

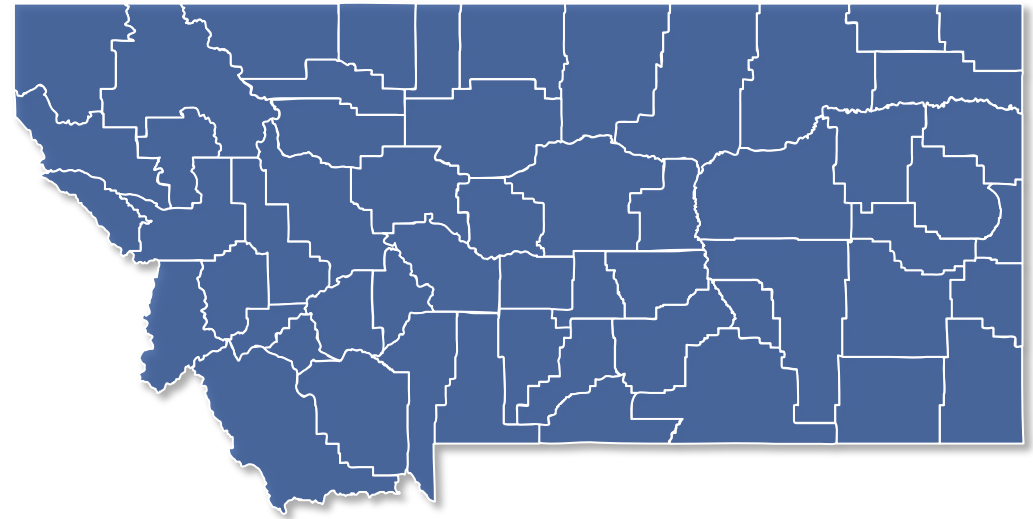
**University of Montana  
Crown of the Continent and  
Greater Yellowstone Initiative**

# **Montana Statewide Survey** *2022*

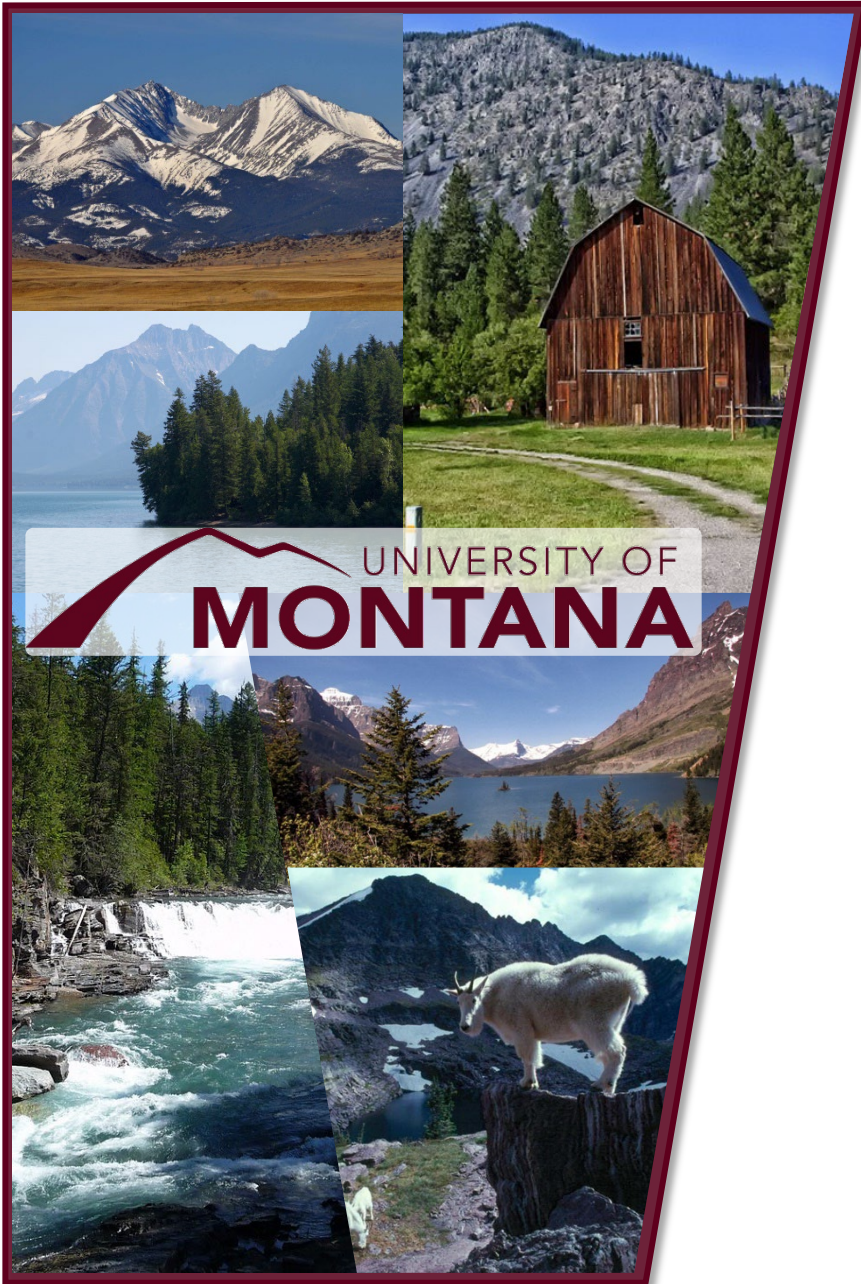


# Methodology

- Survey was conducted by a bipartisan research team: New Bridge Strategy (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 April 4-10, 2022, on landline and cell phones.
- Trend data from similarly conducted surveys of N=500 registered voters conducted June 2014, May 2016, April 2018 and March 2020.





