Center for Western Priorities/Resources Legacy Fund
Montana Public Lands Survey
June 2016

METHODOLOGY

Purple Insights conducted 600 telephone interviews of likely 2016 voters in Montana, between June 11th and 15th, 2016. Respondents were randomly selected from a voter file. Fifty-four percent (54%) of the interviews were completed with voters on landlines and 46% were completed with voters on their cell phones. The margin of error is +/-4.0%.

Note: All numbers are percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

FAVORABILITY

1. You will now see a list of companies, groups and organizations. For each one, please tell me if you are very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable toward it. *Showing Total Favorable/Total Unfavorable*	**MT Voters**
National Park Service	86 / 8
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks	84 / 11
Sportsmen groups that represent hunters and fishermen	83 / 7
Groups that represent outdoor recreationists like hikers, bikers, and paddlers	83 / 8
Outdoor recreation companies like Cabela's, Simms Fishing, and Base Camp	81 / 4
United States Forest Service	78 / 14
Wind and solar energy companies	76 / 14
SPLIT A: Conservation groups	66 / 22
The Bureau of Land Management	57 / 24
SPLIT B: Coal companies	57 / 28
Mining companies	52 / 34
The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA	52 / 37
SPLIT A: Oil companies	51 / 36
SPLIT B: Environmental groups	49 / 39

PRIORITIES AND IMPACTS

2. What do you like most about living in Montana?

3. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements?	MT Voters					
	Strongly Agree	Smwt Agree	Smwt Disagree	Strongly Disagree	TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE
The mountains, wide open spaces, and outdoors are what make living in Montana special	88	11	1	0	**99**	**1**
SPLIT B: National parks, forest, monuments, and wildlife refuges are an essential part of Montana's quality of life	79	16	4	1	**95**	**5**
SPLIT A: National parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife refuges are an essential part of Montana's economy	68	23	5	2	**91**	**8**
As Montanans, we should prioritize collaboration on public lands issues over conflict with the federal government	41	33	8	5	**74**	**14**
There is too much public land in Montana	8	11	26	48	**19**	**75**

4. How important is a candidate's position to you personally on each of the following issues when deciding whether or not to support a candidate for public office in Montana?	MT Voters	
	Very Important	TOTAL IMPORTANT
The economy and jobs	77	97
Education	76	96
Agriculture	68	94
Health care affordability and coverage	67	92
Public lands, waters, and wildlife	66	96
The federal budget	60	90
Taxes	55	92
Infrastructure	51	89
Stream access	51	83
Domestic energy production	47	87
Immigration	47	77
Climate change	32	61

STREAM ACCESS

5. Do you support or oppose protecting Montana's Stream Access Law, allowing public access to rivers and streams in Montana for recreational purposes regardless of who the surrounding property owner is?	MT Voters
Support, strongly	60
Support, not so strongly	14
Oppose, not so strongly	9
Oppose, strongly	10
Don't know	7
TOTAL SUPPORT	**74**
TOTAL OPPOSE	**19**

ENERGY ISSUES

6. Would the following positions a candidate may take make you more or less likely to support that candidate, or would it not make a difference in your vote?	MT Voters			
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference	Don't Know
Support policies to increase energy efficiency in homes and buildings	74	8	16	2
Make traditional energy sources like oil, gas, and coal cleaner burning and more efficient	73	10	14	2
Expand the use of energy sources like wind and solar	73	11	14	2
Give local communities more authority to regulate drilling, mining and fracking operations	62	21	13	4
SPLIT B: Increase the royalties that coal companies pay to taxpayers for coal extracted on public lands	57	15	22	5
SPLIT A: Increase the royalties that oil companies pay to taxpayers for oil drilling on public lands	56	19	20	4
SPLIT B: Increase coal mining in Montana and the US to access America's vast energy resources	51	31	13	4
SPLIT A: Increase oil and gas drilling in Montana and the US to access America's vast energy resources	48	32	16	4
Keep oil, gas and coal in the ground to protect our climate and air	38	42	16	5

7. What energy source or sources should we prioritize in Montana and the American West over the next ten years?	MT Voters
Wind	51
Solar	49
Natural Gas	23
Coal	20
Oil	20
Hydropower	16
Nuclear	5
Something else	1
Don't know	4

8. As you may know, fracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, is the process of extracting natural gas or oil by injecting a high-pressure mixture of water, sand, and chemicals into shale rock. Do you support or oppose the practice of fracking to extract natural gas or oil in Montana?	MT Voters
Support, strongly	32
Support, not so strongly	16
Oppose, not so strongly	12
Oppose, strongly	29
Don't know	11
TOTAL SUPPORT	**48**
TOTAL OPPOSE	**41**

MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS

9. As you may know, some public land in Montana and other states is protected as national parks, national monuments, or wilderness areas. Do you believe Montana should protect more land as parks, national monuments or wilderness, or do you believe we already have enough protected areas?	MT Voters
Needs to protect new land	43
Already have enough protected areas	50
Don't know	6

