

Pew Montana Statewide Survey

Interview Schedule

New Bridge Strategy / FM3 Research

November 17-22, 2020

N=500 Voters

Margin of Error: \pm 4.38%



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=251. Sample B was asked of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the sample, N=249.*
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Switching subjects –

1. Would you **(ROTATE)** agree or disagree with the following statement: “Wildlife are an important part of my daily life.”

(IF CHOICE GIVEN THEN ASK) And do you (agree/disagree) strongly or just somewhat?

61%	Strongly agree
23%	Somewhat agree
11%	Somewhat disagree
3%	Strongly disagree
2%	UNSURE/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
84%	TOTAL AGREE
14%	TOTAL DISAGREE

(ROTATE Q2-3)

2. How important would you say the presence of wildlife is to Montana’s quality of life? Would you say it is...**(ROTATE PUNCHES TOP-TO-BOTTOM, BOTTOM-TO-TOP)**

61%	Extremely important
27%	Very important
10%	Somewhat important
2%	Not that important
*	UNSURE/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
88%	EXTREMELY/VERY IMPORTANT
98%	TOTAL IMPORTANT

3. How important would you say the presence of wildlife is to Montana's economy? Would you say it is... **(ROTATE PUNCHES TOP-TO-BOTTOM, BOTTOM-TO-TOP)**

52% Extremely important
32% Very important
14% Somewhat important
2% Not that important

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

83%^ **EXTREMELY/VERY IMPORTANT**
97%^ **TOTAL IMPORTANT**

Every year, big game animals including pronghorn antelope, mule deer and elk migrate between summer and winter habitat and feeding grounds in Montana.

4. In the last ten years, would you say the populations of migrating big game animals in Montana has – **(ROTATE PUNCHES 1-2 AND READ 3 LAST)**

15% Increased
25% Decreased
39% OR Stayed about the same?

21% UNSURE **(DO NOT READ)**
* REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

5. How important do you think it is for big game to be able to move between summer and winter habitat? Do you think it is... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

80% Very important
16% Somewhat important
2% Not too important
1% Not important at all

1% UNSURE/ REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

96% **TOTAL IMPORTANT**
3% **TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT**

The following items are potential threats to these migrating big game animals. For each one, please indicate how serious a threat you believe it is to those animals' ability to migrate...is it a major threat, minor threat or not a threat? If you are not familiar with something, please just say so and we will move on.

RANKED BY % MAJOR THREAT

	Major Threat	Minor Threat	Not a Threat	Not Familiar	(DNR) DK	(DNR) REF	
The first/next one is...(RANDOMIZE. PROMPT ONLY IF NEEDED) And is that a major threat, minor threat or not a threat?							
10.	Housing development in migration routes	59%	29%	8%	2%	2%	*
7.	Highways that cross migration routes	45%	41%	11%	1%	1%	1%
8.	Oil and gas drilling in migration routes	42%	34%	17%	4%	3%	--
11.	Climate change	42%	26%	27%	3%	2%	*
6.	Barbed wire and other types of fences that run across migration routes	26%	48%	22%	3%	1%	*
9.	Wind turbines or large solar arrays in migration routes	18%	41%	24%	10%	6%	1%

As you may know, big game animals migrate for better food, water, weather, and even survival.

12. In general, how important do you think it is for the state of Montana to adopt strategies and actions that conserve wildlife migration routes in Montana? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

61%	Very important
27%	Somewhat important
6%	Not very important
5%	Not important at all
1%	UNSURE/ REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
88%	TOTAL IMPORTANT
11%	TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

Let me ask you about some specific actions which Montana is currently taking or could take in the future regarding migrating big game animals. For each one, please indicate whether you (ROTATE) support or oppose that proposal.

(IF SUPPORT/OPOSE, ASK:) And would that be STRONGLY (support/oppose) or just SOMEWHAT (support/oppose)?

RANKED BY % STRONGLY SUPPORT

Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Smwt Support	Smwt Oppose	Strongly Oppose	(DNR) DK	(DNR) Ref
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The first/next one is...**(RANDOMIZE – PROMPT ONLY IF NEEDED)** And do you support or oppose that one?

