

# Montana, the Last Best Place: Maintaining wildlife and private lands in the Big Hole

A SURVEY OF PRIVATE LANDOWNERS



Cornell University  
Department of Natural Resources  
Human Dimensions Research Unit



# Maintaining wildlife and private lands in the Big Hole, Montana

This questionnaire addresses private landowners' attitudes toward wildlife, planning and land use in the Big Hole, Montana. You were selected for this survey because you own land in the Big Hole, Montana.

This is an independent research effort not connected to the county planning office or any on-going land-use planning efforts. However, the results will be provided to those working in the region and may be used to inform development and wildlife conservation efforts on private lands. We encourage you to use this survey as an opportunity to express your opinion about wildlife and private lands management.

Please have the adult who is most familiar with your land in the Big Hole complete this questionnaire, seal it with the white removable seal included, and drop it in any mailbox (no envelope needed); return postage has been provided. Your participation is voluntary, and your responses are extremely important to us. We would like to hear from EVERY LANDOWNER who receives this questionnaire, not just those with strong opinions.

This questionnaire has an identification number on the back so that we can remove your address from the list when you return the questionnaire, and we will not send you additional reminder notices. Your identity will be kept confidential and information you give us will never be associated with your name.

This research is being conducted by Cornell University and the Wildlife Conservation Society with funding from the Brainerd Foundation.

If you have questions regarding the survey please contact Heidi Kretser at 518-891-8872 or email [bigholesurvey@gmail.com](mailto:bigholesurvey@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!**



Printed on recycled paper

**You were selected for this survey because you own land in the Big Hole, Montana. Please think about this property when you answer the survey questions.**

We sent surveys to 278 landowners in the Big Hole. Of those, 16 were undeliverable. The response rate was 35.6%, or 93 usable surveys. We conducted a non-respondent telephone follow-up to look for differences between respondents and non-respondents. In summary, there were few significant differences between the respondents and non-respondents responses for the Big Hole to some of the key questions from this survey. One notable difference was that non-respondents are more likely to have owned or leased their land for significantly less time (average 25 years versus 32 years). Given that other responses did not show a significant different, the amount of timed landowners owned land is likely not an issue.

**1. How long have you owned or leased property in the Big Hole?**

Mean= 24.93 year(s), Range = 1-86 years

**2. How much land do you own and/or lease in the Big Hole?**

*(Check all that apply and fill in the acreage.)*

100% I own **mean = 2,830** acres  
6.5% I lease \_\_\_\_\_ from the BLM  
3.2% I lease \_\_\_\_\_ from U.S. Forest Service  
5.4% I lease \_\_\_\_\_ from private landowners

**3. Do you have property or use of property in common ownership?**

72.7% No      20.5% Yes      6.8% Don't Know

**4. What are the primary uses of your property?**

*(Please check all that apply.)*

34.4% year-round residence                      33.3% part-time residence  
31.2% ranching                                      92.5% other agricultural  
8.6% business                                      67.7% recreation  
2.2% Other (please list [2] 1-conservation 1-patented mining claims)

**5. Does your property have any of the following covenants or restrictions? *(Please check all that apply.)***

9.7% fencing limitations                      4.3% conservation easements  
4.3% outdoor lighting guidelines              9.7% building envelop/no build area  
5.4% guidelines for vegetation              16.1% limitations on domestic livestock  
8.6% defensible space (for wildfires)  
6.5% Other (please list \_\_\_\_\_)

**6. For each statement below, circle the letter that indicates whether or not this activity occurred on your property in the Big Hole, Montana, during the past year. (Please circle one letter for each item.)**

| On my property since September 2008, someone...               | <u>No</u> | <u>Yes</u> |
|---|-----------|------------|
| a. maintained a lawn.   | N         | Y 60.0%    |
| b. maintained vegetable or flower gardens.                    | N         | Y 26.7%    |
| c. used fertilizers, herbicides, and /or pesticides.          | N         | Y 36.8%    |
| d. fed the birds.   | N         | Y 47.7%    |
| e. fed other wildlife (if yes, specify: <u>10 responses</u> ) | N         | Y 13.4%    |
| f. had ornamental plantings.                                  | N         | Y 31.0%    |
| g. had a dog(s) that goes outside.                            | N         | Y 55.2%    |
| h. had a cat(s) that goes outside.                            | N         | Y 34.1%    |
| i. had farm animals or livestock.                             | N         | Y 50.0%    |
| j. maintained recreational trails or unimproved roads.        | N         | Y 30.1%    |
| k. stored trash/garbage/dumpster/compost outside.             | N         | Y 31.4%    |
| l. stored a grill outside.                                    | N         | Y 55.1%    |
| m. stocked a fish pond.                                       | N         | Y 0.0%     |
| n. hunted small or big game.                                  | N         | Y 48.2%    |
| o. trapped furbearers.  | N         | Y 8.2%     |

