

To: The Pew Charitable Trusts

From: GBAO

Date: March 24, 2020

## Oregon Wildlife Corridor Survey Findings

Oregonians are attached to Oregon’s public lands and wildlife, and believe it is important that the State of Oregon and federal land managers protect migrating wildlife such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, and elk. They favor increasing public funding to create safe passageways for migrating animals. Across the state, Oregonians are enthusiastic about a variety of proposals designed to protect and manage wildlife migration corridors. These are key findings from a statewide survey of Oregon voters conducted February 12-18, 2020.

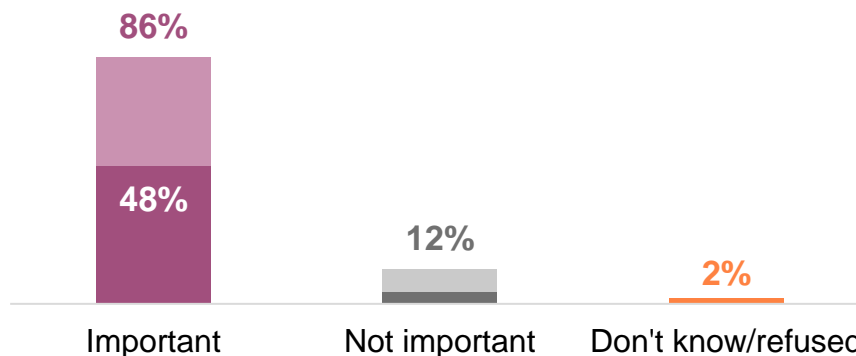
### Key Findings

- A vast majority of Oregonians believes state policies protecting wildlife corridors are important.** Upon hearing the statement below, 86 percent of Oregonians agreed that protecting wildlife migration routes is important. This includes similar shares of those with awareness of migration corridors and those without (87 percent and 85 percent respectively), as well as hunter/angler households (83 percent).

*Every year, wildlife including mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, and elk migrate along regular routes between summer and winter habitats in Oregon. These species depend on this movement for their own survival, seeking better feeding grounds, access to water, and safer weather conditions for themselves and their offspring. However, their migrations are often cut off by highways, fences, and development.*

*Given this information, how important do you think it is for the state of Oregon to adopt policies that protect wildlife migration routes in Oregon?*

- Very important
- Not important at all
- Total important (outer number)
- Total not very important (outer number)



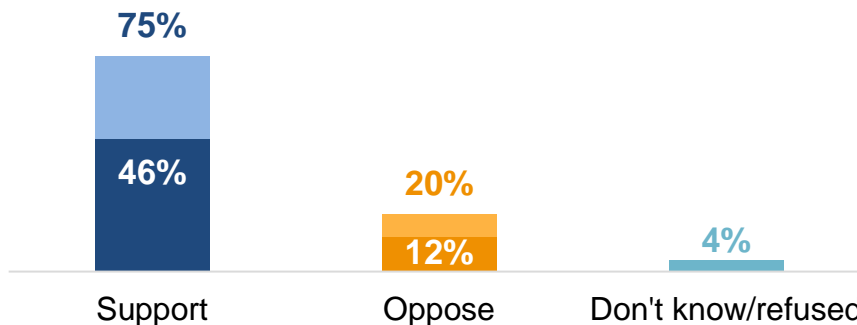
- **Oregonians broadly support increasing funding for the construction of wildlife crossing structures.** Three in four Oregonians support increasing public funding for the construction of crossing structures for wildlife. Oregonians across the state agree, with those in Central and Eastern Oregon supporting the idea at 72 percent. The most enthusiastic supporters include young women (88 percent support), college graduates (81 percent), and those who were previously aware of this issue (85 percent).

*Oregon recently passed a law called The Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Act, which requires state transportation agencies and wildlife officials to collect data and develop a plan to help animals complete their migration routes. The law does not provide funding to execute the plans they develop.*

*Would you support or oppose increasing public funding for the construction of wildlife crossing structures, such as overpasses and underpasses across major highways that intersect with known, concentrated wildlife migration routes?*