19.	Constructing wildlife crossing structures such as over-passes or under-passes across major highways that intersect with known, concentrated migration routes.	88%[^]	10%	66%	21%	4%	6%	2%	*
20.	Improving coordination between state government, the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to prioritize conservation of wildlife migration routes on both state and federal public lands	86%	12%	64%	22%	5%	7%	2%	*
15.	Providing incentives to private landowners like ranchers who voluntarily agree to conserve some of their land in migration routes as wildlife habitat	86%	13%	61%	25%	5%	8%	1%	--

Continued...

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Smwt Support	Smwt Oppose	Strongly Oppose	(DNR) DK	(DNR) Ref
18. Identifying large blocks of existing public lands that would be managed and conserved, with an emphasis on conserving wildlife migration routes	80%	16%	60%	20%	7%	9%	3%	1%
13. Requiring that areas leased for mining or oil and gas development on public lands avoid big game migration routes	72%	25%	52%	20%	12%	13%	2%	1%
17. Requiring the construction of new housing developments and the associated roads and infrastructure avoid wildlife migration routes	75%	22%	51%	24%	11%	11%	2%	1%
16. Providing incentives for landowners to replace fencing, either removing or raising the bottom rung of fences, so migrating animals have an easier time crawling under or jumping over, while still keeping cattle inside	74%	23%	46%	28%	10%	13%	2%	1%
14. Requiring that large renewable energy developments, like wind and solar, avoid wildlife migration routes	73%	24%	40%	33%	15%	9%	3%	*

21. I am going to read you a pair of statements about this issue and I'd like you to tell me which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither one perfectly fits what you think. **(ROTATE PUNCHES 1-2)**

79% With careful planning, state government can conserve wildlife migration routes without negatively impacting ranching, mining or oil and gas businesses
...OR...

18% If state government conserves wildlife migration routes, it will negatively impact ranching, mining and oil and gas businesses

1% BOTH **(DO NOT READ)**

1% NEITHER **(DO NOT READ)**

1% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Taking a step back, a number of different people and organizations may have some role to play in wildlife migration matters in Montana. Please tell me whether you believe each of the following should have a **(ROTATE)** major role to play, some role, or no role.

RANKED BY % MAJOR ROLE

	Total Role	Major Role	Some Role	No Role	(DNR) DK	(DNR) REF	
The first/next one is...(RANDOMIZE)							
26.	State government agencies like Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the department of transportation	95%	65%	30%	5%	--	*
27.	Native American tribes in Montana	89%	52%	37%	11%	*	--
25.	Federal government agencies like the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management	88%^	52%	37%	11%	*	--
22.	Private landowners	95%	46%	49%	5%	--	--
24.	Local government	87%^	35%	53%	13%	*	--
28.	Large businesses, like oil, gas, and mining companies, that operate in areas where wildlife migrate	74%	25%	49%	25%	1%	--

29. A coalition of state agencies like Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, scientists and non-profit organizations have identified a number of big game migration routes where they could work with the Department of Transportation to construct over-or under-passes that would reduce wildlife and vehicle crashes. Would you (**ROTATE**) - support or oppose - increasing state funding to construct more over and under passes?

(IF CHOICE GIVEN THEN ASK) And do you (support/oppose) strongly or just somewhat?

61%	Strongly support
24%	Somewhat support
5%	Somewhat oppose
9%	Strongly oppose
1%	UNSURE/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
85%	TOTAL SUPPORT
14%	TOTAL OPPOSE

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30. If Governor-elect Gianforte supported actions that conserve wildlife migration routes in Montana, would you have a (**ROTATE**) more favorable impression, a less favorable impression, or would that not make a difference in your view of him?

(IF CHOICE, ASK) And would you say would you have a MUCH (more/less) favorable impression or a SOMEWHAT (more/less) favorable impression?

16%	Much more favorable impression
30%	Somewhat more favorable impression
2%	Somewhat less favorable impression
2%	Much less favorable impression
49%	No difference
1%	UNSURE/REFUSED (DO NOT READ)
46%	TOTAL MORE FAVORABLE
4%	TOTAL LESS FAVORABLE

(ROTATE Q31-36 AS A BLOCK WITH Q37-42)

The following are some reasons why someone could support the state conserving migration routes in Montana. For each one of the statements, please indicate if that is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing or not at all convincing reason why the state SHOULD do more to conserve wildlife migration routes in Montana.

