



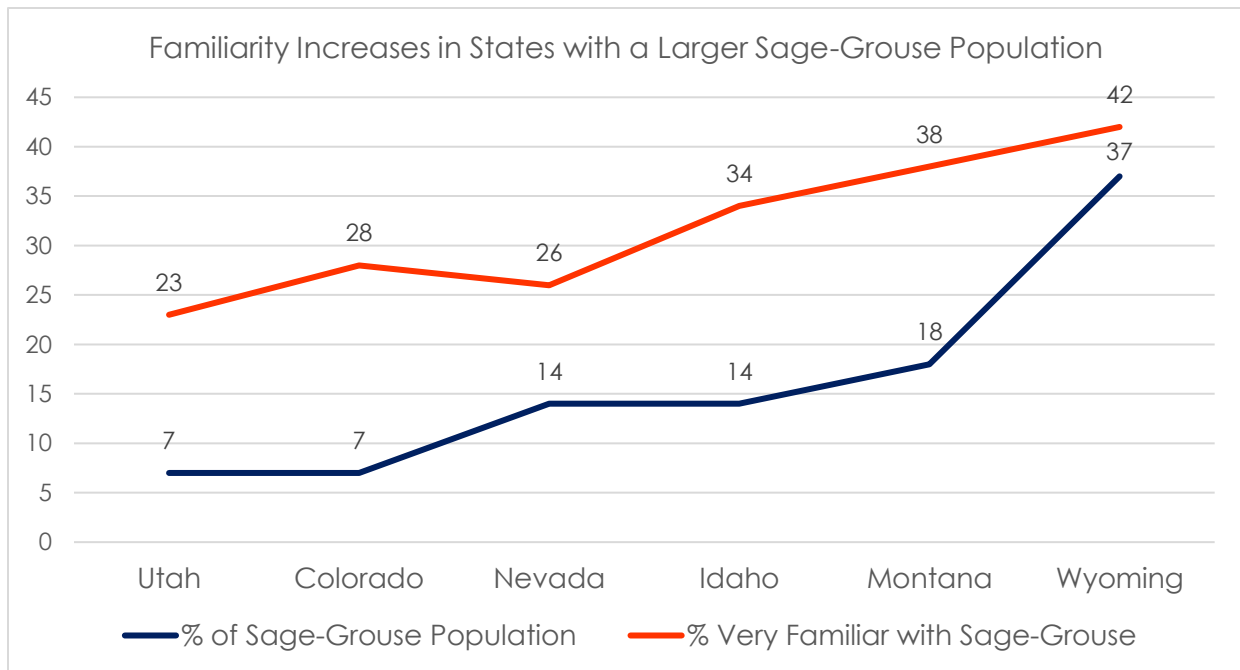
TO: Interested Parties  
 FROM: Brock McCleary  
 Date: June 23, 2017  
 RE: Key Poll Findings—American West Sage-Grouse Survey

**Conservation is Important to Voters in the American West**

An overwhelming 94% of respondents “rate the importance of conservation of land and wildlife resources to the way of life in American west” as either very or somewhat important. Roughly two-thirds of voters rate conservation as very important (65%). Republicans (93% important), Democrats (100%) and Independents (93%) all agree that conservation is important to the way of life of the American West. Younger respondents are more likely than older voters to rate conservation as very important (18-39: 72% very important, 40-54: 62%, 55-64: 61%, 65-74: 62%, 75+: 59%). Hunters and sportsmen are just as likely to rate conservation as important as other respondents (94% important).

**Voters are Generally Familiar with the Sage-Grouse**

A significant 65% majority of respondents are “familiar with the sage-grouse and sage brush habitats.” Thirty percent describe themselves as very familiar, and 35% say they are somewhat familiar. Only a third of voters in these counties are unfamiliar with the sage-grouse (34% not very/not at all familiar). Familiarity with the sage grouse increases with the percentage of the sage grouse population that is within a state, as shown below.<sup>1</sup>

