglers
Increase protections in all seven areas	23%	26%	21%	25%	28%	27%	19%	25%	16%	22%
Keep the seven areas as they are now	52%	49%	56%	53%	50%	53%	56%	52%	52%	51%
TOTAL INCREASE/KEEP	75%	75%	77%	78%	78%	80%	75%	77%	68%	73%
Add protections in some areas and eliminate protections in others	14%	14%	13%	14%	13%	13%	15%	12%	19%	16%
Eliminate existing protections in all seven areas	8%	8%	7%	6%	8%	4%	7%	8%	10%	8%

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 --

Voters want Wilderness Study Areas to be used for recreation and wildlife habitats, until acted upon by Congress.

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

81%

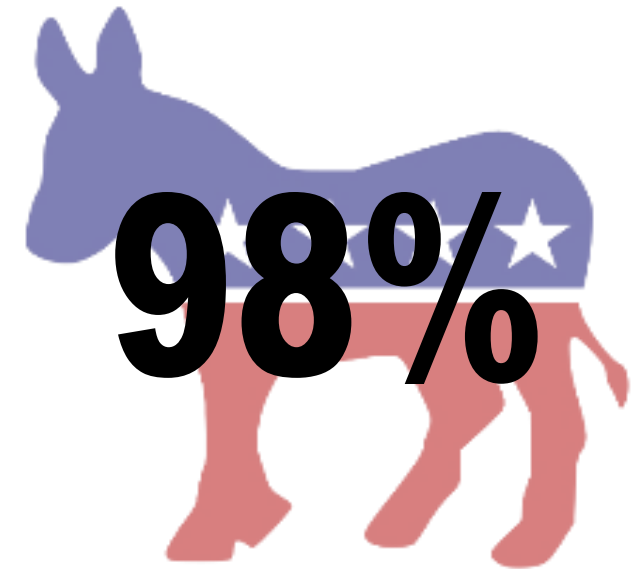
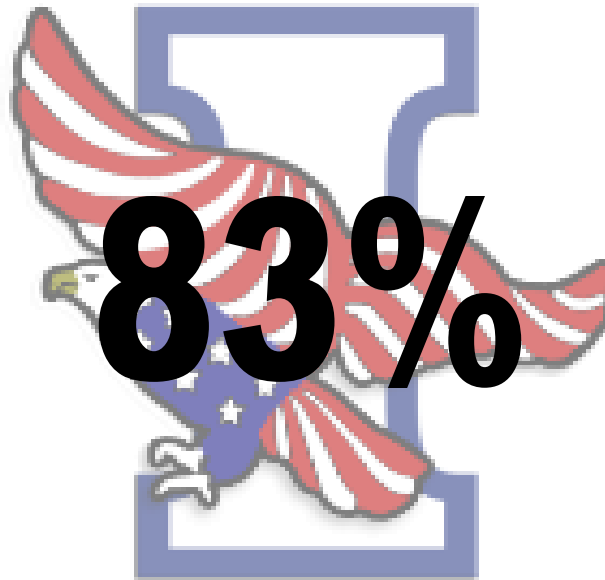
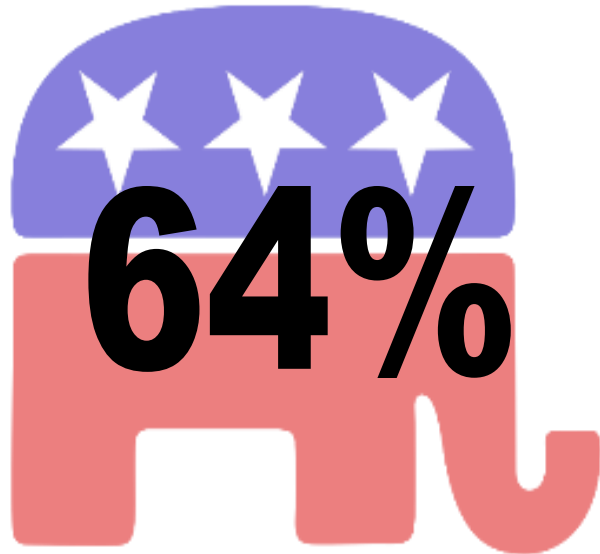
Allow changes in the uses such as oil and gas
exploration and establishment of new or
expanded motorized recreation

15%

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

Majorities of all partisan sub-groups believe Wilderness Study Areas should be left alone until Congressional action is taken.

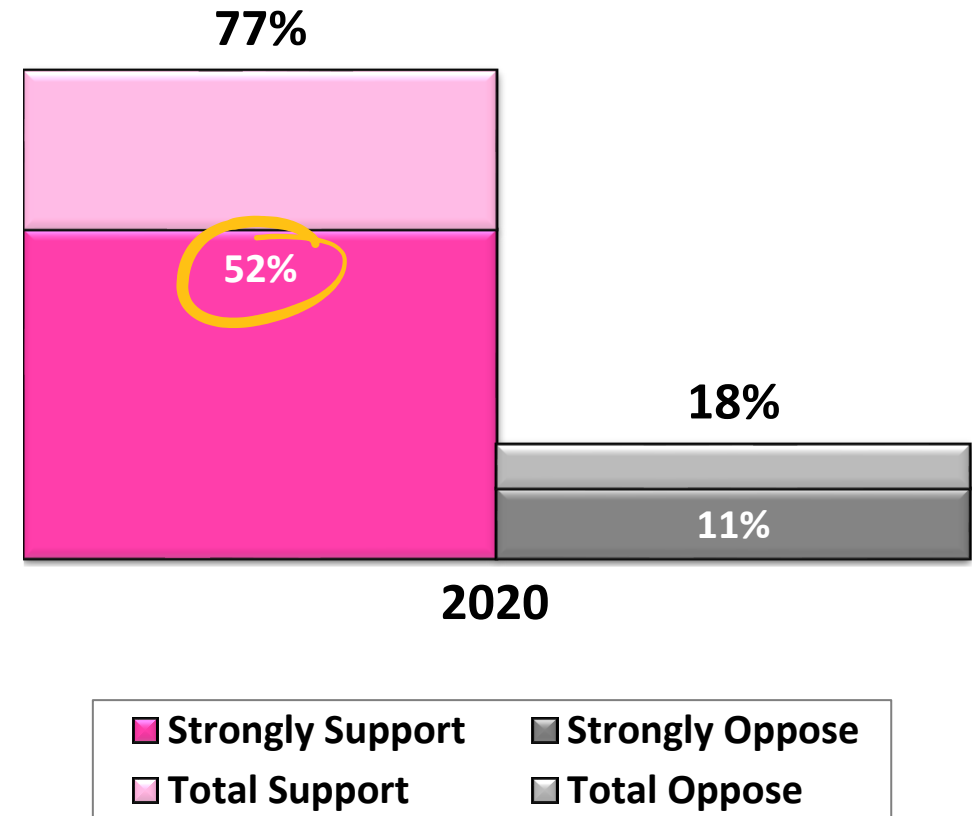
% Selected "Continue to be treated as they are now, mostly to conserve them for recreation and wildlife habitat"