RANKED BY % VERY CONVINCING

Total Conv	Total Not Conv	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	Not Very Conv	Not at All Conv	(DNR) DK	(DNR) Ref
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The first/next one is...(RANDOMIZE)

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|-----|--|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| 35. | Outdoor recreation like wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing is an essential part of the Montana way of life and also benefits our economy. Those types of outdoor activities support 71 thousand jobs in our state and contribute more than 286 million dollars in tax revenue. (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS) | 94% | 6% | 72% | 22% | 4% | 2% | -- | -- |
| 33. | On Highway 93, new bridges and tunnels allow migrating wildlife to crossroads without encountering traffic. These structures have reduced wildlife-related vehicle accidents by 80 percent." (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS) | 93% | 6% | 70% | 23% | 2% | 4% | 1% | -- |
| 31. | We have a responsibility to conserve Montana wildlife for our children and grandchildren so they can enjoy the presence of wildlife in their lives. (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS) | 97% | 3% | 68% | 29% | 1% | 2% | * | -- |
| 34. | Scientists estimate that we could risk losing one-third of our wildlife by the year 2050 – and once a species is gone, we can never get them back. We must take action now to protect wildlife migration routes to help these animals survive. (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS) | 77% | 23% | 48% | 29% | 10% | 13% | -- | -- |
| 36. | The state of Montana not the federal government has the authority to manage wildlife within our state’s borders, so Montana should guide federal agencies’ decisions about National Forests and other public lands to protect wildlife migration routes. (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS) | 87% | 11% | 45% | 42% | 7% | 4% | 1% | 1% |
-

The following are some reasons why someone could oppose the state conserving migration routes in Montana. For each one of the following statements, please indicate if that is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing or not at all convincing reason why the state should NOT do more to conserve wildlife migration routes in Montana.

RANKED BY % VERY CONVINCING

	Total Conv	Total Not Conv	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	Not Very Conv	Not at All Conv	(DNR) DK	(DNR) Ref
The first/next one is...(RANDOMIZE)								
42.	Farmers and ranchers need miles of fencing to keep in cattle or protect their crops. We should not place the additional burden of changing their fencing onto them. (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS)							
	59%^	39%	28%	32%	26%	13%	1%	*
37.	Private landowners are already responsible caretakers of the land. We need to protect personal property rights and not place further burdensome and costly regulations on private citizens in order to help wildlife migrate. (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS)							
	59%^	40%	27%	31%	24%	16%	1%	--
38.	Abundant and reliable supplies of energy are key to a robust economy. Mining and oil and gas are a key part of our economy, providing thousands of good-paying jobs especially in rural areas of the state. We should not adopt policies that make it more difficult to mine and drill for oil and gas. (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS)							
	48%	50%	19%	29%	25%	25%	2%	*
40.	The rural parts of our state are the ones that need economic development the most, and we need to focus on spurring more development that will create good paying jobs and lift up our communities. (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS)							
	46%	52%	15%	31%	34%	18%	1%	1%
41.	Animals have adapted for centuries to human's activities and will continue to adapt as Montana grows. We don't need to spend our taxpayer dollars on helping animals do something they can figure out on their own. (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS)							
	33%	67%	13%	20%	23%	44%	--	--
39.	The state's budget is already too strained. (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS)							
	39%	58%	11%	28%	29%	29%	3%	*

43. Having heard more information let me ask you again - how important do you think it is for the state of Montana to adopt strategies and actions that conserve wildlife migration routes in Montana - **(ROTATE)** very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

64% Very Important
28% Somewhat important
5% Not very important
3% Not important at all

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

92% TOTAL IMPORTANT
8% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

The following list is a number of types of people and organizations that might discuss issues related to wildlife migration. Please tell me whether or not you would consider that person or organization to be a believable source of information about wildlife migration. If you have never heard of that type of person or organization, or have no opinion about it, please tell me that instead.