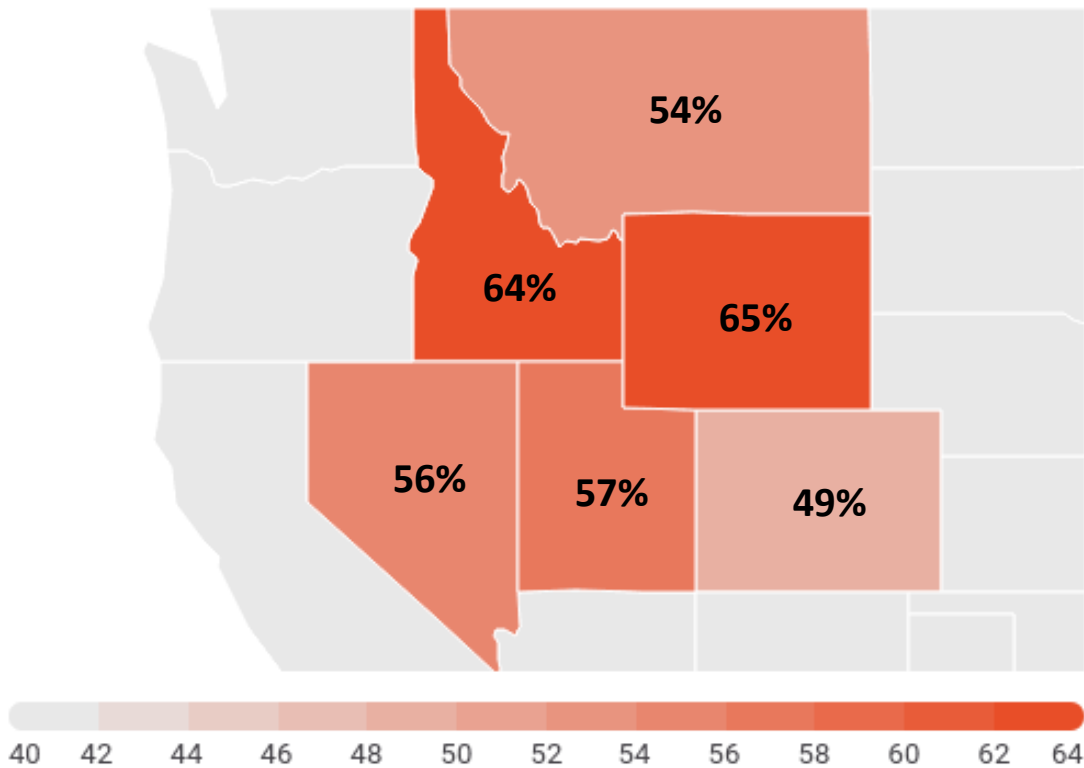


Hunters are particularly aware of the sage-grouse (hunter/sportsmen: 79% familiar, fishing/hunting license: 75%). Voters of all parties report solid levels of familiarity with the bird (Republicans: 62%, Democrats: 61%, Independents: 72%).