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

More than half of voters *strongly* support the proposal to increase protections in the Gallatin Range WSA.

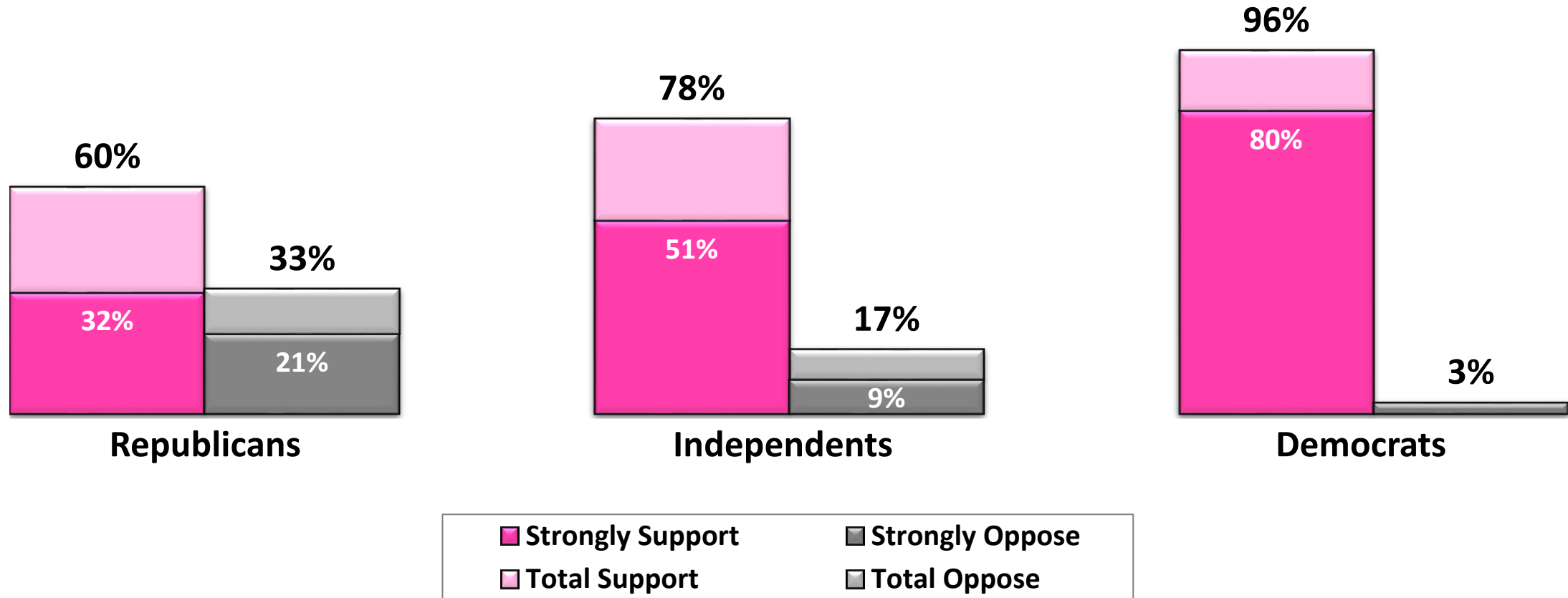
Increasing protections for the Wilderness Study Area in the Gallatin Range, which borders Yellowstone National Park, by maintaining the existing recreation uses, conserving some areas for wildlife migration, protecting the headwaters of the Gallatin and Yellowstone rivers and designating some new wilderness. 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.