10. Would the following proposal regarding public lands that a candidate may offer make you more or less likely to support that candidate, or would it not make a difference in your vote?	MT Voters			
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference	Don't Know
SPLIT B: Protect access to outdoors for hiking, hunting and fishing	84	4	9	2
SPLIT A: Protect access to the outdoors	80	9	8	3
Help create outdoor recreation jobs	79	6	12	2
Increase protection of wildlife habitats	73	12	13	2
Increase access to lands for mountain bikers, paddlers, and other outdoor enthusiasts	71	10	17	2
Help promote and expand our outdoor tourism economy	71	11	15	3
Encourage the development of solar and wind energy projects on public lands	69	14	13	4
Increase protection of public lands	68	14	15	3
Increase funding for the National Park Service	62	17	17	4
Continue oil and gas drilling on public lands, but with additional environmental protections in place	59	22	15	3
Reduce over time the amount of coal mining allowed on public lands	41	36	15	8
Ban new coal, oil, and gas leases on public lands	33	43	15	9
Open up more wilderness areas to motorized vehicle use	31	51	14	4
SPLIT B: Prohibit energy development of any kind on public lands, including large-scale solar and wind projects	27	56	11	6
SPLIT A: Prohibit energy development of any kind on public lands	24	53	17	6
Open up public lands to more private development	21	63	12	4
Sell public lands to reduce the budget deficit	20	63	11	5

11. SPLIT A: Now I am going to read you a couple of descriptions of potential political candidates. Between the following two candidates, which would you be more inclined to vote for?	MT Voters
A Democratic candidate who believes that the outdoors and our hunting and fishing heritage are what define Montana; who opposes transferring national forests and other public lands to state or local management; who will make protecting and providing public access to our land, water, and wildlife a top priority; who will support our recreation economy and agriculture; and who believes that we can have energy development on Montana lands if we manage it in a balanced way and prioritize wind and solar power.	49
A Republican candidate who believes states should be able to manage their own public lands; who supports selling off some public lands to close the budget deficit; who prioritizes expanding domestic oil and gas production to spur economic development; and who wants to aggressively challenge federal ownership of public lands.	33
Neither of them	11
Don't know	7

11. SPLIT B: Now I am going to read you a couple of descriptions of potential political candidates. Between the following two candidates, which would you be more inclined to vote for?	MT Voters
A Democratic candidate who will make protecting our land, water, and air a top priority and increase funding for environmental programs; who believes oil, gas, and coal should stay in the ground and be replaced by renewable sources, like wind and solar; and who wants to ban fracking to leave a cleaner future for generations to come.	32
A Republican candidate who believes that the outdoors and our hunting and fishing heritage are what define Montana; who opposes transferring national forests and other public lands to state or local management; who will make protecting and providing public access to our land, water, and wildlife a top priority; who will support our recreation economy and agriculture; and who believes that we can have energy development on Montana lands if we manage it in a balanced way and prioritize wind and solar power.	48
Neither of them	11
Don't know	9

12. As you may know, there are people in Montana and some neighboring states that are part of the Patriot Movement and think Montanans need to aggressively challenge federal ownership of public lands, like national forests and wildlife refuges. Some individuals in this movement have participated in armed standoffs with the government in Montana, Oregon, and Nevada, including occupying the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon earlier this year. Based on what you've heard, do you agree or disagree with their views on public lands and their actions?	MT Voters
Strongly agree	15
Somewhat agree	18
Somewhat disagree	14
Strongly disagree	39
Don't know	13
TOTAL AGREE	**34**
TOTAL DISAGREE	**53**

DEMOGRAPHICS

13. Do you consider yourself a hunter, an angler, both, or neither?	MT Voters
Hunter only	10
Angler only	9
Both	42
Neither	37
Prefer not to say	3

14. Do you consider yourself a conservationist?	MT Voters
Yes	76
No	20
Don't know	4

15. Do you regularly participate in outdoor activities like hiking, camping, biking or boating?	MT Voters
Yes	82
No	17
Don't know	1

16. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?	MT Voters
Strong Democrat	17
Not so strong Democrat	4
Independent, lean Democrat	8
Independent	26
Independent, lean Republican	9
Not so strong Republican	7
Strong Republican	22
Don't know	6
TOTAL DEMOCRAT	**30**
TOTAL REPUBLICAN	**39**

17. In the last several state and national elections, which of the following best describes the way you have voted?	MT Voters
Straight Democrat	11
Mostly Democrat	14
More Democrats than Republicans	10
About equal	17
More Republicans than Democrats	9
Mostly Republican	20
Straight Republican	13
For some other party	1
I typically don't vote	0
Don't know	4

18. Do you consider yourself a liberal, conservative, or moderate?	MT Voters
Liberal	20
Moderate	43
Conservative	32
Don't know	5

19. Are you the parent of a child under the age of 18 living in your household?	MT Voters
Yes	29
No	70
Prefer not to say	2

20. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?	MT Voters
Less than high school	2
High school graduate	21
Some college	30
Trade or professional school	5
College graduate	29
Post-graduate work or degree	13
Prefer not to say	1

21. What is your racial or ethnic background?	MT Voters
Black/African-American	0
White	92
Hispanic/Latino	1
Asian	0
Native American	2
Multi-Racial	2
Some other race	0
Prefer not to say	3