

To: Interested Parties

From: Chris Keating, *Harstad Strategic Research, Inc.*

Date: August 7, 2009

Re: Key Findings from a Montana Voter Poll on the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act

HARSTAD STRATEGIC RESEARCH conducted telephone surveys among 503 active registered voters statewide in Montana. Interviews were conducted from July 27-29, 2009.

Key Findings

▪ More than 7-out-of-10 Montana voters favor the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act – while just 15% of Montana voters oppose it.

Voters heard the following four part description of the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act:

- Create jobs in Montana by directing the Forest Service to use light-on-the-land logging and forest restoration projects aimed at improving forest health and reducing forest fire risk;
- Employ forest stewardship contractors to restore Montana's damaged streams, forest roads, campgrounds and trails;
- Guarantee that motorized vehicles will have access to designated recreation areas;
- Protect Montana's wildlife habitats and watersheds by designating certain places as Wilderness areas in the Beaverhead, Deerlodge, Lolo, and Kootenai National Forests.

After hearing this description, an overwhelming majority 73% of voters in Montana say they favor the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, including 42% who *strongly* favor it.

▪ Support for the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act is broad-based and includes substantial majorities in all of the following key groups of Montana voters:

- Voters of various political persuasions: Democrats (81% favor), Independents (77% favor) and Republicans (62% favor);
- Voters in the 7 more urban counties (76% favor) and voters in the 49 more rural counties (69% favor);
- Men (75% favor) and women (72% favor);
- Young and old: age 18-39 (75% favor), age 40-59 (75% favor), and age 60+ (70% favor).

▪ The outdoor job and recreation communities demonstrate strong support for the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act including:

- Voters in households that participate in outdoor recreation activities such as camping (73% favor), fishing (72% favor), and hunting (69% favor);
- Voters in households that go off-road on mountain bikes (79% favor) and all-terrain vehicles (69% favor);
- Voters in households that work in an industry related to tourism or outdoor recreation (74% favor), work in farming or ranching (65% favor), or work in logging, mining or drilling (65% favor).

The July 27-29, 2009 Montana Statewide Voter Survey was conducted by Harstad Strategic Research, Inc., the national public opinion research firm in Boulder, Colorado. The results of this survey are based upon 503 random telephone interviews among active registered voters in Montana, using a voter list. The random sample of 503 has a worst-case 95% confidence interval of plus or minus 4.4% about any one reported percentage.