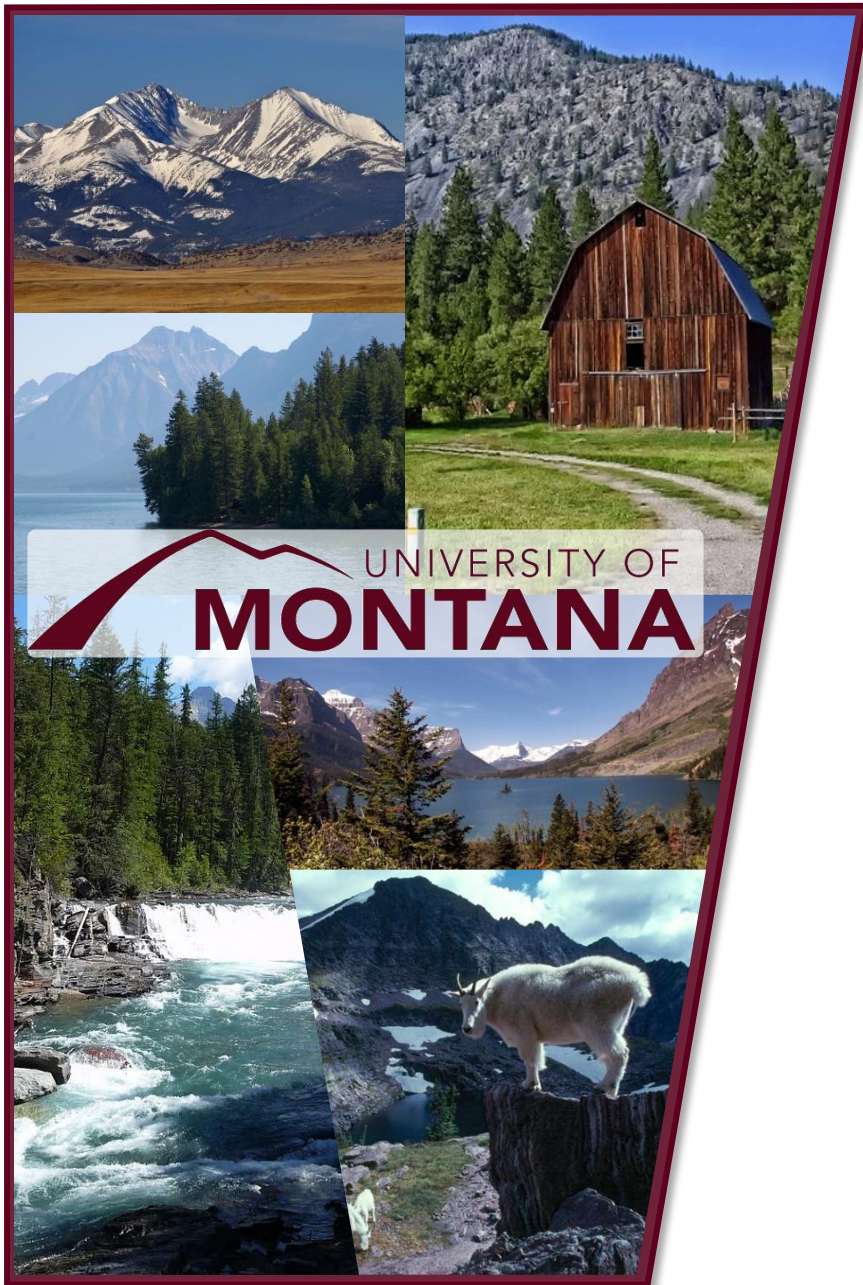
There are two other proposals concerning existing public lands here in Montana that have been developed by local land users such as hunters, anglers, ranchers, business owners and others over several years – For each one, please tell me if that seems like something you would support or oppose.

Overall, a majority of voters in each political party support increasing protections for this WSA.

Increasing Protections for the Wilderness Study Area in the Gallatin Range by Party



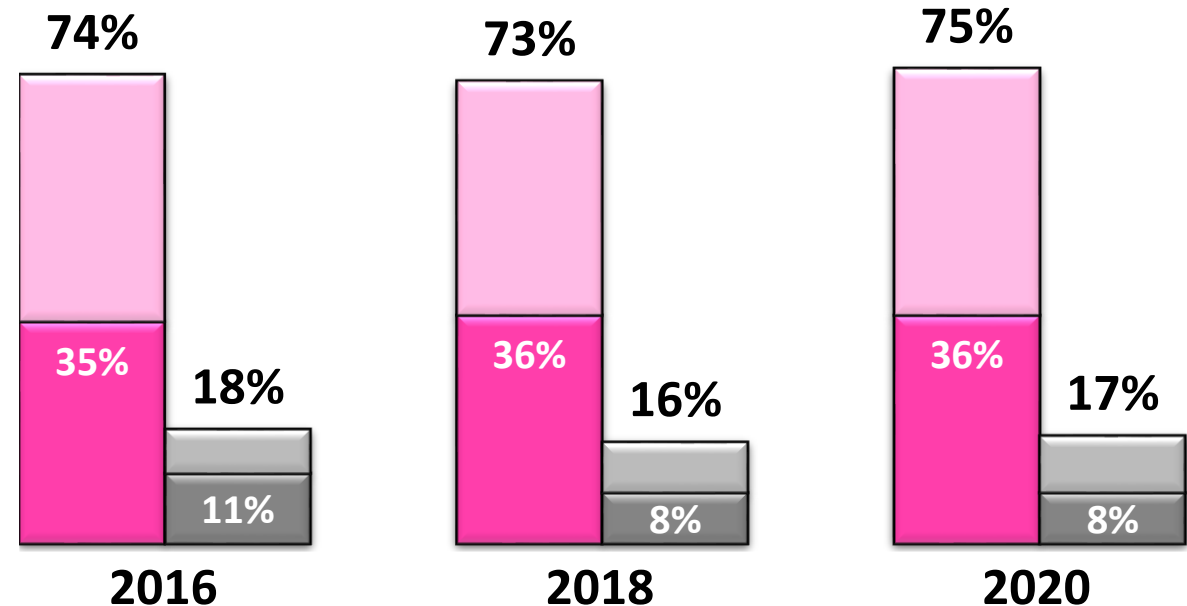
Please tell me if that seems like something you would support or oppose.



Views of Policies Affecting Public Lands

Three-quarters of voters support the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project, just as they had in 2016 and 2018.

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.

