

**To:** Ken Rait  
**From:** Danny Franklin, Lori Weigel  
**Date:** June 30, 2015  
**Re:** Sage-Grouse Polling Results

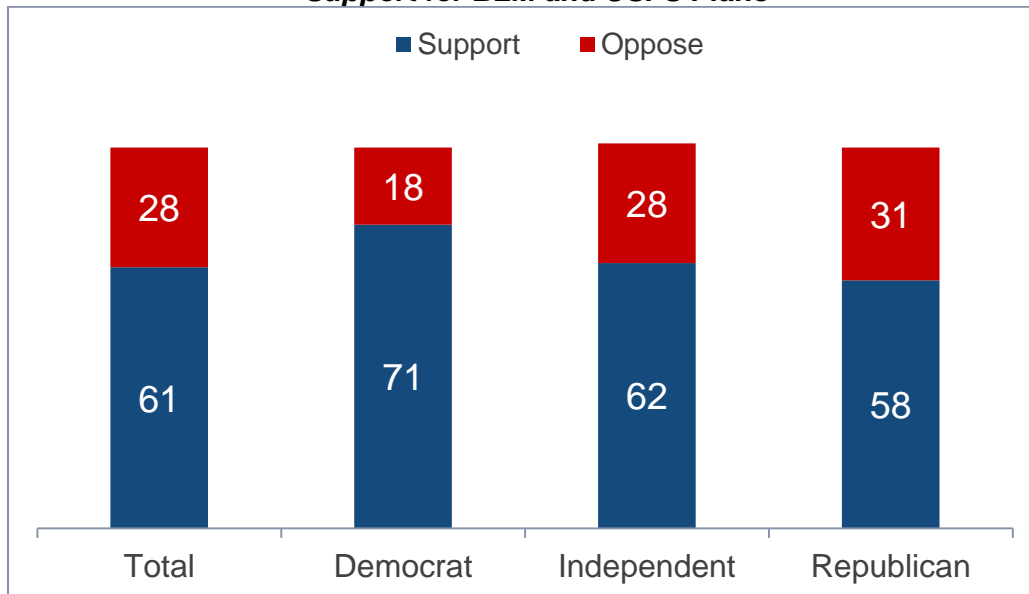
**Methodology**

*Benenson Strategy Group and Public Opinion Strategies conducted 600 phone interviews from June 25, 2015 to June 28, 2015 on behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts. All respondents are registered voters who live in counties with Greater sage-grouse habitat in 11 western states. The margin of error for the data set is +/- 3.94%. It is higher among subgroups.*

**Key Findings**

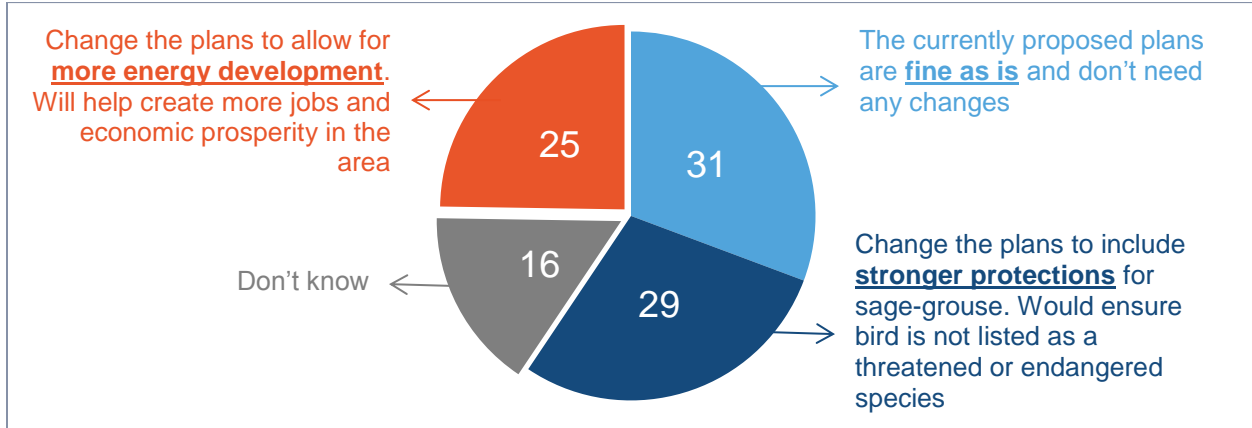
- A majority of voters in sage-grouse habitat areas of the US believe it is important to protect sage-grouse habitat.
  - ✓ 3 in 4 voters (76%) believe it is important to take action to protect its habitat.
  - ✓ This includes 68% of Republicans, 78% of Independents and 95% of Democrats.
- Most voters in the region have heard of the sage-grouse (70%) but only 36% have heard any news about it recently.
  - ✓ 28% have heard about efforts to protect the habitat and the bird and 9% have heard about efforts to restrict land use including limits on hunting and drilling.
- Nonetheless, a majority (61%) of voters support the BLM and USFS plans to protect sagebrush habitat even if it includes some restrictions on energy development, while only 28% oppose it.
  - ✓ This support extends across party lines, with majorities of Democrats, independents, and Republicans in support.

**Support for BLM and USFS Plans**



- At this point, only a quarter believe the plans should be changed to allow for more energy development.
  - ✓ 6 in 10 voters think the plans are sufficient or should go further to protect the sage-grouse.

**Statement That Comes Closer To Your View**



- Further, there is no difference in support by geography.
  - ✓ For the most part, the state in which a voter lives does not impact his or her attitudes on the sage-grouse or the BLM/USFS plans—a majority support the BLM/USFS plans in each state we polled.
- As a result, this data is clear in demonstrating that voters in sage-grouse territories want the habitat to be protected and they don't want more energy development-oriented plans that make it more difficult to protect the land.