**7. For each statement below, circle the number that best reflects your behaviors. (Please circle one number for each item.)**

|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral     | Agree        | Strongly Agree |
|--|-------------------|----------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| a. I try to learn as much as I can about wildlife.   | 0%                | 2.2%     | 15.6%       | <b>42.7%</b> | 39.3%          |
| b. I take active measures to reduce opportunities for wildlife to damage my property and belongings. | 9.2               | 28.0     | <b>35.6</b> | 32.2         | 14.9           |
| c. I manage my property to protect wildlife.   | 1.1               | 6.9      | <b>36.8</b> | 34.5         | 20.7           |
| d. I discourage certain types of wildlife from coming to my property.                                | <b>24.7</b>       | 23.6     | 21.3        | 21.3         | 9.0            |
| e. I actively try to attract wildlife to my property.  | 20.2              | 23.6     | <b>33.7</b> | 11.2         | 11.2           |
| f. I actively avoid all contact with wildlife.   | <b>37.5</b>       | 35.2     | 21.6        | 3.4          | 2.3            |
| g. I manage wildlife in order to protect my property.  | 10.2              | 25.0     | <b>40.9</b> | 14.8         | 9.1            |

**8. For each statement below, circle the number that best reflects your feelings.** *(Please circle one number for each item.)*

|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree    | Neutral | Agree       | Strongly Agree |
|--|-------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|----------------|
| a. I enjoy watching all wildlife.  | 0%                | 2.2%        | 2.2%    | 34.8%       | <b>60.7%</b>   |
| b. I tolerate most nuisance wildlife problems.                           | 1.1               | 12.4        | 11.2    | <b>53.9</b> | 21.3           |
| c. I prefer to see wildlife in places other than on my land.             | 27.0              | <b>33.7</b> | 21.3    | 11.2        | 6.7            |
| d. I do not like rodents.  |                   |             |         |             |                |
| e. Large animals, like black bears, concern me.                          | 7.8               | 4.4         | 21.1    | <b>40.0</b> | 26.7           |
| f. I tolerate the ordinary risk from wildlife.                           | 1.1               | 1.1         | 13.6    | <b>59.1</b> | 25.0           |
| g. Where I live, wildlife and humans coexist peacefully.                 | 3.3               | 13.3        | 14.4    | <b>50.0</b> | 18.9           |
| h. I like to see wild animals on my land.                                | 2.2               | 4.4         | 17.8    | <b>40.0</b> | 35.6           |
| i. Property damage from wildlife is part of living in Beaverhead County. | 6.7               | 10.1        | 19.1    | <b>39.3</b> | 24.7           |
| j. I enjoy watching birds near my home.                                  | 3.3               | 2.2         | 8.9     | 41.1        | <b>44.4</b>    |
| k. Wildlife that might carry disease concerns me.                        | 5.6               | 13.5        | 27.0    | <b>40.4</b> | 13.5           |

**9. In general, my experience with wildlife has been:** *(Circle one number.)*

| Very Negative |      | Neither Negative nor Positive |       | Very Positive |
|---------------|------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| 1.1%          | 2.2% | 11.0%                         | 33.0% | <b>52.7%</b>  |

**10. In general, my feelings about wildlife are:** *(Circle one number.)*

| Very Negative |      | Neither Negative nor Positive |       | Very Positive |
|---------------|------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| 0%            | 2.2% | 11.1%                         | 24.4% | <b>62.2%</b>  |

**11. How important do you think your property is to the wildlife in Yellowstone National Park?** *(Circle one number.)*

| Very Unimportant | Unimportant  | Neutral | Very Important | Important | Don't Know |
|------------------|--------------|---------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| 28.6%            | <b>33.0%</b> | 15.4%   | 8.8%           | 5.5%      | 8.8%       |