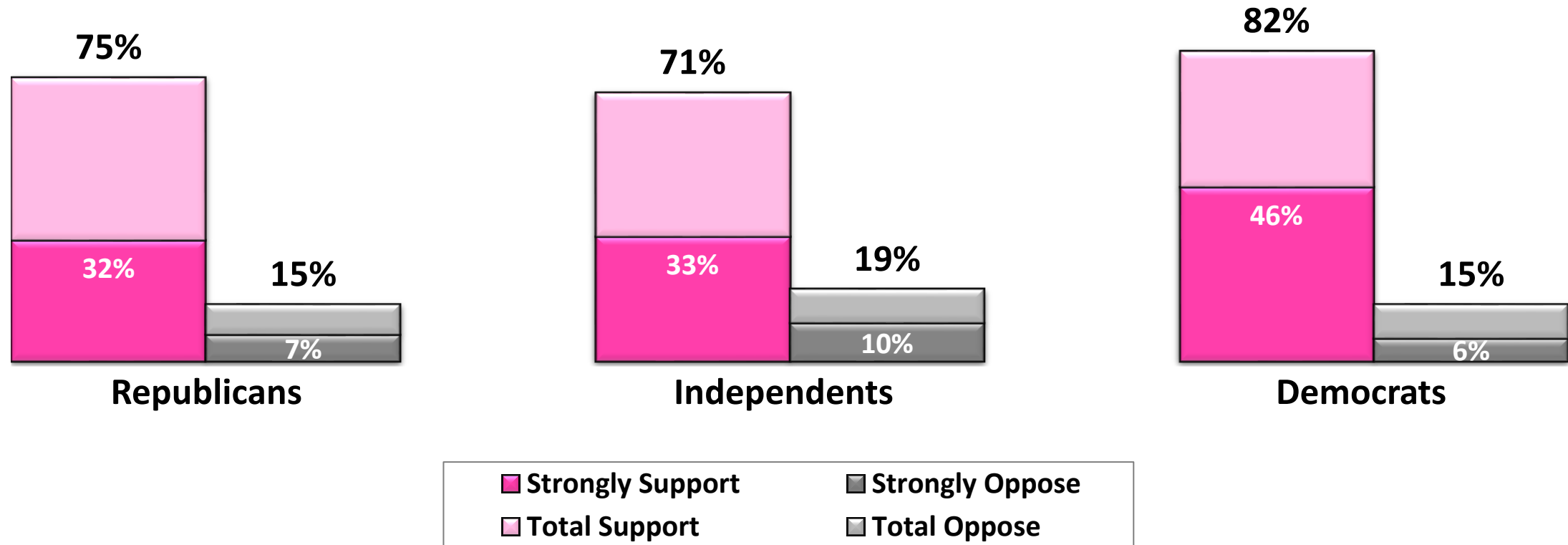


■ Strongly Support ■ Strongly Oppose
■ Total Support ■ Total Oppose

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.

And, there is solid support for the Blackfoot Clearwater Project across party lines.

Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project by Party



Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

Outdoor recreation enthusiasts also support the project.

% Support for Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project by Outdoor Recreation



79%

Hikers and trail runners

80%

Campers

82%

Kayakers, canoers or boaters

78%

Bird watchers and viewers of wildlife

83%

Snowshoers, skiers or snowboarders

80%

Riders of off-road vehicle or snowmobile

87%

Mountain bikers

Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

While hunters and anglers are supportive of Blackfoot Clearwater Project, their counterparts are less enthusiastic.

% Support for Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project by Sportsmen



80%
Sportsmen

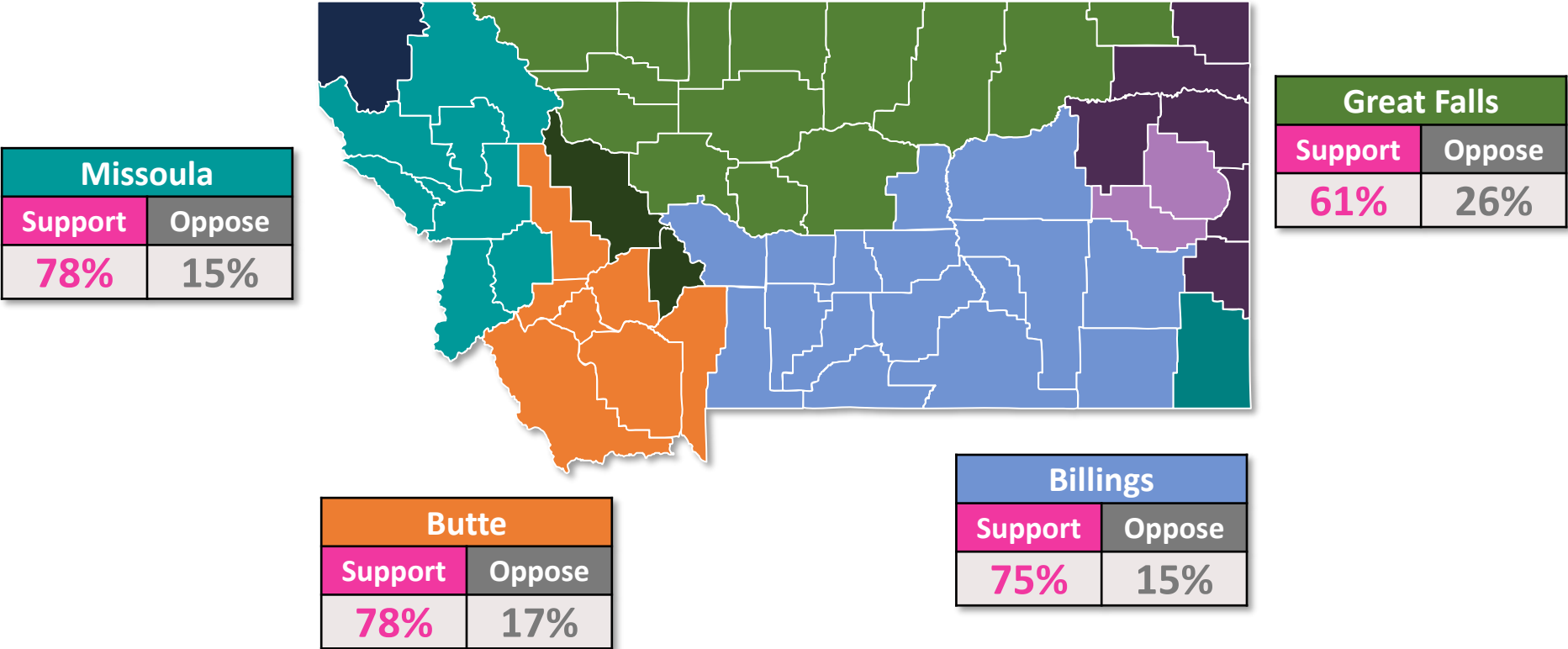


66%
Non-Sportsmen

Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

There is solid majority support across the state for the project.

