
Key Findings From a Statewide Voter Survey Conducted September 1-8, 2016

Dave Metz & Lori Weigel
Research Methodology

• 503 interviews with Montana voters likely to participate in the November 2016 election
• Conducted September 1-8 via landline and cell phones
• Margin of error of +/-4.4% at the 95% confidence interval
• Due to rounding, some percentages do not add up to 100%
• Comparisons to previous surveys of Montana voters conducted in 2014 and 2012
Bipartisan Research Team

**Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates** (FM3) – a national Democratic opinion research firm with offices in Oakland, Los Angeles and Madison, Wisconsin – has specialized in public policy oriented opinion research since 1981. The firm has assisted hundreds of political campaigns at every level of the ballot – from President to City Council – with opinion research and strategic guidance. FM3 also provides research and strategic consulting to public agencies, businesses and public interest organizations nationwide.

**Public Opinion Strategies** (POS) is the largest Republican polling firm in the country. Since the firm’s founding in 1991, they have completed more than 10,000 research projects, interviewing more than five million Americans across the United States. Media outlets such as *The Wall Street Journal*, NBC News, CNBC, and National Public Radio rely on Public Opinion Strategies to conduct their polling. The firm conducts polling on behalf of hundreds of political campaigns, as well as trade associations, not-for-profit organizations, government entities and industry coalitions throughout the nation.

As a bipartisan team, FM3 and Public Opinion Strategies have researched a wide range of issues for nearly a decade, in particular on conservation-related initiatives and policies. Together, the two firms have jointly conducted research on behalf of political campaigns, businesses, not-for-profit organizations and public agencies in 44 states and nationally.
Southeast MT includes Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Fallon, Garfield, Musselshell, Powder River, Stillwater, Treasure, and Yellowstone Counties.
Montana voters have extremely high rates of participation in outdoor recreation.

- Hiking: 74%
  - Frequently: 42%
  - Occasionally: 31%
  - Rarely: 10%
  - Not At All/DK/NA: 16%

- Fishing: 60%
  - Frequently: 27%
  - Occasionally: 33%
  - Rarely: 14%
  - Not At All/DK/NA: 26%

- Hunting: 48%
  - Frequently: 30%
  - Occasionally: 18%
  - Rarely: 8%
  - Not At All/DK/NA: 44%

- Winter sports like skiing and snowmobiling: 47%
  - Frequently: 21%
  - Occasionally: 26%
  - Rarely: 15%
  - Not At All/DK/NA: 38%
A desire for action on climate change has inched up to a narrow majority.

From what you know about climate change, which of the following four statements is closest to your opinion?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate change has been established as a serious problem, and immediate action is necessary</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is enough evidence that climate change is taking place that some action should be taken</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We don’t know enough about climate change, and more research is necessary before we take action</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern about climate change is unwarranted</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/NA</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Montanans overwhelmingly believe we can reduce carbon pollution without increasing utility bills.

Do you generally agree or disagree with the following statement:
We can reduce carbon pollution without increasing our utility bills.

- **Strongly agree**: 35%
- **Somewhat agree**: 33%
- **Somewhat disagree**: 12%
- **Strongly disagree**: 14%
- **Don't know/NA**: 6%

Total Agree: 68%

Total Disagree: 26%
Men over 50 are more skeptical of the idea, while voters under 50 are largely optimistic.

**Region and Gender by Age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total Agree</th>
<th>Total Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men by Age</th>
<th>Total Agree</th>
<th>Total Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-49</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women by Age</th>
<th>Total Agree</th>
<th>Total Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-49</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Views on Energy Policy
Two-thirds back the Clean Power Plan, when described either specifically or generally.

Establishing a state plan to address climate change, reduce carbon pollution and encourage development of clean, renewable energy

- Strongly support: 51%
- Somewhat support: 17%
- Somewhat oppose: 11%
- Strongly oppose: 19%
- Don’t know/NA: 2%

Total Support: 68%

Developing a strategy to meet the goals of the EPA’s Clean Power Plan, reducing air pollution from coal plants

- Strongly support: 42%
- Somewhat support: 23%
- Somewhat oppose: 11%
- Strongly oppose: 22%
- Don’t know/NA: 2%

Total Oppose: 33%

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to energy in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose. Split Sample
Renewable energy sources are hugely popular among Montana voters.