**12. For each statement below, circle the number that best reflects your opinion.**  
*(Please circle one number for each item.)*

|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral     | Agree        | Strongly Agree |
|--|-------------------|----------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| I am in favor of programs that promote:                  |                   |          |             |              |                |
| a. land conservation in Greater Yellowstone.             | 5.6%              | 5.6%     | 29.2%       | <b>34.8%</b> | 24.7           |
| b. land conservation elsewhere in the United States.     | 4.5               | 6.7      | <b>36.0</b> | 30.3         | 22.5           |
| c. wildlife conservation in Greater Yellowstone.         | 5.6               | 11.2     | 27.0        | <b>32.6</b>  | 23.6           |
| d. wildlife conservation elsewhere in the United States. | 4.4               | 7.7      | <b>37.4</b> | 26.4         | 24.2           |

**13. For each statement below, circle the number that best reflects your opinion based on your experiences in Beaverhead County.**  
*(Please circle one number for each item.)*

|  | Always | Usually     | Sometimes   | Rarely | Never       | Don't Know |
|--|--------|-------------|-------------|--------|-------------|------------|
| In general, to what extent do you agree with the policies and programs of: |        |             |             |        |             |            |
| a. your local government in Beaverhead County?                             | 1.1%   | 49.4%       | 26.4%       | 1.1%   | 1.1%        | 20.7%      |
| b. your local planning board in Beaverhead County?                         | 0      | <b>44.2</b> | 25.6        | 3.5    | 1.2         | 25.6       |
| c. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks?                                      | 1.1    | <b>41.4</b> | 25.3        | 12.6   | 6.9         | 12.6       |
| d. the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?                                     | 0      | <b>37.9</b> | 27.6        | 14.9   | 10.3        | 9.2        |
| e. the U.S. Forest Service?  | 0      | 23.3        | <b>33.7</b> | 22.1   | 12.8        | 8.1        |
| f. the Bureau of Land Management?  | 0      | 26.4        | <b>34.5</b> | 19.5   | 10.3        | 9.2        |
| g. Yellowstone National Park?  | 3.4    | <b>28.4</b> | 23.9        | 10.2   | 12.5        | 21.6       |
| h. non-governmental environmental organizations?                           | 0      | 15.9        | 20.5        | 17.0   | <b>31.8</b> | 14.8       |

**14. When did you last speak with a person from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks?**

**33.3%** within the past month  
 18.9% more than one year ago

32.2% within the past year  
 15.6% never

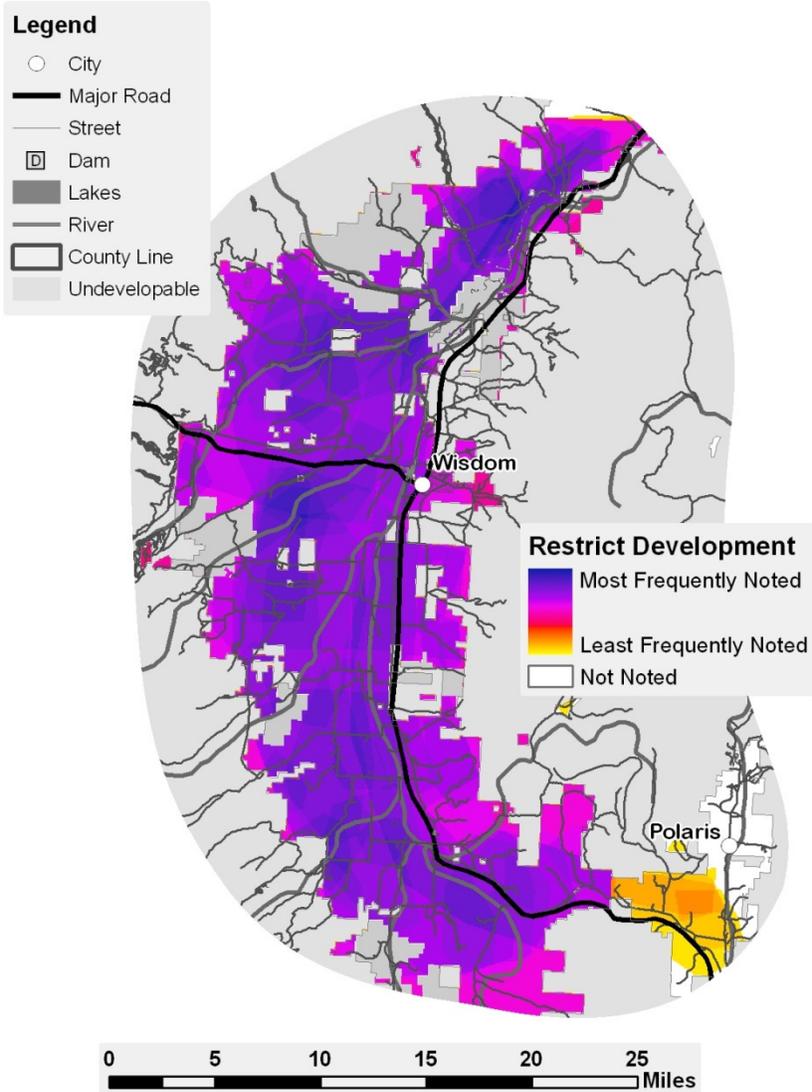
**15. When did someone from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks last visit your property?**