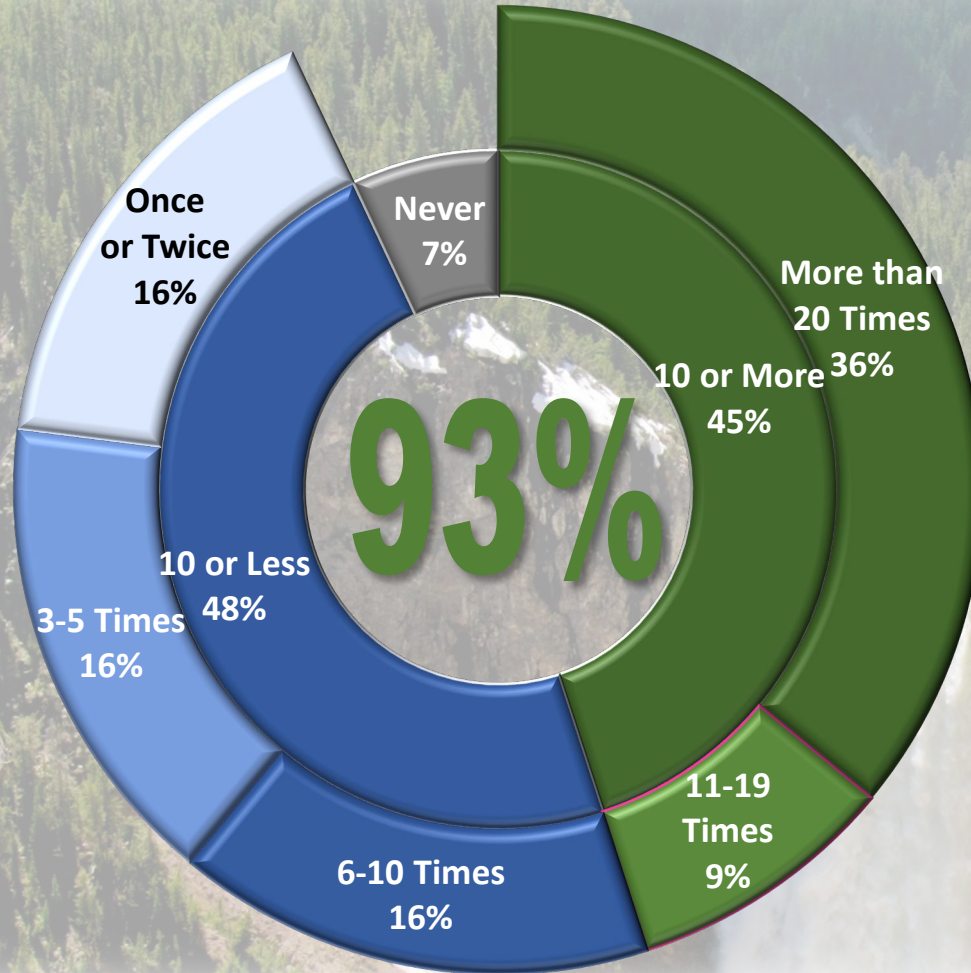


UNIVERSITY OF  
**MONTANA**

# The Montana Way of Life



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



**2018:**  
**89% Visited Public Lands**  
**46% Visited 10+ Times**  
**44% Visited <10 Times**

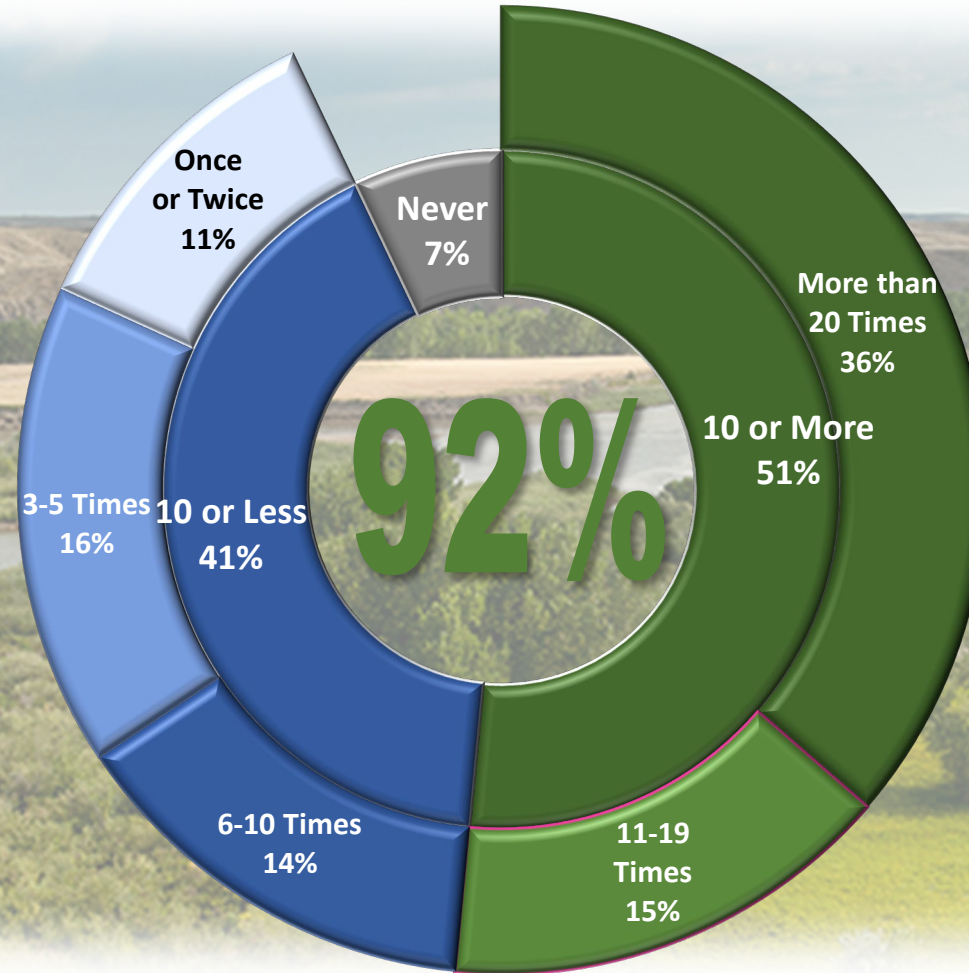
**2020:**  
**88% Visited Public Lands**  
**42% Visited 10+ Times**  
**46% Visited <10 Times**

*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%.



# Use of state lands is reported as just as significant with 36% visiting 20+ times.



**2020:**  
**89% Visited State Lands**  
**48% Visited 10+ Times**  
**42% Visited <10 Times**

*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. In addition, 65% say they are a hunter or angler.