RANKED BY % VERY BELIEVABLE

Total Believ-able	Total Not Believ-able	Very Believ-able	Smwt Believ-able	Not Very Believ-able	Not at All Believ-able	(DNR) Nvr Hrd of	(DNR) No Opin	(DNR) DK/ ref
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The first/next one is...**(RANDOMIZE)(PROMPT IF NEEDED)** And do you consider that person or organization to be **(ROTATE)** very believable, somewhat believable, not very believable, or a not at all believable source of information about issues related to wildlife migration?

51.	Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS)	96%	4%	67%	29%	2%	2%	--	*	--
55.	Wildlife biologists (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS)	89%[^]	8%[^]	66%	22%	4%	3%	2%	2%	*
50.	U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS)	89%	7%	63%	26%	3%	4%	1%	3%	*
49.	U.S. Forest Service (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS)	87%	11%	51%	36%	6%	5%	1%	1%	*
56.	Ranchers and farmers (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS)	87%	9%	47%	40%	6%	3%	*	3%	1%

Continued...

	Total Believ-able	Total Not Believ-able	Very Believ-able	Smwt Believ-able	Not Very Believ-able	Not at All Believ-able	(DNR) Nvr Hrd of	(DNR) No Opin	(DNR) DK/ ref
52. Native American tribes in Montana (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS)	84%	12%	47%	37%	8%	4%	*	3%	1%
46. Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS)	80%^	9%	44%	37%	6%	3%	4%	5%	1%
47. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS)	80%^	8%	43%	36%	4%	4%	7%	6%	*
48. Bureau of Land Management (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS)	85%	10%	38%	47%	7%	3%	--	3%	2%
53. Hunters (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS)	88%	8%^	36%	52%	6%	3%	1%	2%	*
45. Montana Wildlife Federation (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS)	68%	9%	35%	33%	4%	5%	14%	6%	3%
44. The Nature Conservancy (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS)	59%^	14%	35%	25%	7%	7%	18%	5%	3%
57. Montana Department of Transportation (SAMPLE B, N=249 RESPONDENTS)	78%	20%	26%	52%	14%	6%	*	2%	1%
54. Oil and gas companies (SAMPLE A, N=251 RESPONDENTS)	32%	61%^	7%	25%	33%	29%	*	6%	1%

We're almost finished. I just have a few questions to make sure we hear from all types of Montanans.

D1. To ensure we have a representative sample of voters in Montana, please tell me in what year you were born.

- 22% 18 to 34
- 16% 35 to 44
- 15% 45 to 54
- 18% 55 to 64
- 29% 65 and over

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

D2. What was the last level of education you completed? **(DO NOT READ CATEGORIES)**

24% GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS
3% TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
22% SOME COLLEGE
33% GRADUATED COLLEGE
16% GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

2% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

24% HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS
25% SOME COLLEGE
49% COLLEGE+

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

9% HUNTER ONLY
12% ANGLER ONLY
39% BOTH

39% NO/NEITHER **(DO NOT READ)**
* UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

61% TOTAL YES

D4. How would you describe the area where you currently live? **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)**

18% A big city
20% A suburban area
31% A small town
31% A rural area

* DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE **(DO NOT READ)**

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

38% CITY/SUBURB
62% SMALL TOWN/RURAL

D5. Do you own five acres or more of land in Montana?

30% Yes

70% No

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

D6. Are you or anyone in your household employed in any of the following industries? (**READ AND RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1-3; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES**)

12% Farming

15% Ranching

7% Oil and gas

76% None of these

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

24% TOTAL YES

D7. And, in politics today, do you consider yourself to be... (ROTATE)

a Republican,

a Democrat,

an Independent, or something else?

(**IF INDEPENDENT/SOMETHING ELSE, ASK**) Do you think of yourself as closer to the... (ROTATE)

the Republican party

...or...

the Democratic party

29% REPUBLICAN

9% LEAN REPUBLICAN

25% SOMETHING ELSE/INDEPENDENT

9% LEAN DEMOCRAT

25% DEMOCRAT

-- DON'T KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)

3% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

D8. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)** conservative, moderate ...or... liberal on most issues?

39% CONSERVATIVE

33% MODERATE

23% LIBERAL

2% DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**

3% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

D9. Gender **(BY OBSERVATION)**

48% MALE

52% FEMALE