Here is a list of specific sources of energy. Please tell me whether you would support or oppose increasing the use of that source of energy to meet Montana’s future needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Increased energy efficiency</th>
<th>Solar</th>
<th>Hydropower</th>
<th>Natural gas</th>
<th>Wind</th>
<th>Geothermal</th>
<th>Coal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Total Support**: 95%  
- **Total Oppose**: 3%

Renewable energy sources are hugely popular among Montana voters.
Support for renewables has held steady over the last six years.

Here is a list of specific sources of energy. Please tell me whether you would support or oppose increasing the use of that source of energy to meet Montana’s future needs.

- **Solar**
  - 2016: 65% Support, 25% Oppose, 5% DK/NA
  - 2014: 57% Support, 30% Oppose, 7% DK/NA
  - 2011: 59% Support, 27% Oppose, 7% DK/NA

- **Natural gas**
  - 2016: 51% Support, 35% Oppose, 9% DK/NA
  - 2014: 59% Support, 28% Oppose, 7% DK/NA
  - 2011: 51% Support, 36% Oppose, 7% DK/NA

- **Hydropower**
  - 2016: 57% Support, 31% Oppose, 6% DK/NA
  - 2014: 60% Support, 29% Oppose, 6% DK/NA
  - 2011: 53% Support, 29% Oppose, 7% DK/NA

- **Wind**
  - 2016: 64% Support, 22% Oppose, 6% DK/NA
  - 2014: 57% Support, 27% Oppose, 6% DK/NA
  - 2011: 62% Support, 24% Oppose, 7% DK/NA

- **Coal**
  - 2016: 41% Support, 24% Oppose, 16% DK/NA
  - 2014: 44% Support, 26% Oppose, 13% DK/NA
  - 2011: 32% Support, 30% Oppose, 17% DK/NA

**Total Support**
- Solar: 90%
- Natural gas: 87%
- Hydropower: 87%
- Wind: 86%
- Coal: 65%

**Total Oppose**
- Solar: 9%
- Natural gas: 12%
- Hydropower: 10%
- Wind: 13%
- Coal: 34%
Montanans have positive views of renewable energy.

Thinking about renewable energy like wind and solar power, please tell me if you think each of the following phrases describe renewable energy – very well, somewhat well, not very well, or not at all well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Well</th>
<th>Smwt. Well</th>
<th>Not Very Well</th>
<th>Not At All Well</th>
<th>No Opin./DK/NA</th>
<th>Total Well</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reliable</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A way to create good jobs</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A good investment</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The best power source for Montana</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to gradually replace our current use of coal</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheaper than coal</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Montanans have positive views of renewable energy.

Thinking about renewable energy like wind and solar power, please tell me if you think each of the following phrases describe renewable energy – very well, somewhat well, not very well, or not at all well. Split Sample
More than three-quarters now believe renewable energy is reliable.

*(Total Saying Each Phrase Describes Renewable Energy “Well”)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description Phrase</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reliable</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>+9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The best power source for Montana</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able to gradually replace our current use of coal</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A way to create good jobs</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
While coal is seen as more reliable, renewables are more often named “the best” power source for Montana.

*(Total % Describes That Source of Energy “Well”)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description Phrase</th>
<th>Renewable Energy</th>
<th>Coal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reliable</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A way to create good jobs</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The best power source for Montana</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Montana voters strongly support the concept of net metering.

Some utility customers generate their own power with things like solar panels. At times, they generate more than they can use and these customers get credit on their bills for the power they generate on their homes and business that is fed back into the utility system. Does this sound like something you would you support or oppose?

- Strongly support: 72%
- Somewhat support: 20%
- Somewhat oppose: 3%
- Strongly oppose: 3%
- Don’t know/NA: 1%

Total Support: 92%
Total Oppose: 7%
Voters strongly support a variety of policies to promote renewables.