**70%**

Hiking and  
trail running



**61%**

Camping



**52%**

Kayaking,  
canoeing or  
boating



**49%**

Bird  
watching  
and viewing  
wildlife



**36%**

Snow  
shoeing,  
skiing or  
boarding



**36%**

Riding an  
off-road  
vehicle or  
snowmobile



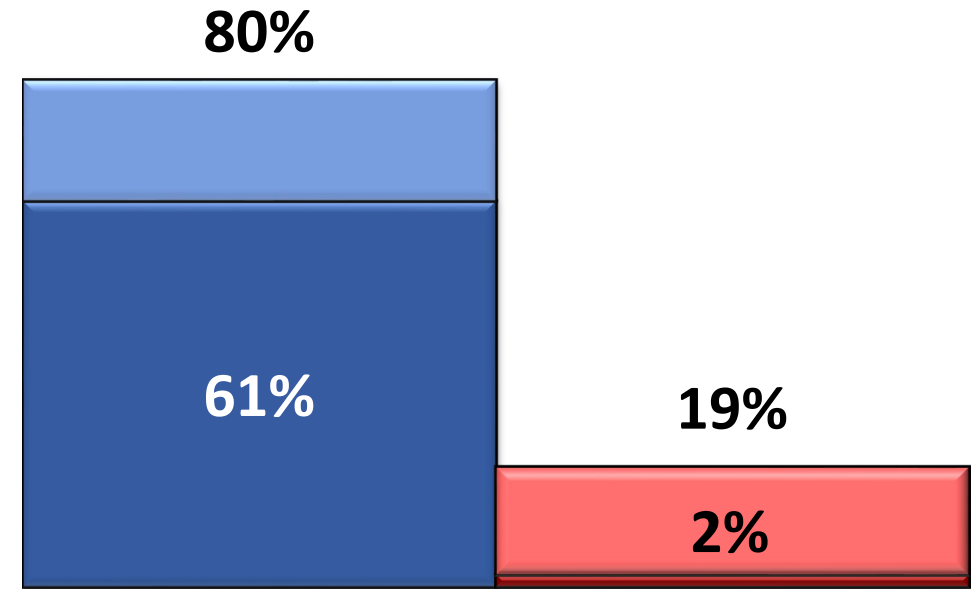
**22%**

Mountain  
biking

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



# Four-in-five Montanans say that wildlife are an important part of their daily life.



■ Strongly Agree

■ Total Agree

■ Strongly Disagree

■ Total Disagree

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

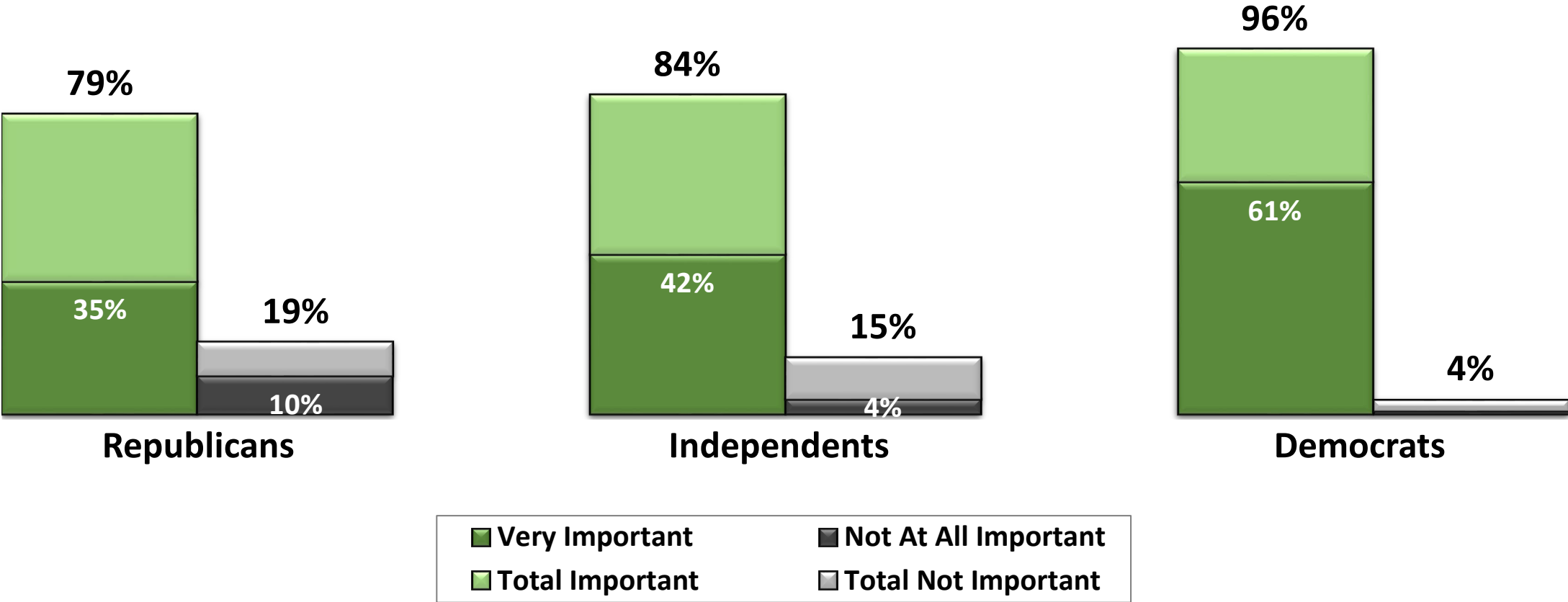
# Voters consistently say conservation issues factor into their vote decision.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2022</u>
Very important, they are a primary factor in deciding whether to support an elected public official	48%	41%	48%	44%
Somewhat important; they are one of several issues you consider	38%	48%	39%	41%
Not too important; they are not a significant factor considering in deciding whether to support an elected public official	9%	7%	9%	8%
Not at all important for you in deciding whether to support an elected official	4%	4%	4%	6%

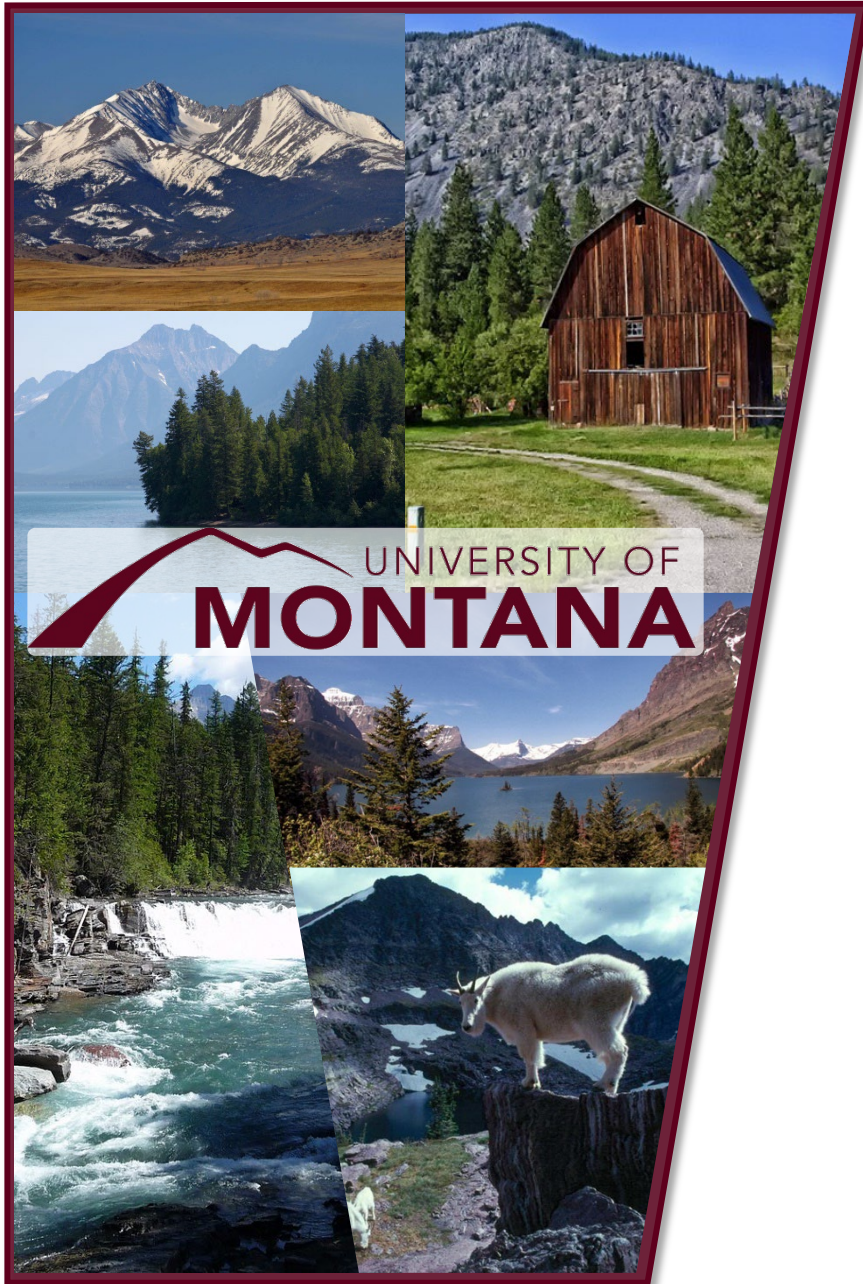
*Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, open spaces and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official?*



# Across party lines, voters say that conservation will factor into their 2022 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?*



# Challenges to the Montana Way of Life



A majority of Montanans say that quality of life has gotten worse in the last five years; near majorities of virtually every sub-group say it has declined.