*Darker shade = Stronger intensity  
Outer number = Total*

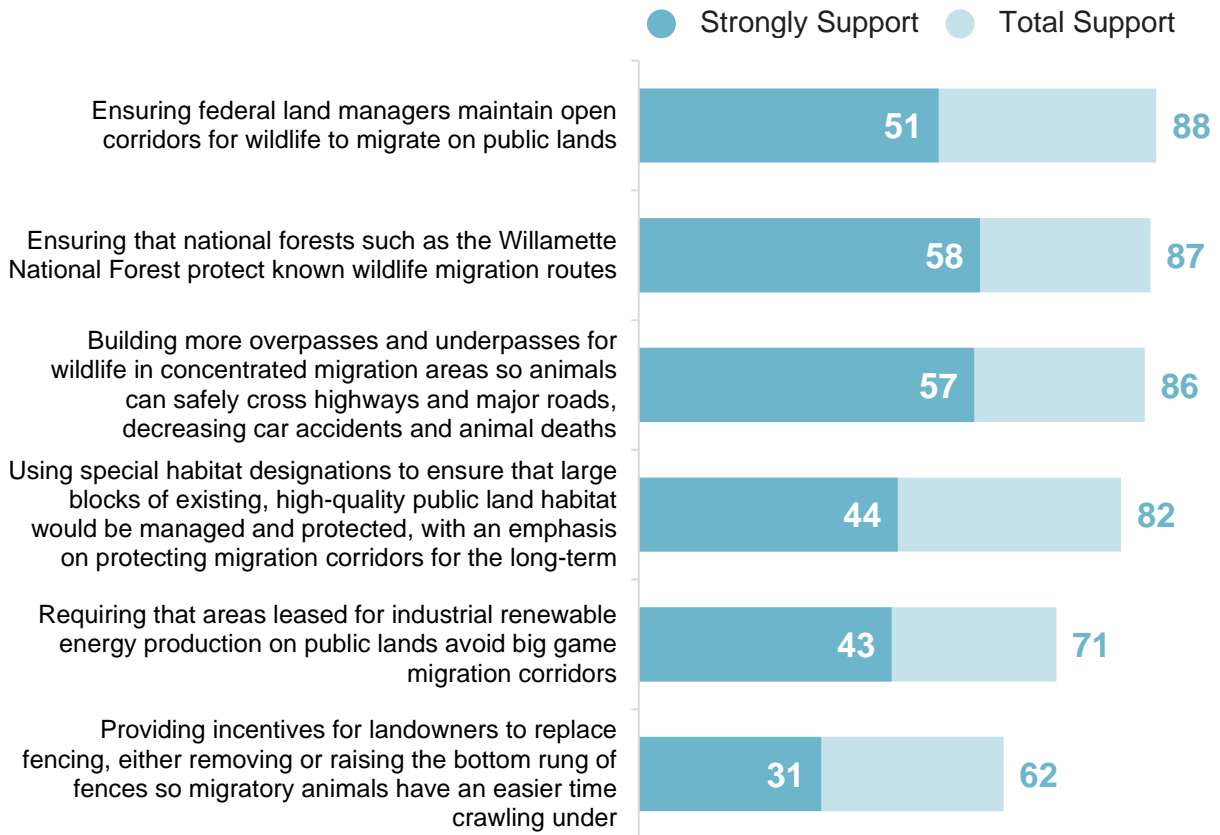
*\*Numbers do not add up to 100% due to rounding*



- **Oregonians favor a variety of proposals aimed at securing the safe migration of animals in the state.** Oregonians support protective policy proposals in very high numbers. Key policies include:
  - ✓ **Ensuring federal land managers maintain open corridors for wildlife to migrate on public lands.** A popular proposal with 88 percent support, federal land maintenance sees approval across households, especially those with a member who works in agricultural or energy industries (93 percent). Oregonians in Northwest Oregon, Southwest Oregon, and Central and Eastern Oregon support this measure in higher numbers than others. A similar measure, ensuring national forests protect known wildlife migration routes, sees 87 percent support overall.

- ✓ **Building more overpasses and underpasses for wildlife in concentrated migration areas so animals can safely cross highways and major roads, decreasing car accidents and animal deaths.** Oregonians are worried about wildlife collisions and strongly agree with this proposal (57 percent strongly support it, 86 percent total) .This measure is a favorite of urban residents – nearly all support it, at 98 percent – though it sees very high support across geographies. Central and Eastern Oregonians favor it with 82 percent support.
- ✓ **Using special habitat designations to ensure that large blocks of existing, high-quality public land habitat would be managed and protected, with an emphasis on protecting migration corridors for the long-term.** This proposal is supported overall by 82 percent of Oregonians, and in equal measure by those who are aware of migration corridor issues and those who are not.
- ✓ **Requiring that areas leased for industrial renewable energy production on public lands avoid big game migration corridors.** With 71 percent overall support, this proposal sees its highest marks with those who do not live in hunter/angler households (76 percent) or who live in urban areas (82 percent). Rural Oregonians and those from agricultural/energy industry households are a little less excited about it, but still show high support (62 percent and 64 percent respectively). They feel similarly about another proposal that provides incentives for landowners to adapt their fencing, with 58 percent rural support for it, 63 percent agricultural/energy household support, and 62 overall support.

Next, I am going to read you a list of various solutions that have been proposed to protect wildlife migration in Oregon. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each proposal.



### **Survey Methodology**

GBAO conducted this survey on behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, February 12-18, 2020. Respondents were reached by landline and cell phone:

- 700 registered Oregon voters
  - 520-person base sample (representative statewide sample)
  - 100-person oversample of individuals with a hunting and/or angling license recorded on the voter file, for a total of 363 voters who have a recorded or reported hunting and/or angling license or know someone in their household who does (weighted to 211)
  - 80-person oversample of voters in Central and Eastern Oregon for a total of 184 voters in that region (weighted to 70)
    - The Central and East Oregon region is comprised of Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, and Wheeler counties

- Sampling error for the total sample of 700 registered Oregon voters: +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level
  - 363 unweighted hunter and/or angler household voters: +/- 5.1 percentage points
  - 184 unweighted Central & Eastern Oregon voters: +/- 7.2 percentage points