12.4% within the past month  
 21.3% more than one year ago

16.9% within the past year  
**49.4%** never

**16. Referring to the map and the key showing which land is available for development, please mark the following four items on this map of the Big Hole.**

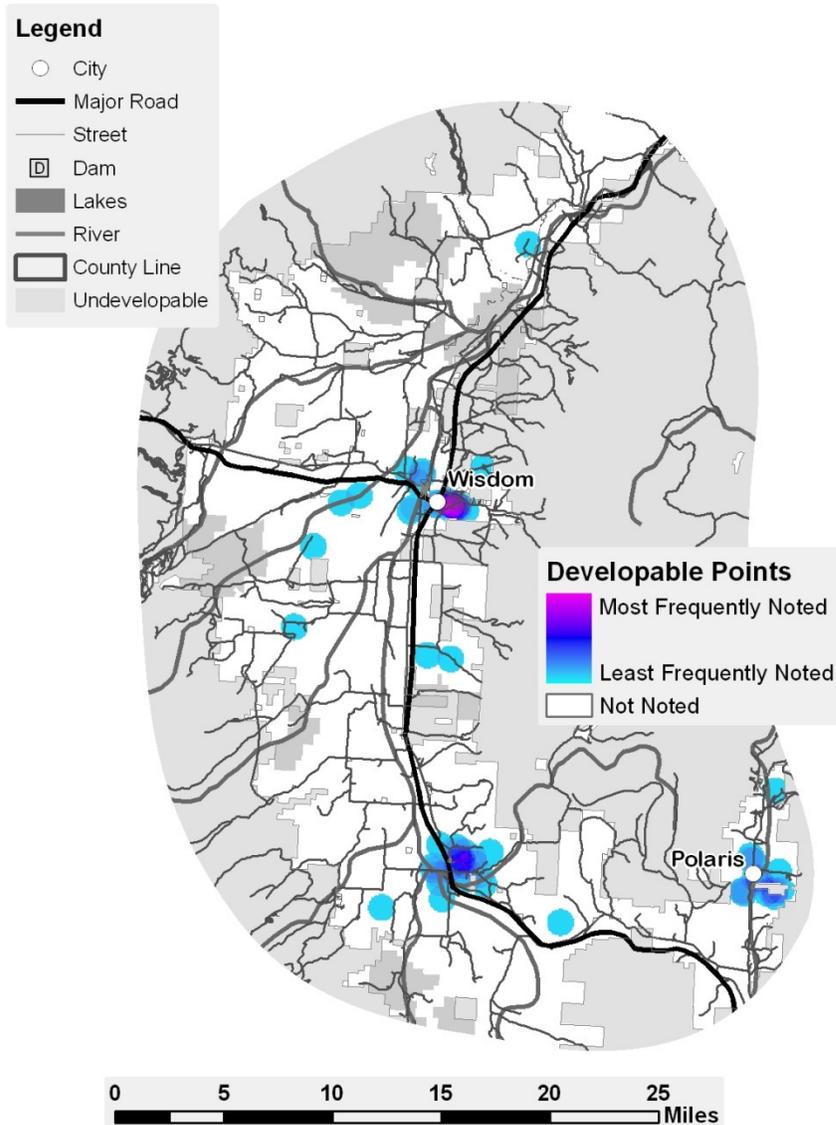
1. Please circle the area(s) of developable land that in your opinion should be restricted from development and maintained as open space.