Worse



About the Same



Better

*Compared to five years ago, would you say that the quality of life in your area of Montana is better, worse, or about the same?*

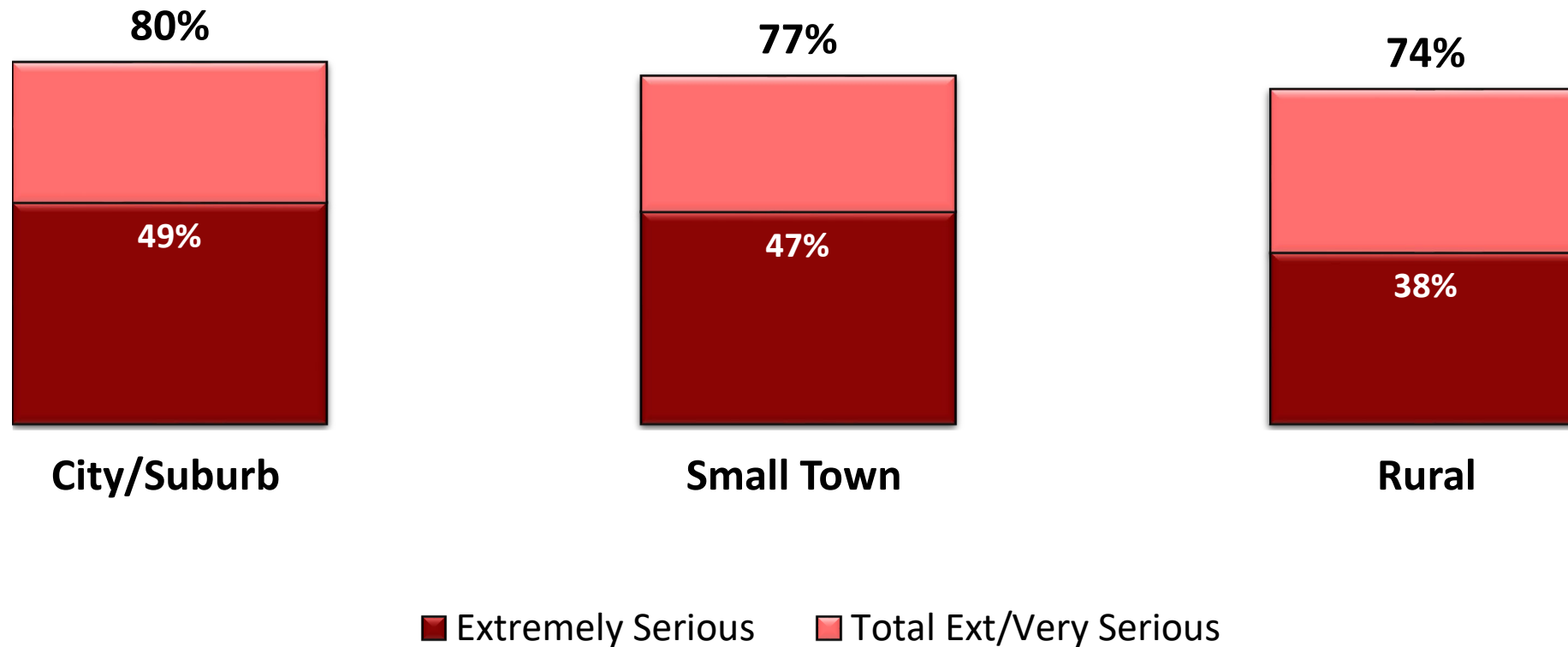
# Majorities say that a lack of affordable housing and development are both extremely or very serious problems in Montana.

<i>Ranked by % Extremely/Very Serious</i>	<b>Extremely/Very Serious</b>	<b>Total Serious</b>
Lack of affordable housing	<b>77%</b>	<b>92%</b>
Development sprawling into what were once ranches or open lands	<b>52%</b>	<b>85%</b>
Changing character of the state	<b>45%</b>	<b>77%</b>
Crowding and more people at places where you recreate outdoors	<b>45%</b>	<b>76%</b>
Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife	<b>43%</b>	<b>77%</b>
Loss of access to national forests, lakes and other public lands	<b>41%</b>	<b>70%</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 an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in the state.*



# Montanans in every type of community say that a lack of affordable housing is an extremely or very serious problem.



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

# A majority say that the rate of growth and development in the state is now too fast.



Too Fast



About Right



Too Slow

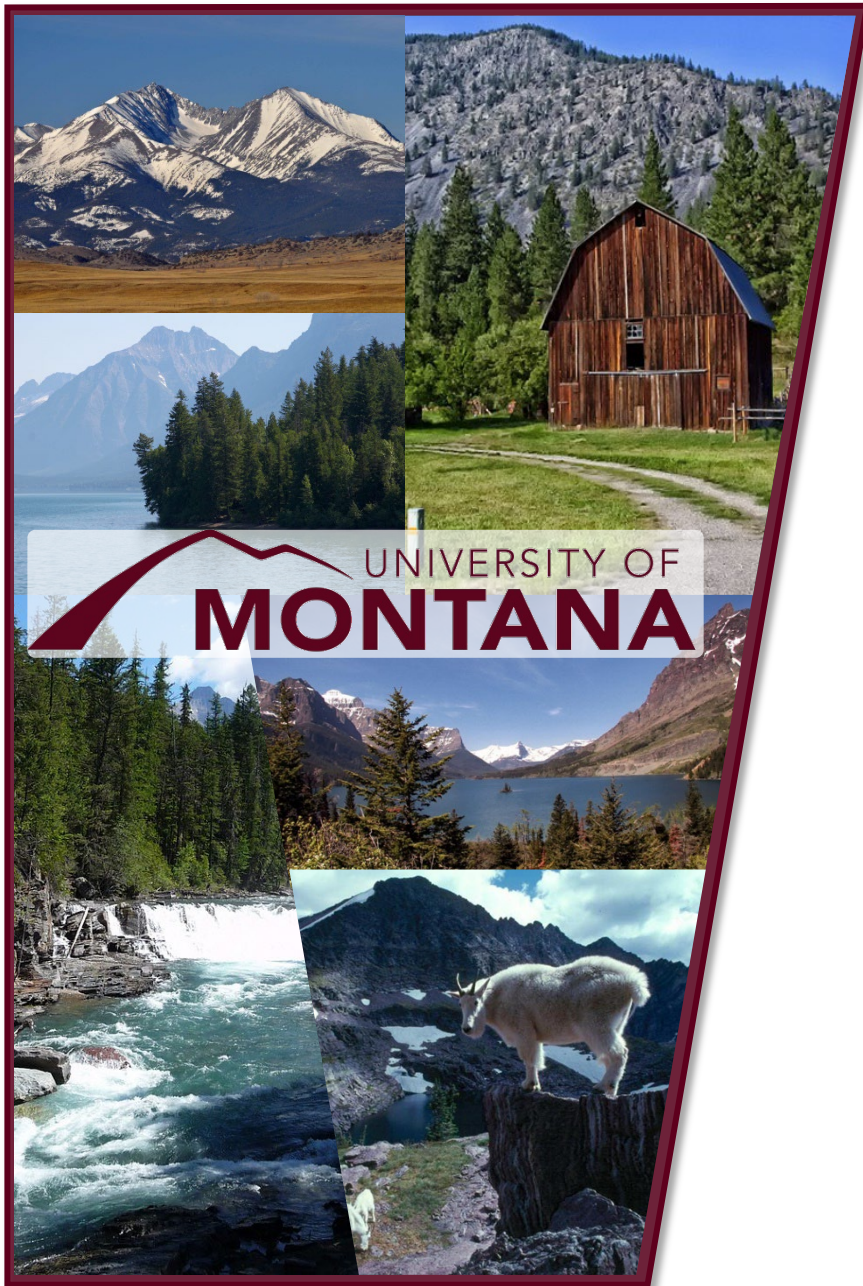
*In general, do you think the rate of growth and development in your community is too fast, about right, or too slow?*



# Perceptions of the rate of growth and development vary widely based on area in the state.

Media Markets/Areas	Too Fast	About Right	Too Slow
Missoula	70%	23%	6%
Butte/Bozeman	74%	22%	4%
Great Falls	30%	43%	25%
Billings	50%	40%	8%
Rural markets	39%	44%	17%