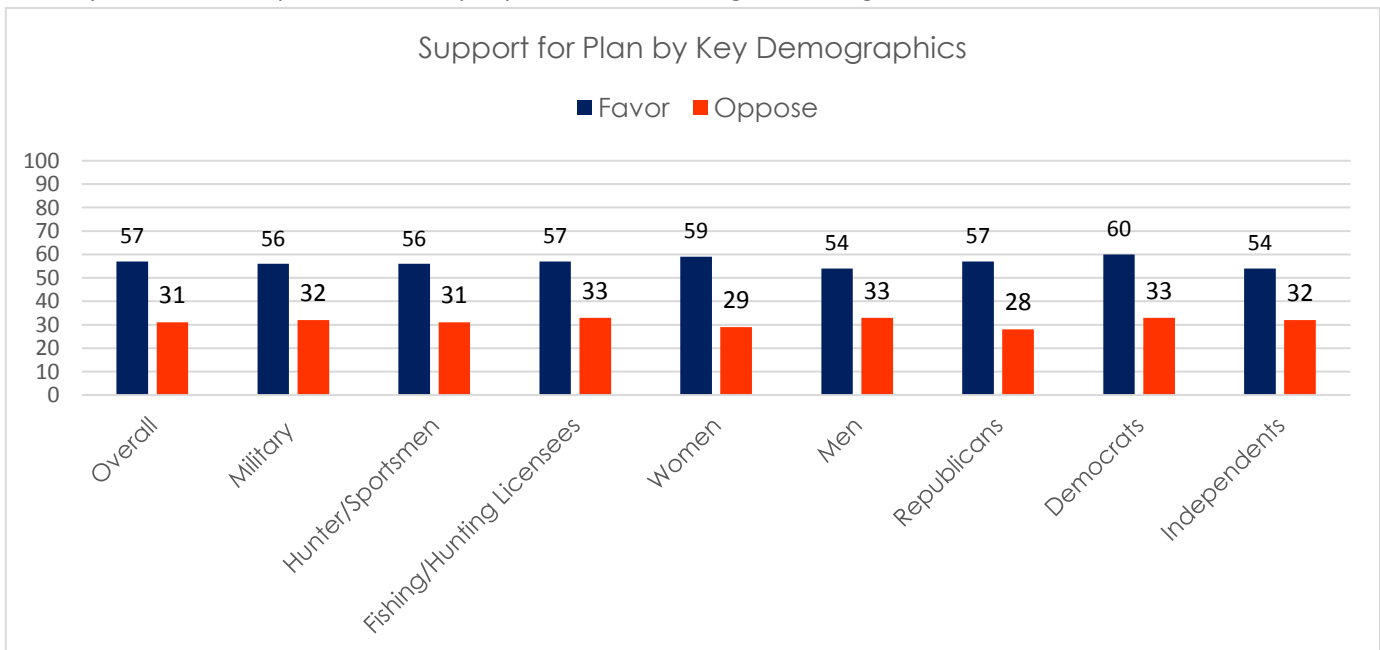
<sup>1</sup> [https://www.fws.gov/greaterSageGrouse/factsheets/GreaterSageGrouseCanon\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/greaterSageGrouse/factsheets/GreaterSageGrouseCanon_FINAL.pdf) (Estimates of 7% for CO/UT)  
 121 State Street  
 Harrisburg, PA 17101  
 HarperPolling.com  
 info@HarperPolling.com

## American-West Voters Favor Plans to Conserve the Sage-Grouse

A majority of voters in the sage-grouse habitat favor the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management plans “to conserve the habitat of the declining population of the sage-grouse, and the 350 other species that depend upon this land. The plans allow for commercial uses such as oil and gas development on the land, but enact certain restrictions on development to ensure long-term conservation of the sage-grouse and other species” (57% favor/31% oppose). Voters across all states in the sample favor the plans. A heat map showing the percentage of respondents by state who favor the land use plans is shown below. As shown, support peaks in Wyoming and Idaho and is lowest in Colorado. Opposition is highest in Montana (33%) and Colorado (42%).

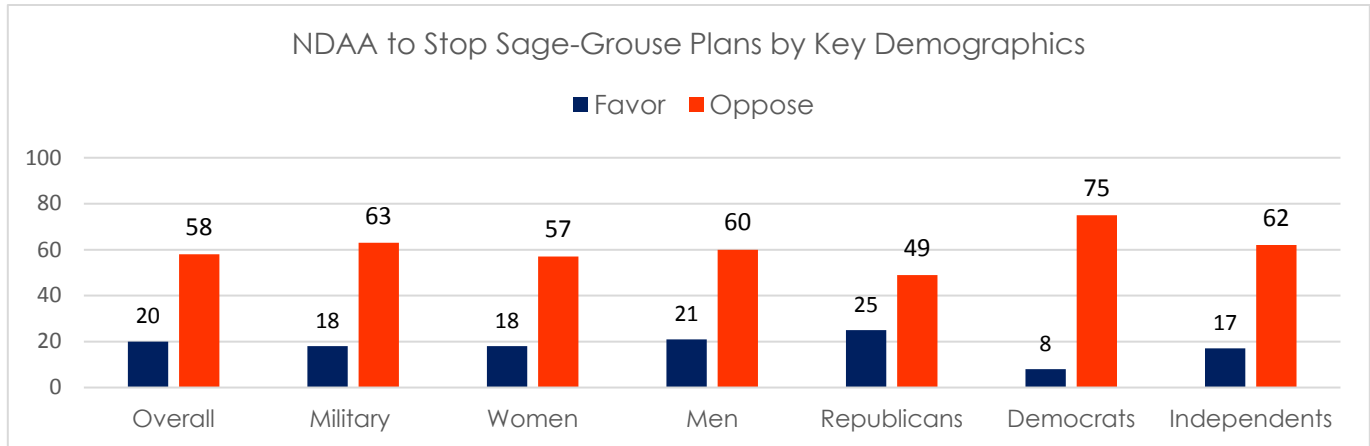


A majority of voters of all parties and various other key demographics favor the plan. This includes members of the military, hunters and sportsmen, and people who hold fishing or hunting licenses, as shown below.