**What the map shows:** Blue represents areas that respondents most frequently indicated should have restricted development and yellow represents areas that respondents least frequently indicated should have restricted development. The map displays only the responses for private lands. (Some respondents made notations on public lands but this question focuses only on the private lands).

**How we made the map:** All circles drawn by respondents on the mailed in surveys were digitized in GIS and then put into the same map (imagine a map with 100+ circles). Then the circles were counted at each pixel and converted to a color to indicate the frequency with which respondents indicated that place should be restricted from development and maintained as open space.

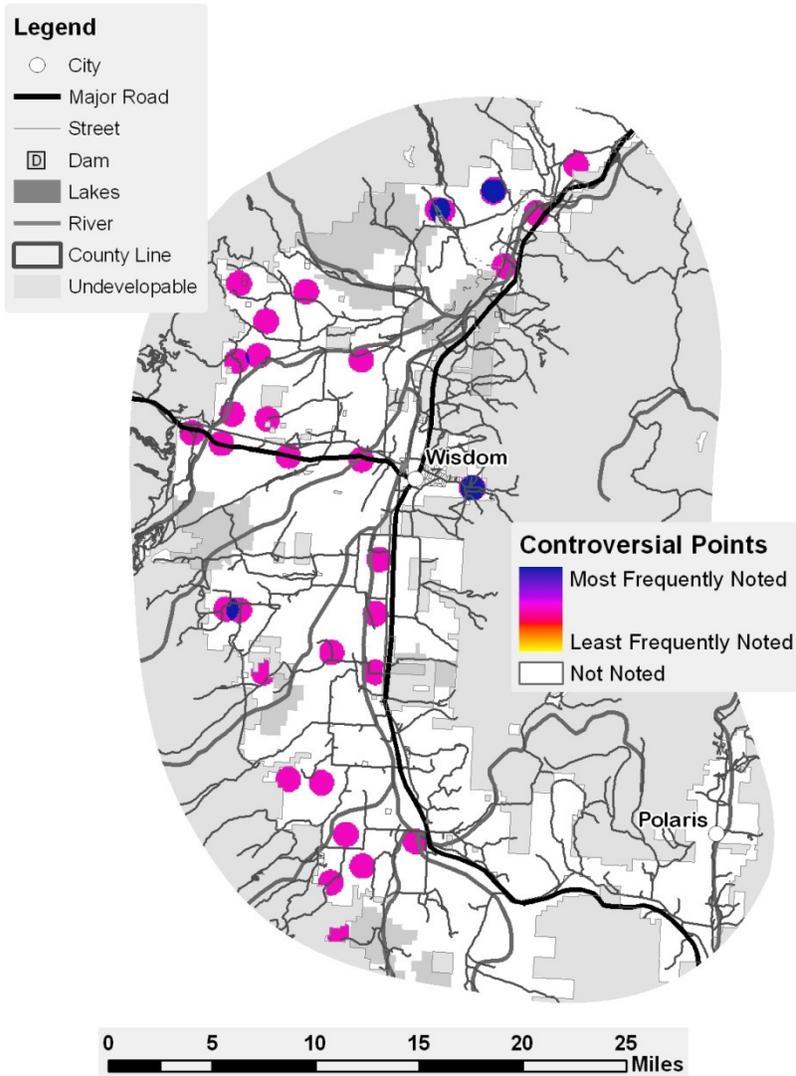
2. Please put a "D" on the area of developable land that in your opinion is the most appropriate for accommodating new development.



**What the map shows:** The pink dots represent areas that respondents most frequently indicated as most appropriate for development and the blue dots represent areas that respondents selected as appropriate for development but were areas that did not overlap with other respondents' suggestions. The map displays only the responses for private lands. (Some respondents made notations on public lands but this question focuses only on the private lands).

**How we made the map:** All "Ds" drawn by respondents on the mailed in surveys were digitized in GIS and then put into the same map as a point. Then at each point the point plus any points within 1500 m were counted and the dots were colored to indicate the frequency with which respondents indicated an area was most appropriate for accommodating new development.