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



# Conservation Policies and Actions

# There is very strong support for efforts that would aid migrating wildlife.

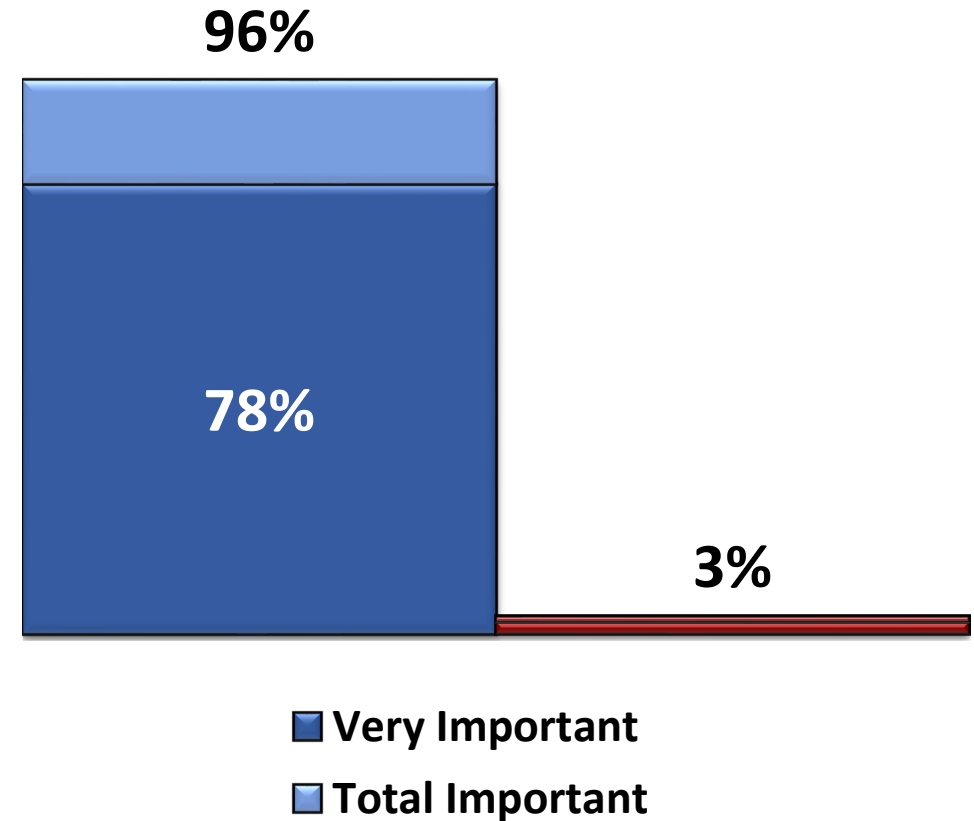
## *Ranked by % Strongly Support*

	Strongly Support	Total Support
Constructing wildlife crossing structures, such as over-passes or under-passes across major highways that intersect with known, concentrated migration routes	63%	87%
Providing incentives to private landowners like ranchers who voluntarily agree to conserve some of their land in migration routes as wildlife habitat	54%	86%
Identifying large blocks of existing public lands that would be managed and conserved, with an emphasis on conserving wildlife migration routes	49%	81%

*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 support or oppose that proposal.*



# Montanans universally recognize that migration of wildlife is very important.



*How important do you think it is for big game to be able to move between summer and winter habitat?*

**By nearly a seven-to-one margin, Montana voters want to continue dedicating some marijuana taxes to habitat and recreation.**

**Continue to have one third of marijuana taxes dedicated as they are now – specifically to state parks, trails, public access and wildlife habitat**

**82%**

**Redirect these funds to other purposes**

**12%**

*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...*

# Voters of all types and everywhere in the state agree with continuing to dedicate some marijuana taxes to conservation.

Demographic	Continue	Redirect
Republican	80%	13%
Independent	80%	12%
Democrat	90%	9%
City/Suburb	85%	9%
Town	84%	13%
Rural	78%	13%
Men 18-44	80%	12%
Men 45+	77%	18%
Women 18-44	90%	6%
Women 45+	83%	10%
East/Central Region	83%	12%
Western Region	82%	12%

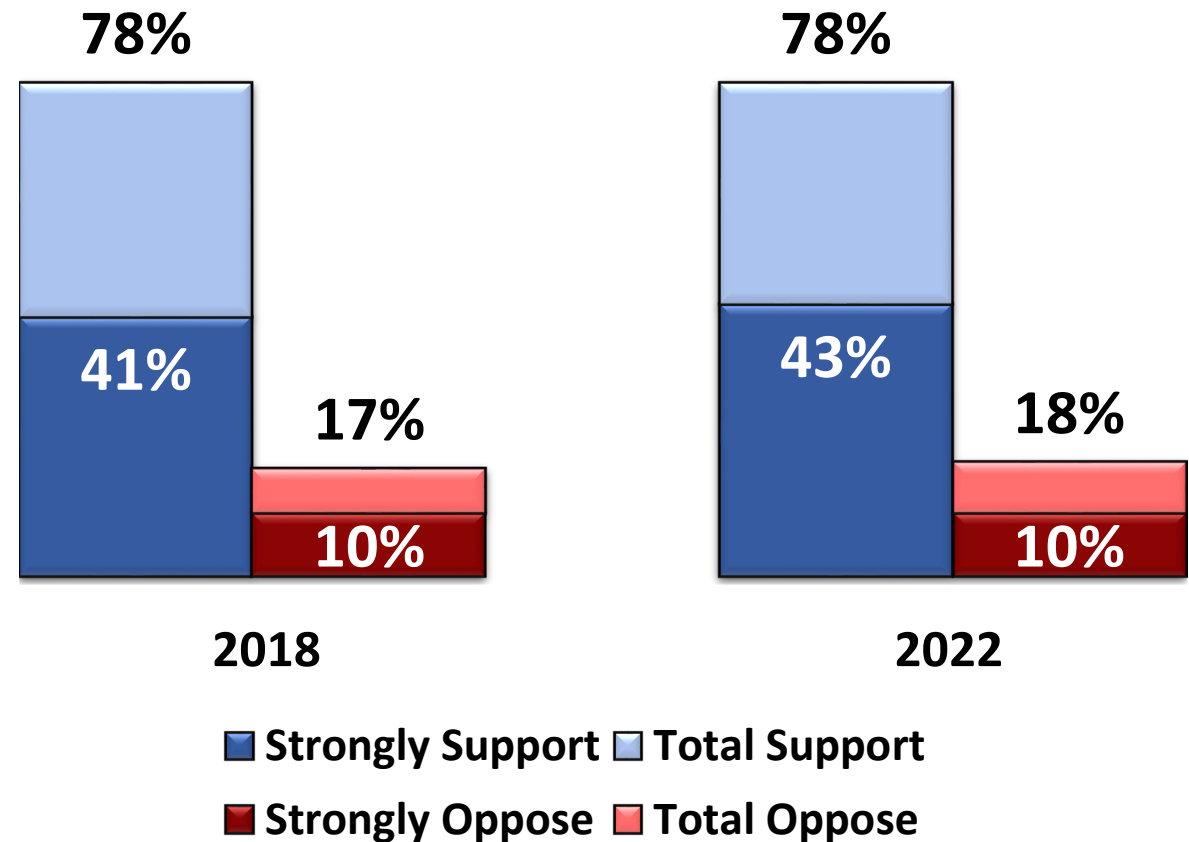
*Currently, about one third of taxes from the sale of recreational marijuana in the state are dedicated to maintaining state parks, improving trails and recreation opportunities, expanding public access, and conserving wildlife habitat at risk of development. Knowing this, would you prefer that the State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