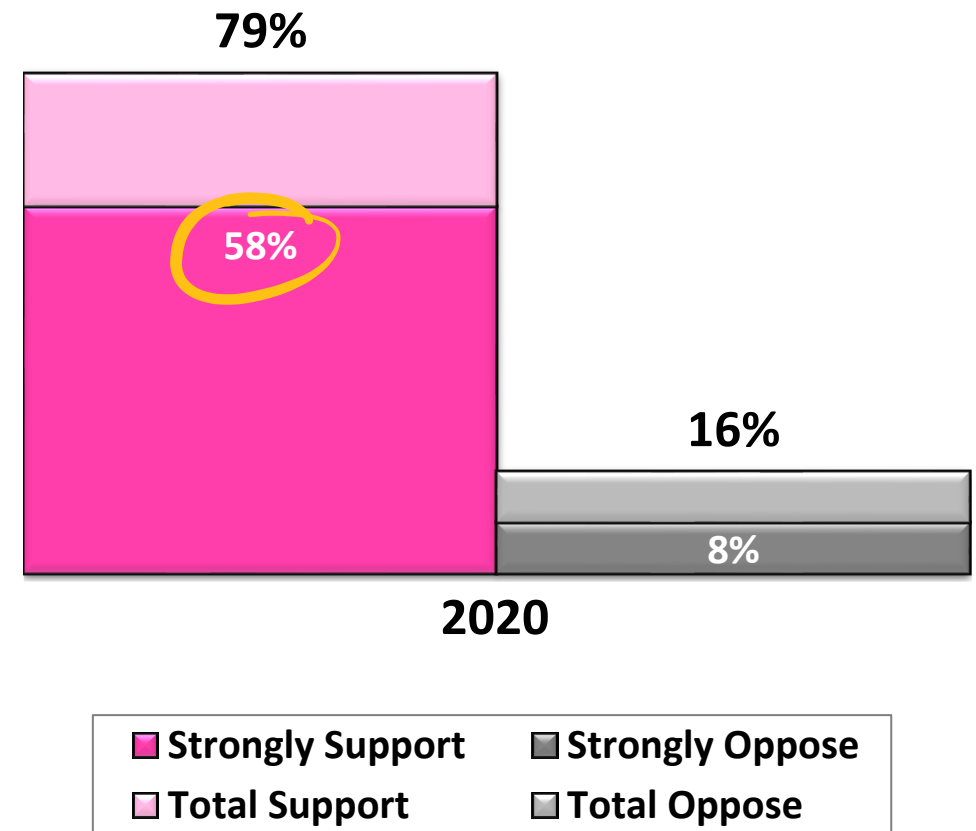
Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project by Media Market



Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

Nearly six-in-ten Montanans *strongly* support designating Badger-Two Medicine area as a Cultural Heritage Area.

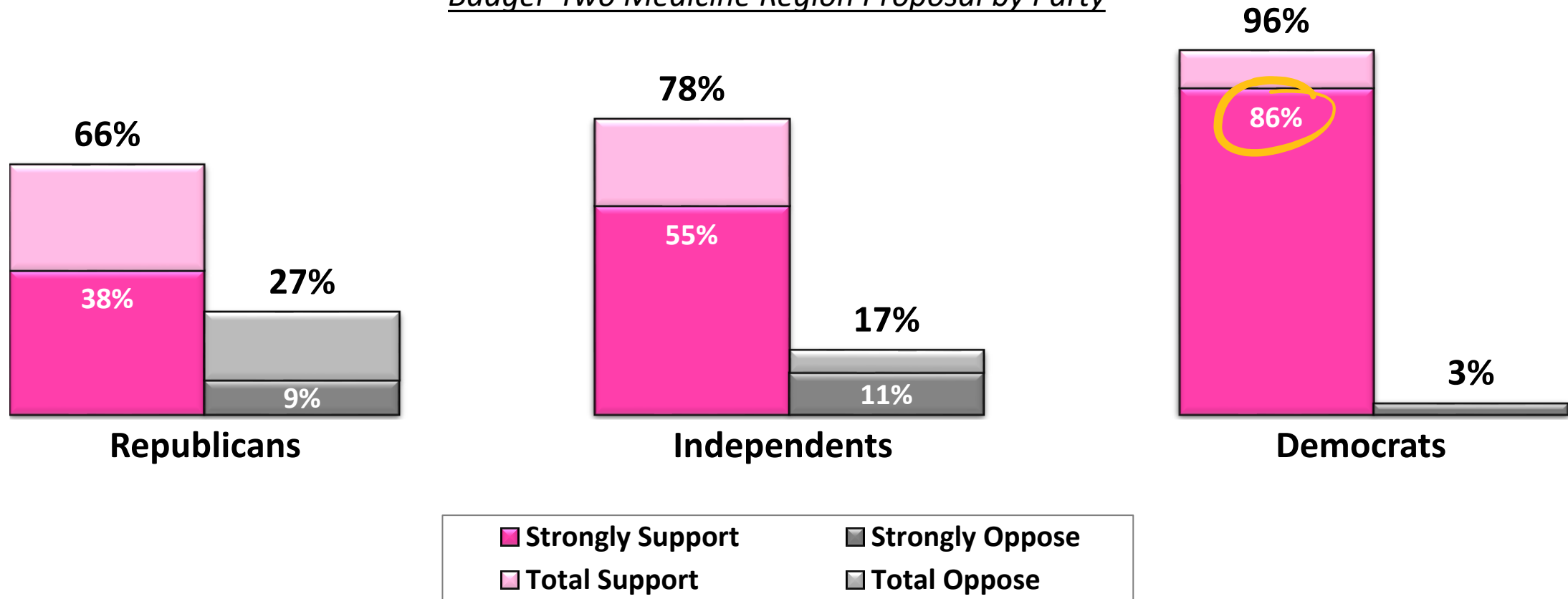
The Badger-Two Medicine area of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, which connects Glacier National Park with the Bob Marshall Wilderness is considered sacred by the Blackfoot Tribe. Along with outdoor recreation groups and others from the surrounding area, the Blackfoot Tribe proposes designating the 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.