Provide funding for school and local government energy conservation projects

- 54% Strongly Support
- 32% Somewhat Support
- 6% DK/NA
- 6% Strongly Oppose
- 86% Total Support
- 12% Total Oppose

Increase funding for weatherization upgrades for low-income Montanans

- 54% Strongly Support
- 30% Somewhat Support
- 7% DK/NA
- 7% Strongly Oppose
- 84% Total Support
- 14% Total Oppose

Double the current amount of solar in the state by 2025

- 48% Strongly Support
- 28% Somewhat Support
- 9% DK/NA
- 12% Strongly Oppose
- 75% Total Support
- 21% Total Oppose

Expand efforts to sell Montana’s abundant wind energy to other states

- 43% Strongly Support
- 31% Somewhat Support
- 9% DK/NA
- 14% Strongly Oppose
- 74% Total Support
- 23% Total Oppose

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to energy in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.
The Colstrip Power Plant
Framed generically, Montanans strongly support replacing retiring coal plants with renewables.

As coal plants are retired by their owners, replace them with more use of renewable energy

- **Strongly support**: 45%
- **Somewhat support**: 29%
- **Somewhat oppose**: 9%
- **Strongly oppose**: 12%
- **Don’t know/NA**: 4%

Total Support: 74%
Total Oppose: 22%

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to energy in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.
Support is just as strong in the counties nearest the Colstrip plant as it is statewide.

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to energy in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose. As coal plants are retired by their owners, replace them with more use of renewable energy.
Only among those who dismiss climate change does a plurality object.

As coal plants are retired by their owners, replace them with more use of renewable energy.

By Climate Change

- Serious/Immediate: 95% Total Support, 6% DK/NA, 6% Total Oppose
- Some Action: 91% Total Support, 6% DK/NA, 6% Total Oppose
- More Research: 63% Total Support, 6% DK/NA, 31% Total Oppose
- Unwarranted Concern: 45% Total Support, 6% DK/NA, 49% Total Oppose

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to energy in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.
As coal plants are retired by their owners, replace them with more use of renewable energy.

Even three in five conservative voters support the concept.

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to energy in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

By Ideology

- **Liberal**: 95% Total Support, 5% DK/NA, 1% Total Oppose
- **Moderate/Undecided**: 79% Total Support, 5% DK/NA, 17% Total Oppose
- **Conservative**: 60% Total Support, 5% DK/NA, 35% Total Oppose

*Data source: Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates – FM3*
Two-thirds support it in Eastern Montana, as do more than seven in ten elsewhere.

As coal plants are retired by their owners, replace them with more use of renewable energy

By Region

- **Eastern**: 67% Total Support, 31% Total Oppose
- **Central**: 73% Total Support, 23% Total Oppose
- **Western**: 79% Total Support, 6% Total Oppose

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to energy in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.
Men over age 50 are a notable base of skepticism – on this issue as others.

As coal plants are retired by their owners, replace them with more use of renewable energy

By Gender by Age

Men

18-49

81% Support
17% Oppose

50+

62% Support
35% Oppose

Women

18-49

81% Support

50+

75% Support
8% Oppose

16% Oppose
Based on what you know, which of the following do you believe is the biggest reason behind the retirement of the units at the Colstrip coal-fired power plant?

- Too many regulations: 22% first choice, 19% second choice, 41% total
- Pressure from environmental organizations: 21% first choice, 23% second choice, 43% total
- They are old and expensive to operate: 19% first choice, 15% second choice, 34% total
- Customers are demanding cleaner energy sources: 11% first choice, 9% second choice, 20% total
- Failed leadership by Montana elected officials: 8% first choice, 10% second choice, 18% total
- Natural gas is cheaper than coal: 8% first choice, 8% second choice, 16% total
- Don't know: 12% first choice, 16% second choice, 28% total
Liberals and moderates understand the Colstrip units were old and expensive.