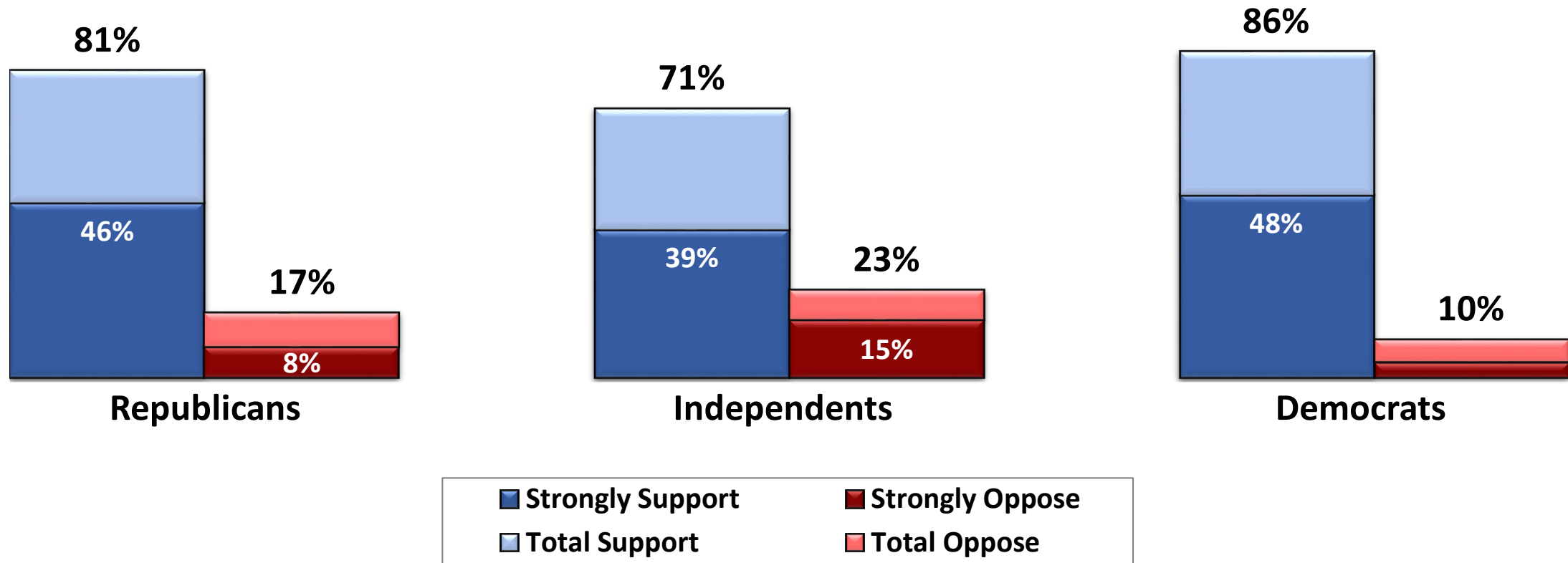
# Montana voters have been consistent in their support for Presidents using their Antiquity Act powers to designate national monuments.

*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, do you support or oppose Presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments?*

*2018 Language: Explanation added reference to most recent President and question was phrased as "And do you support or oppose the President continuing to have the ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments?"*



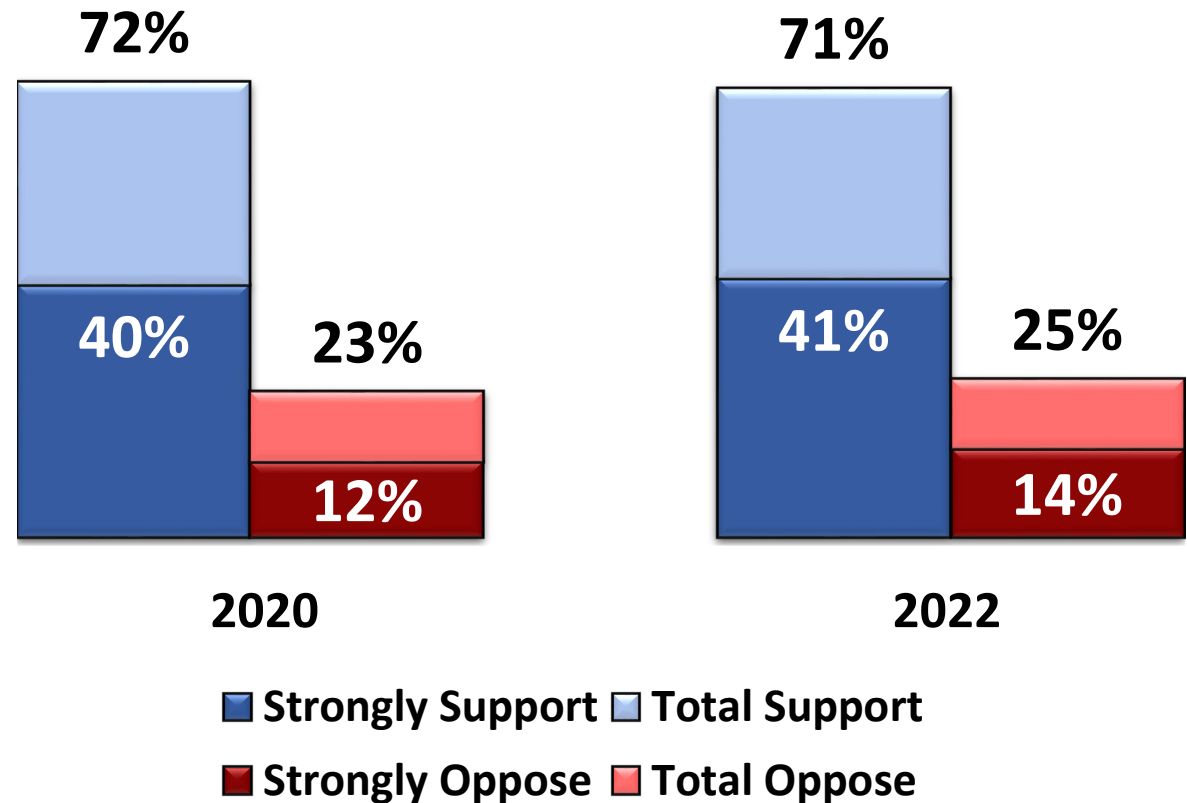
# This is one of the most bipartisan responses to any policy we tested.