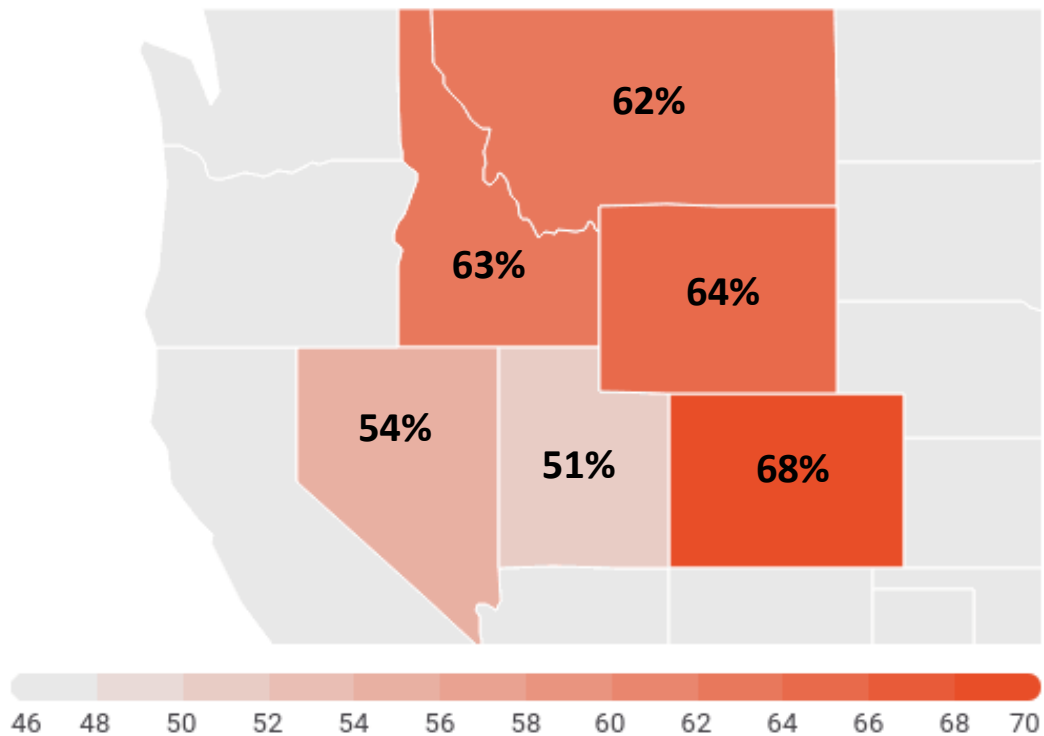


## Substantial Opposition to Using the NDAA to Stop the Sage-Grouse Plans

By a nearly 3:1 margin, voters in the sage-grouse habitat oppose attempts by some members of Congress “to use the NDAA to stop the sage-grouse plants from being implemented” (20% favor/58% oppose). More than a third of respondents *strongly* oppose this plan (36%). Sixty-three percent of active-duty military or veterans oppose using the NDAA for this purpose. Both women and men oppose this approach, as do voters of all political parties.



A heat map showing the percentage of respondents by state who oppose using the NDAA to stop the sage-grouse plans is shown below. As shown, a majority of voters in each state oppose using the NDAA in this manner. Opposition peaks in Colorado at a significant 68%.



**METHODOLOGY:** The sample size for the survey is 500 registered voters of counties in the Sage-Grouse Habitat within six states: Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, and Idaho. The margin of error is +/-4.4%. Responses were gathered via live operator interviews on both cell phones and landlines. The survey was conducted June 19 - 21, 2017 by Harper Polling. The total percentages for responses may not equal 100% due to rounding.