



TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Danny Franklin, Lori Weigel
RE: Polling results on the Greater sage-grouse
DATE: June 16, 2014

- There are clear indications that voters in Oregon, Colorado, Nevada, and Montana want to protect the Greater sage-grouse and other wildlife in its habitat.
 - ✓ A strong majority of voters in each state believe it is important to protect the sage-grouse habitat, including at least 1 in 3 voters in every state saying that it's "very important."
 - Oregon 84% say it's important to protect sage-grouse habitat
 - Colorado 82%
 - Nevada 80%
 - Montana 79%
- Further, voters in all four states believe action needs to be taken to protect the sage-grouse. A solid majority in every state supports stronger Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to protect the bird and its habitat.
 - Oregon 76% support stronger BLM plans
 - Colorado 71%
 - Nevada 72%
 - Montana 63%
- In fact, stronger plans to protect the sage-grouse is backed by a majority of Independents in all four states and a majority of Republicans in three of the four states.

Support for Stronger BLM Plans

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
• Oregon	87%	85%	55%
• Colorado	84%	79%	51%
• Nevada	83%	75%	57%
• Montana	86%	63%	46%

- Lastly, rural voters and outdoorsmen (defined as those who hunt, fish, or go off-roading) are also largely supportive of stronger BLM plans to protect the sage-grouse as well.

Support for Stronger BLM Plans

	Rural Voters	Outdoorsmen
• Oregon	79%	74%
• Colorado	67%	70%
• Nevada	60%	63%
• Montana	54%	61%

- As a result, our polling demonstrates clear support for protecting the sage-grouse and its habitat. Voters believe it's important, and they are in favor of strong plans to protect the bird.



Methodology

Benenson Strategy Group and Public Opinion Strategies conducted 2,001 telephone interviews on behalf of Pew Charitable Trusts from May 12 to May 18, 2014. The phone numbers were dialed from a list of registered voters in Oregon, Colorado, Nevada, and Montana (roughly 500 interviews per state) and included cell phone records. The margin of error in each state is +/-4.3% at the 95% confidence level, and it is higher among subgroups.

Full Text of Questions:

Importance To Protect the Sage-Grouse

“The Greater sage-grouse is a wild bird that lives in the sagebrush plains in the western United States, including parts of [state]. The area where the sage-grouse lives is also home to elk, mule deer, pronghorn, golden eagles, and many other species. Because of the changes to its habitat, sage-grouse populations have declined and its habitat has been reduced by almost half.

Given this, how important is it to take action to protect the habitat where the sage-grouse and other wildlife live? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?”

Support for Stronger BLM Plans To Protect the Sage-Grouse

“Approximately half of all remaining sage-grouse habitat is on public lands, which are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Because of the sage-grouse’s declining population, the BLM drafted plans to protect the bird and other animals that live in its habitat. If the BLM acts to protect the sage-grouse, these areas would continue to be open to hiking, biking, camping, fishing, and more, but there would be some limits on energy development, livestock grazing, and off-road vehicle use in certain areas.

Based on what you know, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose stronger BLM plans to protect the sage-grouse and other animals that live in its habitat?”