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.

Voters of all political parties are supportive of the proposal for Badger-Two Medicine Region, especially Democrats.

Badger-Two Medicine Region Proposal by Party



Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

Even voters who enjoy off-roading, support this proposal for the Badger-Two Medicine area.

% Support for Badger-Two Medicine Region Proposal by Outdoor Recreation



83%

Hikers and trail runners

84%

Campers

83%

Kayakers, canoers or boaters

85%

Bird watchers and viewers of wildlife

84%

Snowshoers, skiers or snowboarders

79%

Riders of off-road vehicle or snowmobile

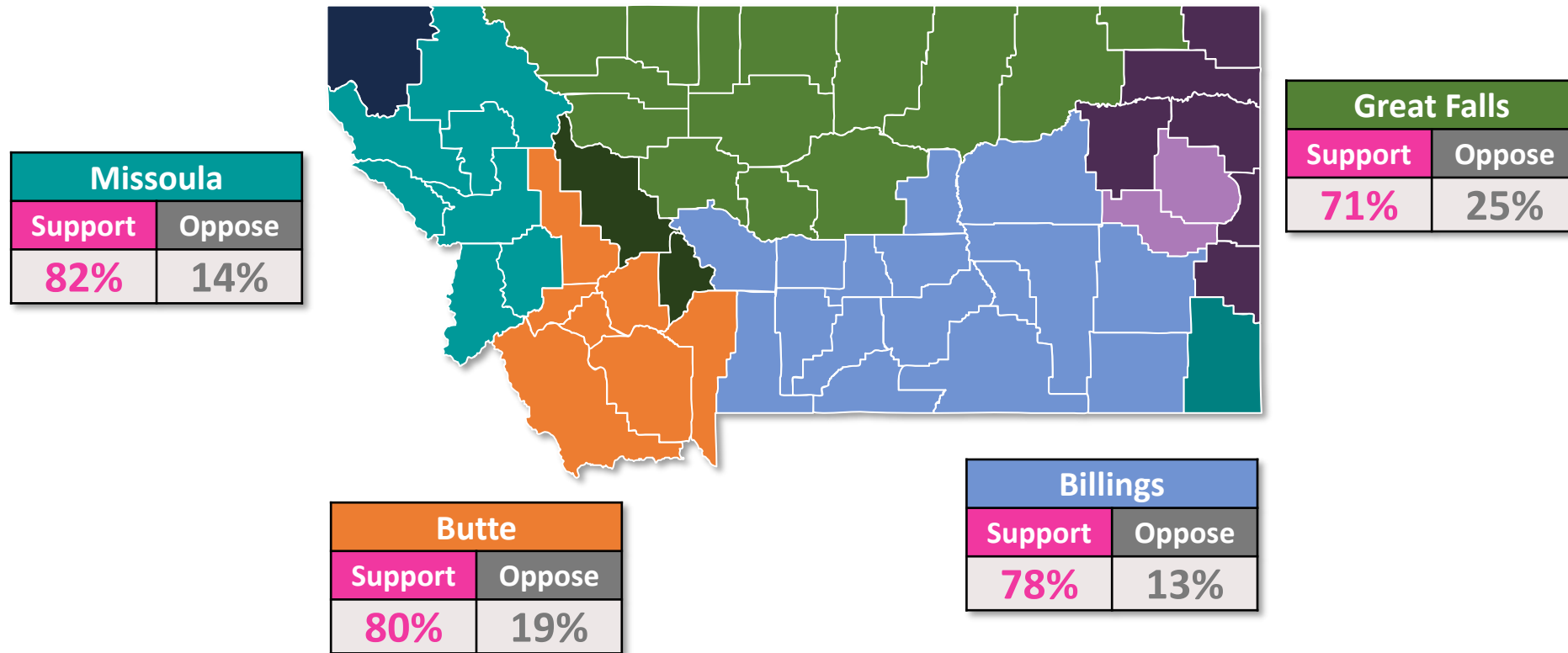
81%

Mountain bikers

Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

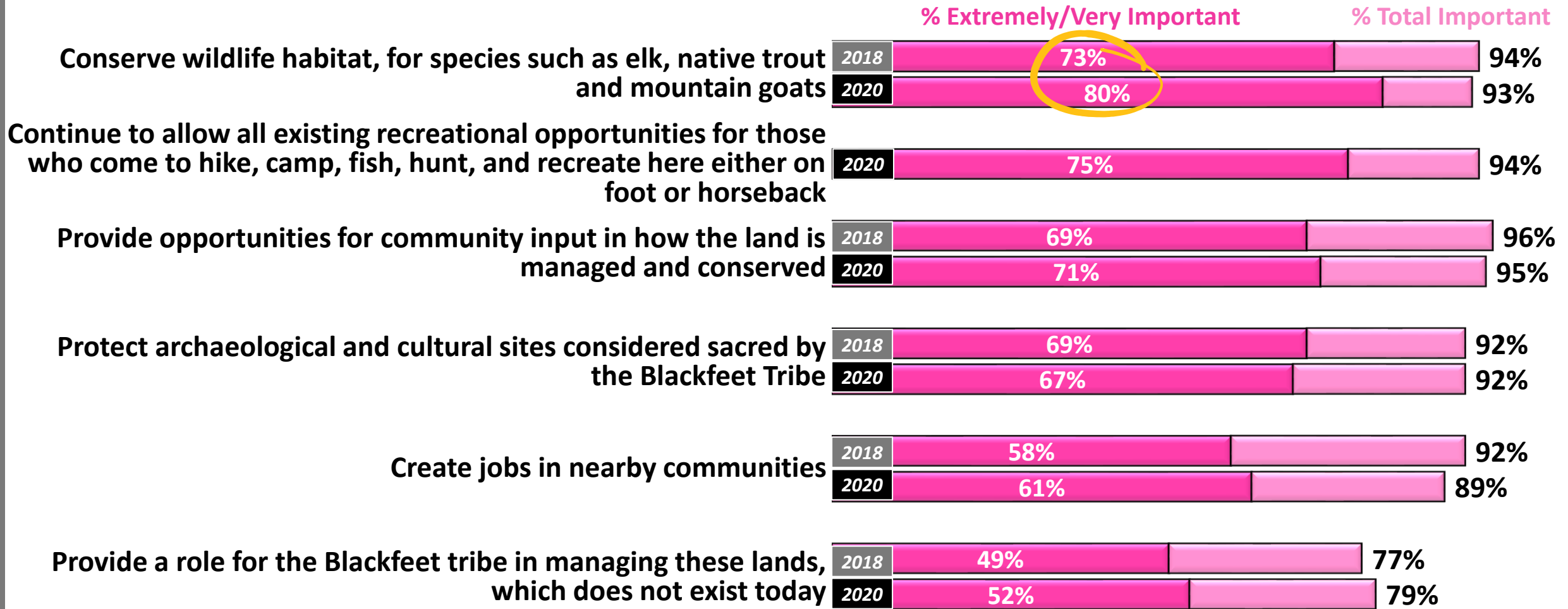
Voters across the state support the proposed plan for Badger-Two Medicine Region.

Badger-Two Medicine Region Proposal by Media Market



Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

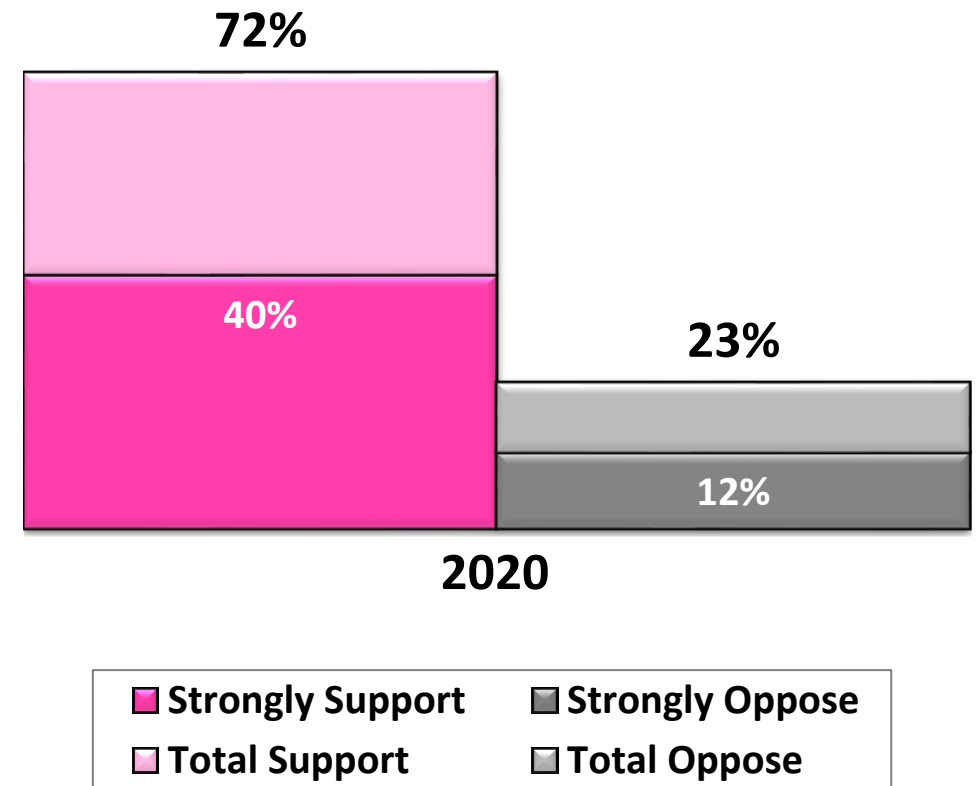
Voters believe it is highly important that Badger-Two Medicine area conserve wildlife habitats and continue recreational use.



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 extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important? (Statements were split sampled; Asked of N=288/291 Respondents)

Nearly three-quarters of Montanans also support the local proposal for increased protections on national forest land in western Montana.

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.



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 support or oppose.

The improved access for snowmobiles, off-road vehicles, and mountain bikes are supported by all outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

% Support for increasing protections on national forest lands in western Montana by Outdoor Recreation



