

PROTECTING THE WATER, WILDLIFE AND OUTDOOR HERITAGE OF THE CROWN OF THE CONTINENT.



**Land, Air, Water, Sky**

A clear majority of Montanans and Americans think that protecting the environment is patriotic and the right thing to do. On November 6 we go to the polls to elect candidates that stand with the American people. (Photo: North Fork Flathead River in British Columbia. Credit: Jaime Rojo)

***It's Definitive: Voters Support Conservation***  
***Local and National Polling Confirms Bi-Partisan Values for Water, Land, Fish and Wildlife***

October 17, 2012

Dear Friend:

Can anyone doubt that election season is upon us in Montana and the nation. The Republican primary has been on-going for about three years; Super PAC ads assault the senses continually; and November 6 (the actual voting day!) is finally less than three weeks away.

At this point in time we thought we would ask: "What do American voters think about environmental conservation?" Here's what we found:

**Montana Conservation Voters Poll**

The [Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund](#) recently released the results of their May 2012 poll of Montana voters that revealed strong bi-partisan support for a range of conservation measures. Some key findings. Voters...

- Rank outdoor recreation as one of the most essential Montana values.
- Overwhelmingly perceive public lands in Montana as good for the state.
- Strongly support policies to promote conservation of National Forests.
- Perceive wilderness protection as positive on the state.

As an example of these results, Montanans supporting wilderness broke down as follows:

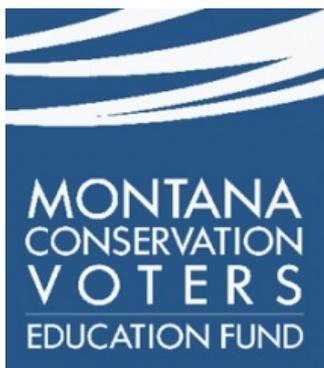
- 95% of Democrats, 87% of independents, 75% of Republicans
- 96% of liberals, 90% of moderates, 77% of conservatives\
- 91% of women and 79% of men
- 82% of eastern, central and western Montana
- 87% of mountain bikers, 72% of snowmobilers, 65% of off-road vehicle users.

**The Nature Conservancy Poll**

The Nature Conservancy released a bipartisan national poll in July 2012 showing that at least one issue is widely supported by Americans across the political spectrum: *conservation of the nation's land and water.*

The bi-partisan team of pollsters noted, "From Tea Party Republicans to liberal Democrats, overwhelming majorities of Americans of all political persuasions believe that 'conserving the country's natural resources — land, air and water — is patriotic,'" the pollsters write in a summary of their findings. That includes 89 percent of Democrats, 79 percent of Republicans and 79 percent of independents, but the sentiment *doesn't* only cross political lines. The following percentages of various groups agree that conservation is patriotic:

- More than 70% of registered voters in every U.S. region



**Montana State-Wide Poll**

The MCV-Education Fund poll found that Montanans strongly support conservation regardless of political affiliation. Click on the logo above to go to the MCV web page, then click on the pie chart on the main page to read the results of the poll.



**Conservation is Patriotic**

The July 2012 *Nature Conservancy* poll found that a strong majority of Americans believe conservation of the nation's land and water to be patriotic.

***Farmers and the 2012 Drought***

The American Farmers Union 2012 [poll](#) further confirms American, bi-partisan support for conservation. Farmers believe that long-term, farming conservation funding at the national level is more important than short-term drought relief.



***Rose's Canyon***

Places like Rose's Canyon in the B.C. Flathead need permanent protection. Achieving success to protect the *entire length* of the North Fork Flathead River requires that we elect conservation-minded decision-makers from the Flathead County Commission all the way to the top. (Photo: Jaime Rojo)

**Donate Now**

Secure donations through  
Network for Good

***Challenge Grant Pending***

The [Cinnabar Foundation](#) has awarded *Headwaters Montana* two 'challenge grants' in support of our work. Please donate today to have your gift matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$2,000.

~ Thank You! ~

- Voters younger than 35 (84%) and those 65 or older (83%)
- Urbanites (79%), suburbanites (85%) and rural residents (83%)
- Hunters (80%), anglers (80%) and wildlife watchers (82%)
- Hikers (80%), mountain bikers (78%) and ATV users (77%)

***The National Farmers Union Poll***

With the Mid-West farming belt having been hit with the most severe drought since the 1930 Dust Bowl era, farmers chimed in with their support for conservation.

American farmers value conservation programs, particularly in times of drought, and reject cutting conservation funding, according to a poll released by National Farmers Union.

The bipartisan poll, conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research – a Democratic polling firm – and Public Opinion Strategies – a Republican polling firm – surveyed 400 American farmers across 13 Midwestern and Great Plains states on their views regarding farm bill conservation programs. The results show that farmers view conservation programs as highly important, including in a time of drought, and they strongly oppose any plan to cut conservation in order to fund short-term drought relief.

***Conclusion***

Voters on November 6 face a range of candidate choices in the voting booth. Their additional concerns for the state of the economy and the world will further inform their decisions.

Taking care of our environment is very akin to taking care of ourselves and our communities. *Headwaters Montana* urges you to vote for candidates who support maintaining our [Montana Constitutional](#) right to a "Clean and healthful environment."