

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

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**New Statewide Poll Finds Montana Voters Overwhelmingly
Support Forest Jobs and Recreation Act**

Missoula, MT -- As Montanans continue to work towards solutions on how to best manage public lands, a new statewide poll shows strong and broad support for Senator Jon Tester's recently introduced Forest Jobs and Recreation Act.

The poll, conducted by Harstad Strategic Research, found that 7 in 10 Montanans support the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. The bill focuses on creating jobs, finding local solutions to forest management issues, protecting clean water, and preserving Montana's outdoor heritage.

"Senator Tester's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act receives overwhelming majority support from Montanans," says pollster Chris Keating of Harstad Strategic Research. "This poll shows that it doesn't matter if you call yourself a Democrat or a Republican, or if you live in a more urban or a more rural area – the lion's share of Montanans favor the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act."

Importantly, key groups also demonstrate support across a wide variety of forest-user interests. Support comes from households which participate in camping, fishing, hunting, mountain biking, and ATV use. The poll also indicates that 65 percent of Montanans who work in the logging, mining, ranching, and farming industries support Senator Tester's bill.

"Montana hunters and anglers have long wanted to see progress in management of our public lands, to help improve fish and wildlife habitat and ensure that our children and grandchildren can carry on this long- standing Montana tradition," says Tom Reed of Trout Unlimited. "This poll shows that Montanans all across the board want that, too," he says, adding, "This new poll shows that a wide swath of Montanans from all walks of life, all recreational uses, and all industries want good jobs, healthy fish and wildlife habitats, and forests protected from wildfire and beetle-kill."

Harstad Strategic Research conducted telephone surveys of more than 500 registered voters statewide in Montana from July 27-29, 2009. The poll was commissioned by a coalition of Montana business owners, loggers, sportsmen and conservationists, including Sun Mountain Lumber, RY Timber, Roseburg Forest Products, Smurfit Stone, Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Trout Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation, Montana Wilderness Association, The Wilderness Society, Seeley Lake Community Council, Clearwater Resource Council, AERO, Montana Backcountry Horsemen, Three Rivers Challenge, Kootenai Ridge Riders ATV Club, Troy Snowmobile Club, Lincoln County Snow-Kats, Linehan Outfitting, Chapel Cedar Works, the Yaak Valley Forest Council, and Campaign for America's Wilderness.

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