

MONTANA



There are more hunters and anglers in Montana than in any of the other Western states. Thus, it is no surprise that Montana voters are also some of the most frequent visitors to public lands among the states in the West. Big Sky Country voters are also the most opposed to selling off public lands as a way to reduce the budget deficit.

Montanans are among the most frequent visitors to public lands.

- Two-thirds (66%) of Montana voters visit public lands six or more times per year, with 38% visiting more than TWENTY times per year. The number of Montanans in that frequent visitor category is nearly double that of any other Western state, with the exception of Wyoming.
- With so many in the state frequently visiting public lands, the closing of public lands during the federal government shutdown left Montanans angry (29%) and annoyed (27%).



More than three-in-five Montana voters consider themselves a hunter or angler.

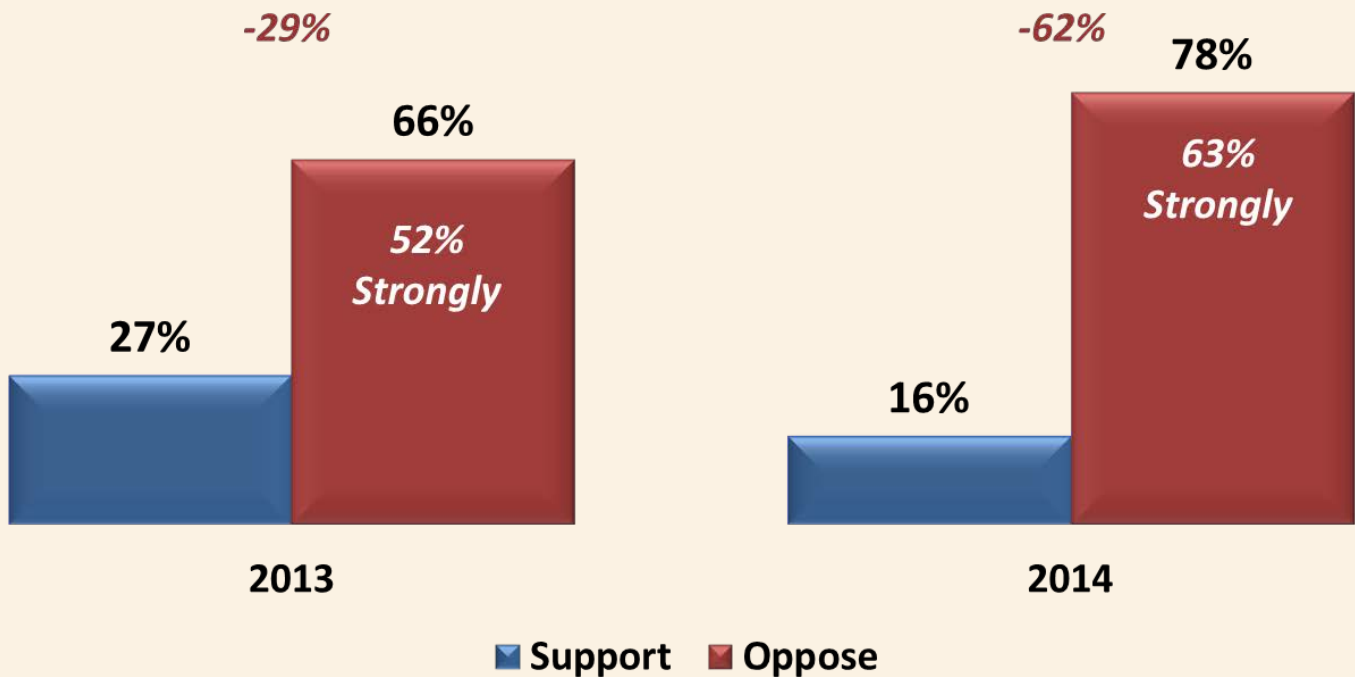
- Sixty-three percent (63%) of Montanans are sportsmen, with close to half (47%) saying they are both a hunter and an angler.
- Montana and Wyoming are the only two states in the West where more than half of the population considers themselves to be a hunter or angler.

	Hunter	Angler
Arizona	24%	33%
Colorado	25%	34%
Montana	53%	57%
New Mexico	27%	33%
Utah	26%	34%
Wyoming	54%	59%

Montana voters are strongly opposed to selling off public lands as a way to help reduce the budget deficit.

- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of Montana voters are opposed to selling public lands in order to reduce the budget deficit, with a significant majority (63%) saying they are strongly opposed to it.
- Opposition to this proposal has increased by a net twenty-three points in Montana since 2013, the second largest increase across the six states.

Selling Public Lands to Reduce Deficit



Montanans seek to protect sensitive areas of public lands permanently as energy production proceeds.

- The majority say that “some public lands should be drilled, while environmentally sensitive places should be permanently protected.” Another 27% would strictly limit drilling, while 20% would allow public lands to be generally open to drilling.
- Nearly two-thirds (63%) express support for Master Leasing Plans being used as a tool by the Bureau of Land Management.
- 78% of the state’s electorate say they have heard a lot or some about hydraulic fracturing and more of those voters would make the laws tougher (22%) or enforce existing laws better (31%) as the state moves forward. (Another 20% say both laws and enforcement are at right levels and 18% believe they are too tough).