*(1st Choice)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>All Voters</th>
<th>Ideology</th>
<th>Union Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many regulations</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure from environmental organizations</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are old and expensive to operate</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customers are demanding cleaner energy sources</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed leadership by Montana elected officials</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas is cheaper than coal</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on what you know, which of the following do you believe is the *biggest* reason behind the retirement of the units at the Colstrip coal-fired power plant?
Nearly one-third of older men blame regulations for the closures.

*(1st Choice)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>All Voters</th>
<th>Men by Age</th>
<th>Women by Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18-49</td>
<td>50+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many regulations</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure from environmental organizations</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are old and expensive to operate</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customers are demanding cleaner energy sources</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<td>Failed leadership by Montana elected officials</td>
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<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas is cheaper than coal</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eastern Montanans are more likely than others to blame failed leadership.

(1st Choice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>All Voters</th>
<th>Eastern</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Western</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too many regulations</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure from environmental organizations</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are old and expensive to operate</td>
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<td>17%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customers are demanding cleaner energy sources</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failed leadership by Montana elected officials</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Natural gas is cheaper than coal</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on what you know, which of the following do you believe is the biggest reason behind the retirement of the unit units at the Colstrip coal-fired power plant?
Montana voters disapprove of punishing the owners of Colstrip.

As you may know, the owners of the Colstrip coal-fired power plant have set a deadline to close the two oldest units, which were constructed in the 1970s and are becoming too costly to run efficiently. Some have proposed that the owners pay a penalty for this closure.

Do you approve or disapprove of a proposal to charge the owners of Colstrip?

- **Strongly approve**: 14%
- **Somewhat approve**: 10%
- **Somewhat disapprove**: 26%
- **Strongly disapprove**: 39%
- **Don’t know/NA**: 11%

Total approve: 24%
Total disapprove: 65%
Colstrip neighbors are just as likely to disapprove of penalties as voters statewide.

As you may know, the owners of the Colstrip coal-fired power plant have set a deadline to close the two oldest units, which were constructed in the 1970s and are becoming too costly to run efficiently. Some have proposed that the owners pay a penalty for this closure. Do you approve or disapprove of a proposal to charge the owners of Colstrip?

**Statewide**
- Strongly approve: 14%
- Somewhat approve: 10%
- Somewhat disapprove: 26%
- Strongly disapprove: 39%
- Don’t know/NA: 11%
- Total Approve: 24%
- Total Disapp.: 65%

**Southeast MT**
- Strongly approve: 19%
- Somewhat approve: 12%
- Somewhat disapprove: 24%
- Strongly disapprove: 40%
- Don’t know/NA: 5%
- Total Approve: 31%
- Total Disapp.: 64%
## Strong majorities favor transitioning over continuing to fight to keep Colstrip open.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State leaders should work with businesses, the community, and state and federal agencies to develop transition plans for the Colstrip community, including pushing for new wind and solar energy development</th>
<th>64%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State leaders should work with businesses, the community, and state and federal agencies to develop transition plans for the Colstrip community, including training for displaced workers</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State leaders should fight to keep these coal-fired units open despite the utility’s decision to close them down, even if it means spending taxpayer money to support the plant</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State leaders should fight to keep these coal-fired units open despite the utilities’ decision</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don't know 9%  5%
Support for retraining workers is especially high near the Colstrip power plant.

State leaders should work with businesses, the community, and state and federal agencies to develop transition plans for the Colstrip community, including pushing for new wind and solar energy development (51%)

State leaders should work with businesses, the community, and state and federal agencies to develop transition plans for the Colstrip community, including training for displaced workers (66%)

State leaders should fight to keep these coal-fired units open despite the utility’s decision to close them down, even if it means spending taxpayer money to support the plant (34%)

State leaders should fight to keep these coal-fired units open despite the utilities’ decision (32%)

Don't know (15%)
Don't know (2%)
Public Lands
Voters strongly support restoring funding to Habitat Montana.

*Restore the use of existing hunting and fishing license fee funds to improve access to public lands and wildlife habitat*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/NA</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Support 84%**

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to public lands in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.
More than three in five favor creating an Office of Outdoor Recreation.

