



**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**

	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
• 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**

	<b>Rural Voters</b>	<b>Outdoorsmen</b>
• 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?”*