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

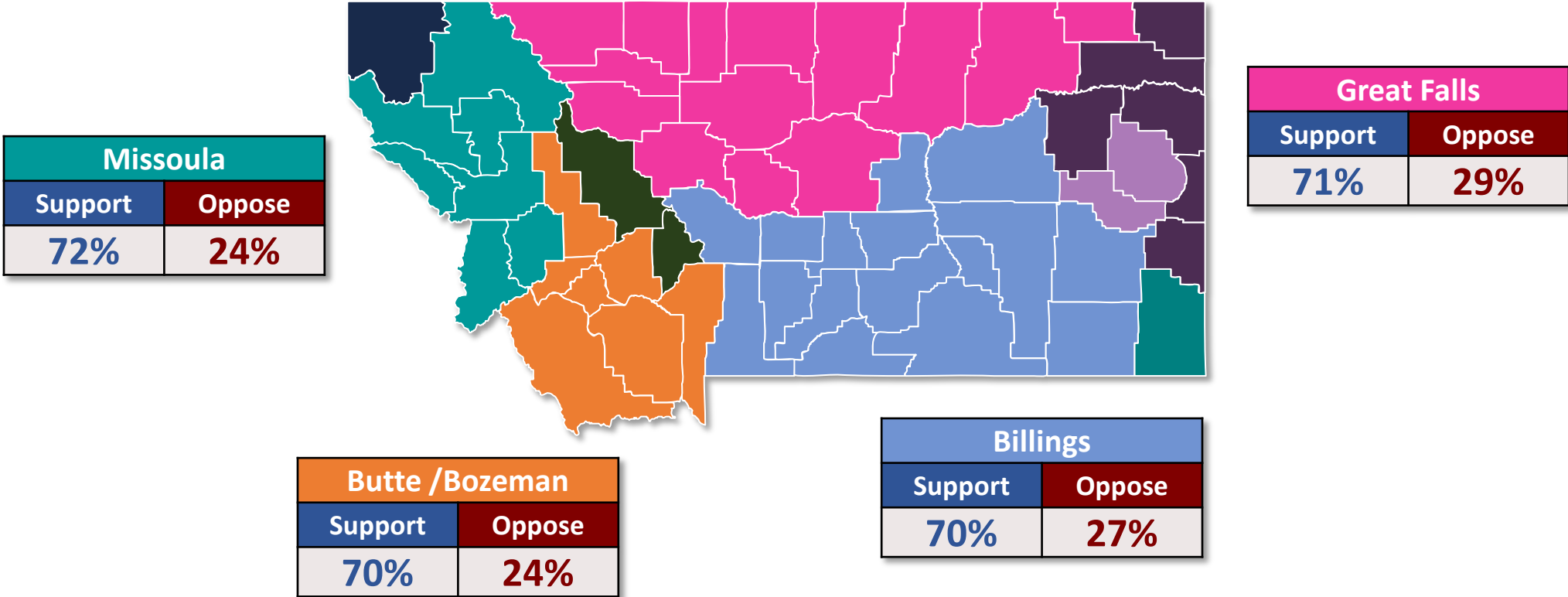
# There is significant support for the Lincoln proposal to add recreation areas but also add wilderness protections in others.

*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.*





# Support stands at seven-in-ten in every region of the state, including the area containing the project.

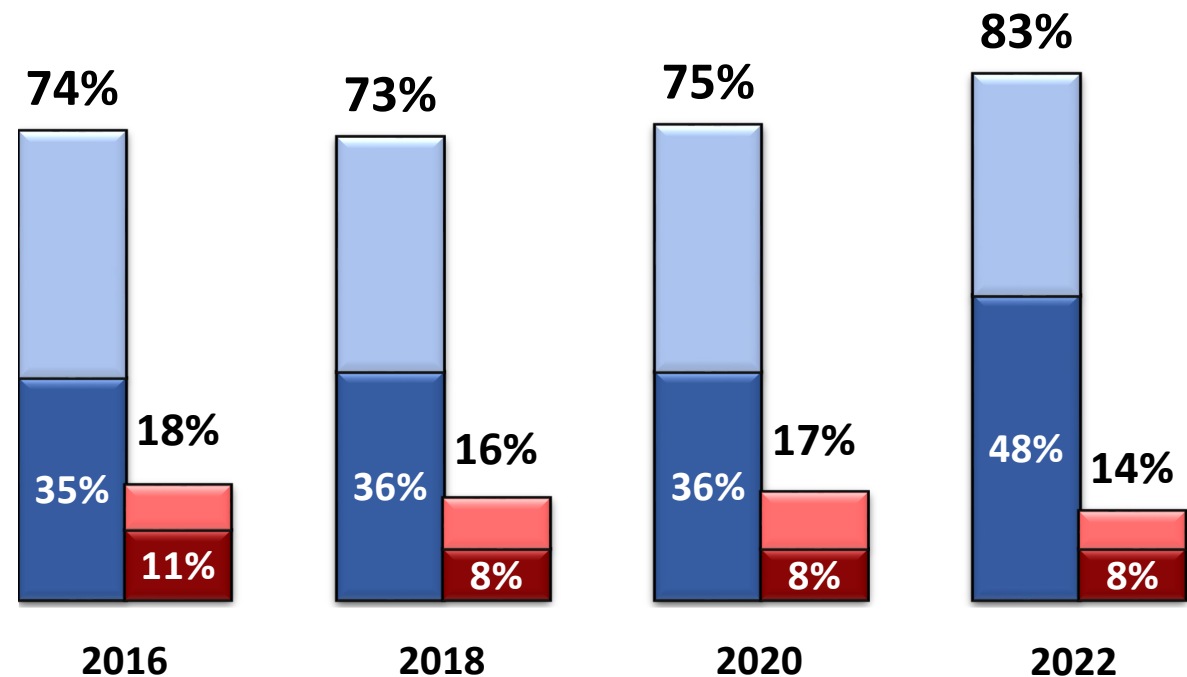


*Does increasing protections on national forest lands in western Montana sound like something you would support or oppose?*

# Support is the highest it has been for the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act.

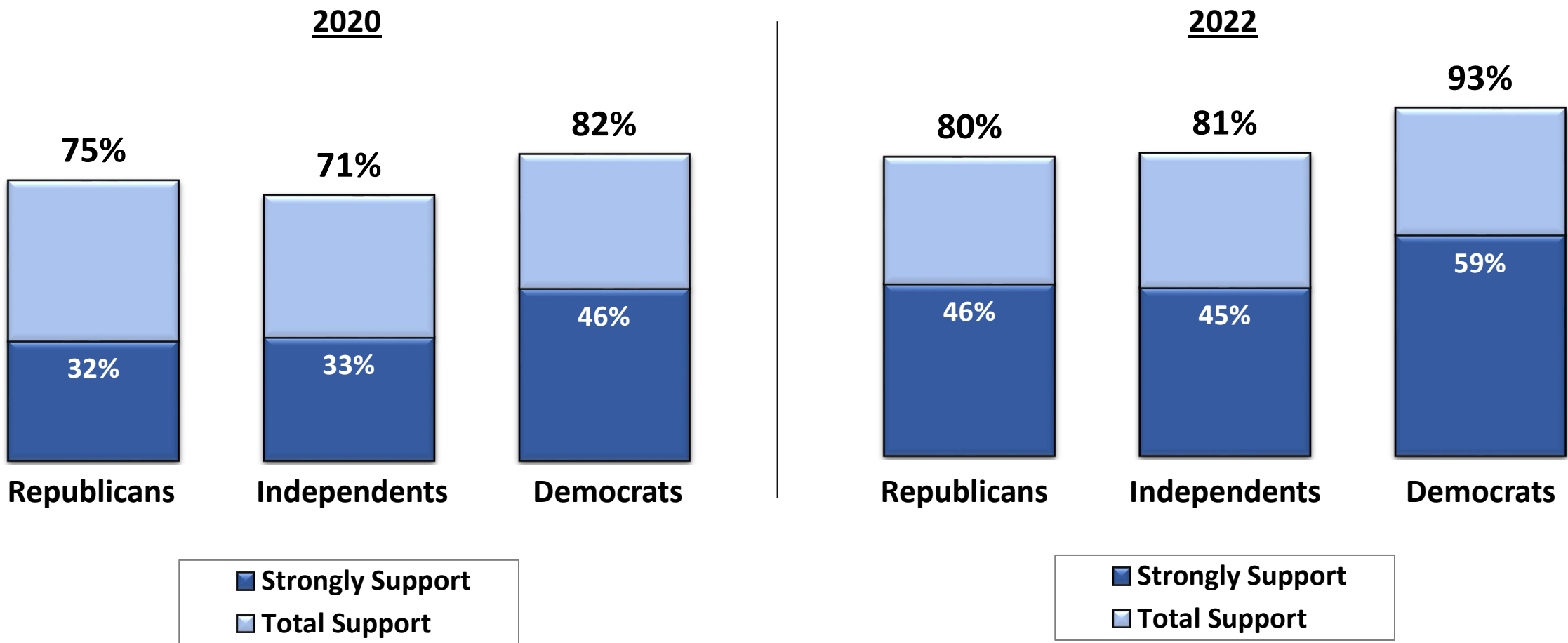
*Enacting the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act in western Montana, which would ensure hunting and fishing access, safeguard streams flowing into the Blackfoot River, add nearly eighty thousand acres of existing public lands to the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Mission Mountains wilderness areas, and create two new recreation areas and sustain timber harvest and habitat restoration*