74%

Hikers and trail runners

76%

Campers

77%

Kayakers, canoers or boaters

74%

Bird watchers and viewers of wildlife

78%

Snowshoers, skiers or snowboarders

74%

Riders of off-road vehicle or snowmobile

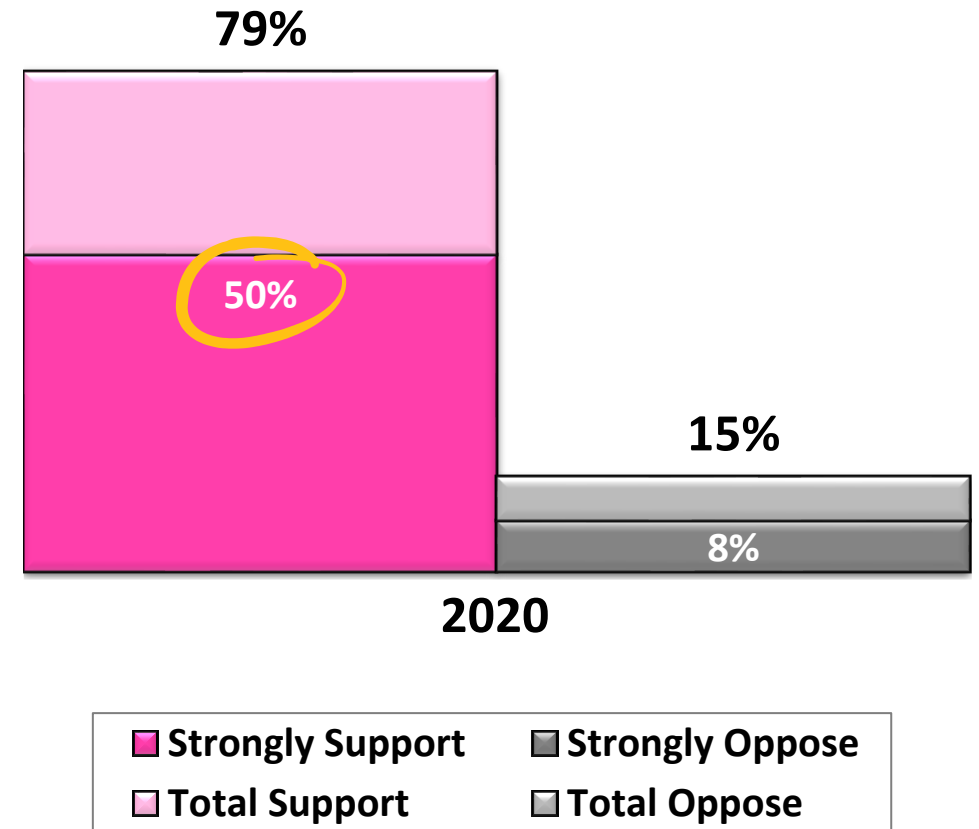
74%

Mountain bikers

Please tell me if that seems like something you would support or oppose.

Voters are highly supportive of the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act.

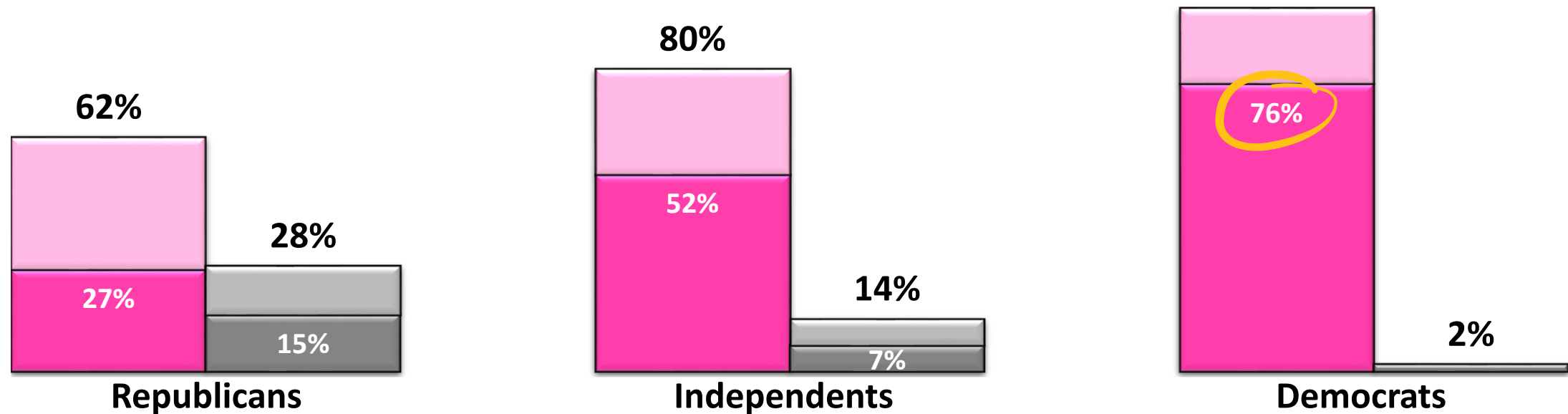
The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is our nation's strongest rivers protection law. It safeguards rivers by ensuring that they remain free-flowing, clean, and not harmed by new projects or development, such as new dams. It does not affect private property rights, water rights, or public access. Currently 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, Madison, Yellowstone and Smith rivers.



Would you support or oppose this proposal?

A majority of voters from each political party want Congress to designate rivers flowing through public lands as Wild and Scenic rivers, especially Democrats.

Montana Headwaters Legacy Act by Party



Would you support or oppose this proposal?

Two-thirds (66%) would like all proposals that have gone through a public process to be handled by Congress within one year.

27%



Within six months

39%



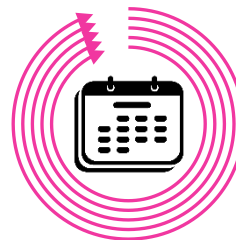
Within one year

19%



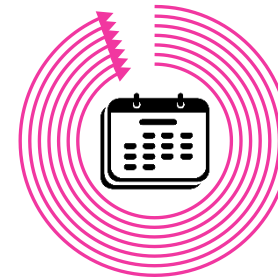
Within two years

5%



Within five years

6%



Five years or longer

2%





No real timeline is needed

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 within six months of the plan being submitted to congress, within one year, within two years, within five years, or five years or longer?

Across the political spectrum, voters want Congress to deal with proposals within a year of being submitted.

Proposal Timeline by Party

	Overall	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
 Within 6 months	27%	22%	27%	33%
 Within one year	39%	34%	40%	43%
TOTAL 1 YEAR OR LESS	66%	56%	67%	76%

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 within six months of the plan being submitted to congress, within one year, within two years, within five years, or five years or longer?



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