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to public lands in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

Create an Office of Outdoor Recreation to promote tourism and recreation

- **Strongly support**: 27%
- **Somewhat support**: 34%
- **Somewhat oppose**: 15%
- **Strongly oppose**: 21%
- **Don’t know/NA**: 2%

Total Support: 62%
Total Oppose: 36%
Nearly three-quarters support an advocate for public access to public lands.

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to public lands in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.
Each idea is less popular in Eastern Montana than the rest of the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposals</th>
<th>All Voters</th>
<th>Eastern</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Western</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restore the use of existing hunting and fishing license fee funds to improve access to public lands and wildlife habitat</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a state advocate who would work to protect access to public lands</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create an Office of Outdoor Recreation to promote tourism and recreation</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here are some specific proposals that have been made relating to public lands in Montana. Please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.
River Protections
A strong majority opposes a mine on the Smith River.

A Canadian mining corporation is proposing to build a copper mine at the headwaters of the Smith River in Central Montana. This mine would create more than 200 jobs for 12 to 14 years in a community with a struggling economy, but it has the potential to pollute the river with mine waste and chemicals, decrease river flows, and severely harm fish populations for generations to come. Does this proposal sound like something you would support or oppose?
More than three in five are more likely to back an official who opposes the mine.

The state of Montana could determine that a copper mine in the headwaters of the Smith River would pose a serious environmental risk to water quality and the wild trout fishery there. Generally speaking, would you view an elected official more favorably, or less favorably if they opposed the construction of such a mine?

- Much more favorably: 36%
- Somewhat more favorably: 26%
- Somewhat less favorably: 13%
- Much less favorably: 14%
- Makes no difference/Don't know/NA: 11%

Total More Favorable: 62%
Total Less Favorable: 27%
Voters in Eastern Montana are more split, but still see such an official favorably.

By Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total More Favorable</th>
<th>Total Less Favorable</th>
<th>Makes No Difference/DK/NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The state of Montana could determine that a copper mine in the headwaters of the Smith River would pose a serious environmental risk to water quality and the wild trout fishery there. Generally speaking, would you view an elected official more favorably, or less favorably if they opposed the construction of such a mine?
Montanans broadly support the designation of additional Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Currently, only four segments of Montana rivers enjoy status as Wild and Scenic Rivers, and the last one was designated 40 years ago. Do you support or oppose permanently protecting more of Montana’s rivers that flow across federal public lands using the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act?

- Strongly support: 44%
- Somewhat support: 23%
- Somewhat oppose: 10%
- Strongly oppose: 15%
- Don’t know/NA: 7%

Total Support: 67%
Total Oppose: 25%
Generally speaking, would you view an elected official who supports new Wild and Scenic designations for rivers flowing across Montana's federal public lands more favorably, or less favorably?

- Much more favorably: 34%
- Somewhat more favorably: 31%
- Somewhat less favorably: 13%
- Much less favorably: 15%
- Makes no difference/Don't know/NA: 8%

More than three in five favor an official who does, too.

Total More Favorable: 65%
Total Less Favorable: 28%
Seven in ten western Montanans have a more favorable view of an official who backs more Wild and Scenic Rivers.

**By Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total More Favorable</th>
<th>Total Less Favorable</th>
<th>Makes No Difference/DK/NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(26%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(26%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(48%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generally speaking, would you view an elected official who supports new Wild and Scenic designations for rivers flowing across Montana's federal public lands more favorably, or less favorably?
Conclusions
Conclusions

• More than half of Montana voters now believe that action is needed on climate change – and more than two-thirds believe we can reduce carbon pollution without increasing our utility bills.

• Voters offer strong support for expanding the use of clean energy, believe it will create jobs in Montana, and see it as both reliable and a good investment.

• However, two-thirds continue to support more use of coal, which Montanans view as reliable, available and also a way to create good jobs.

• While most attribute the Colstrip closure to regulations or environmentalists, voters still support the transition to renewable energy and oppose fining the owners.

• Protecting the Smith River and designating more Wild and Scenic Rivers are broadly supported goals, and majorities would have a more favorable view of an elected official who backed those proposals.

• Voters strongly support restoring funding to Habitat Montana and protecting access to public lands.