*2020 Language: 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.*



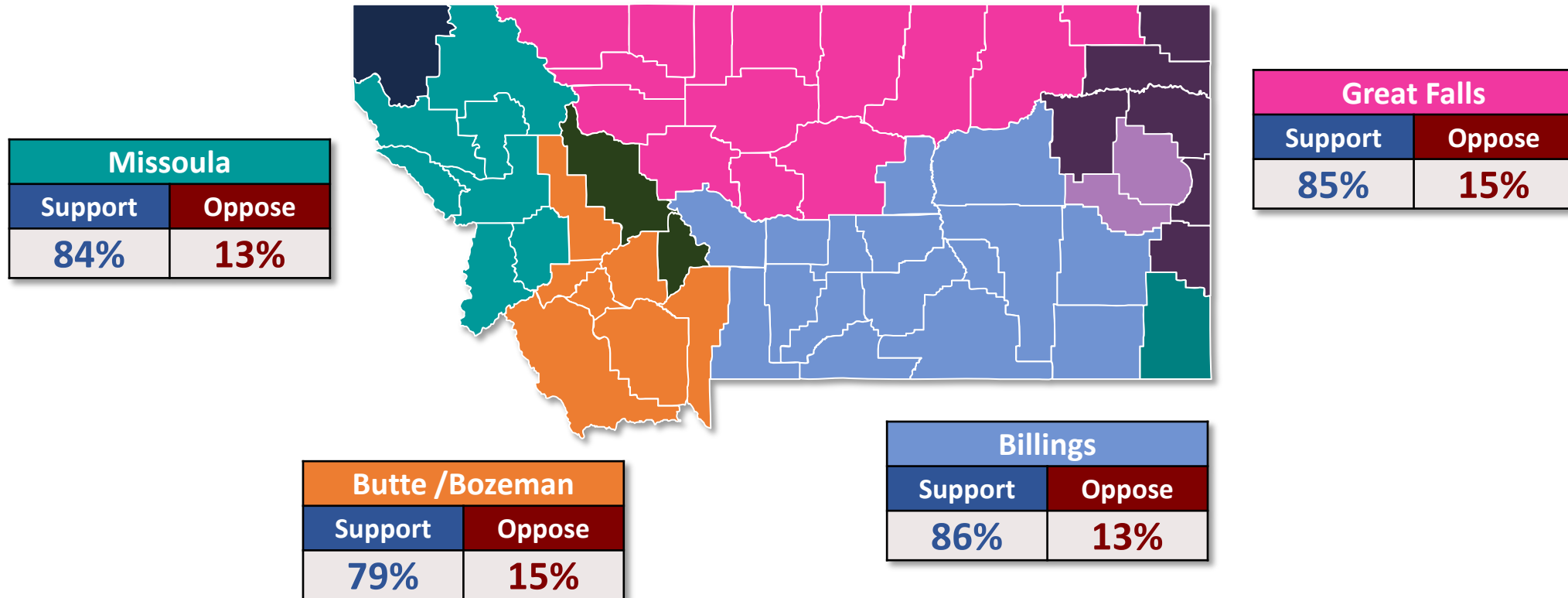
■ Strongly Support 
 ■ Total Support  
■ Strongly Oppose 
 ■ Total Oppose

# Support is stronger today for the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act across party lines.



*Does the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act sound like something you would support or oppose?*

# Support is also resounding throughout the state.



*Does the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act sound like something you would support or oppose?*



# Voters are consistent in wanting to see Wilderness Study Areas stay as-is or see more protections added; just 6% would eliminate 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 --*

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2022</u>
Increase protections in all seven areas	23%	23%
Keep the seven areas as they are now	52%	49%
Add protections in some areas and eliminate protections in others	14%	19%
Eliminate existing protections in all seven areas	8%	6%

# Most voters want Wilderness Study Areas to continue to be used for recreation and wildlife habitats, but there has been some modest change.

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

<u>2020</u>	<u>2022</u>
81%	72%

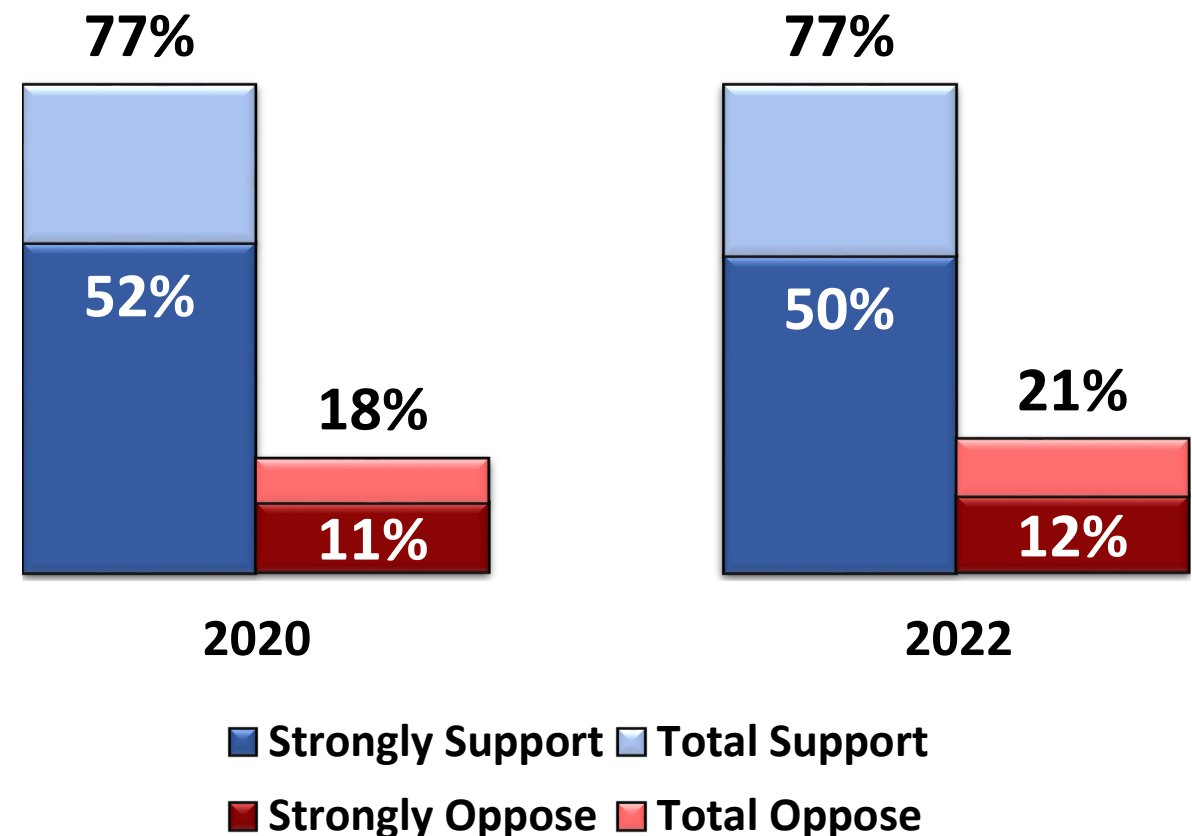
Allow changes in the uses such as oil and gas exploration and establishment of new or expanded motorized recreation

15%	23%
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*And congressional action to address Wilderness Study Areas can often take years, so in the meantime, should these lands –*

# Three-quarters continue to 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.*



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