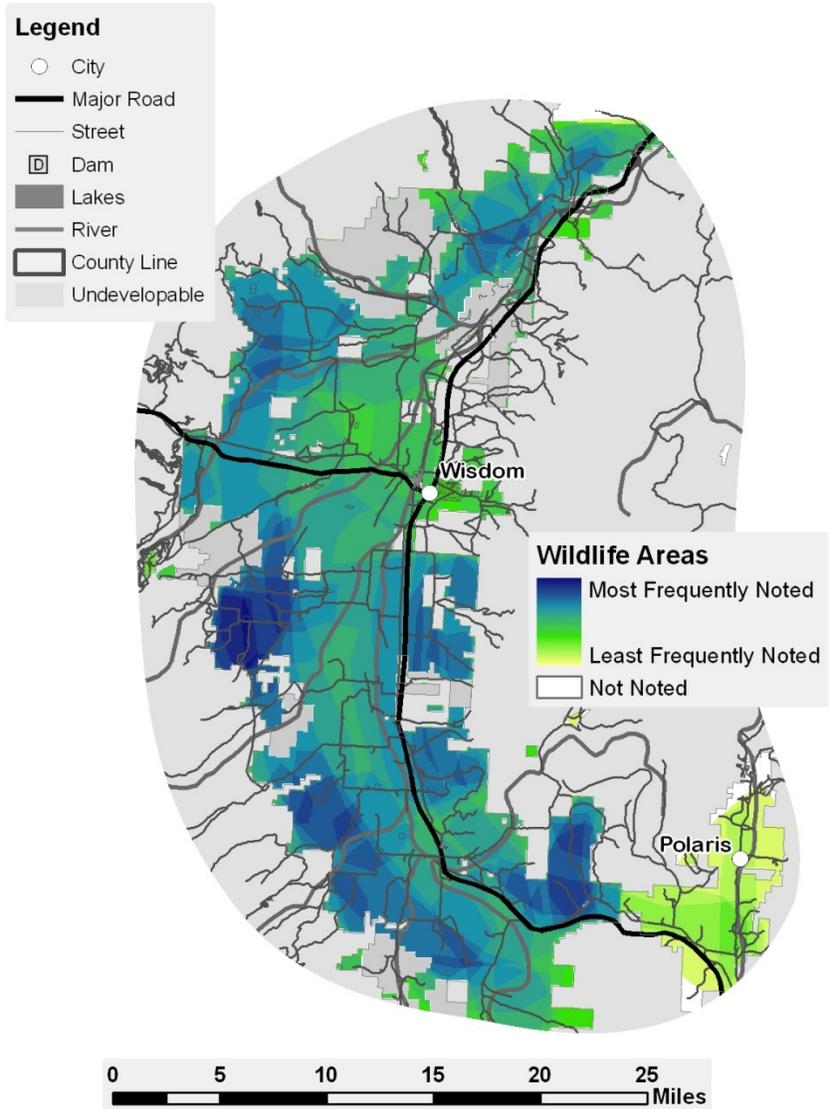
3. Please put an "X" on the area of developable land that is the most controversial for development and conservation.



**What the map shows:** The blue dots represent areas that respondents most frequently indicated as controversial for development and conservation. The yellow dots represent areas that respondents selected as controversial for development and conservation but were areas that did not overlap with other respondents' suggestions. The map displays only the responses for private lands. (Some respondents made notations on public lands but this question focuses only on the private lands).

**How we made the map:** All "Xs" drawn by respondents on the mailed in surveys were digitized in GIS and then put into the same map as a point. Then at each point the point plus any points within 1500 m were counted and the dots were colored to indicate the frequency with which respondents indicated an area was most controversial for development and conservation.

- Please lightly shade the area of developable land with dots or lines that, in your opinion, provides the best or most important area for wildlife.



**What the map shows:** Blue represents areas that respondents most frequently indicated as the best or most important for wildlife. Yellow represents areas that respondents selected as the best or most important area for wildlife but were areas that did not overlap with other respondents' suggestions. The map displays only the responses for private lands. (Some respondents made notations on public lands but this question focuses only on the private lands).

**How we made the map:** All lightly shaded areas drawn by respondents on the mailed in surveys were digitized in GIS and then put into the same map as a circles (imagine a map with many circles). Then the circles were counted at each pixel and converted to a color to indicate the frequency with which respondents indicated that place provides the best or most important area for wildlife.

**17. The center section below lists wildlife found in your region. For each species, indicate on the left how frequently you see this species on your land. On the right, indicate how you feel about interactions with this species on your property.**

How frequently do you see this species

On average, how would you describe your

| on your property?* |                        |              |                         |                      |              | Species                    | interactions with this species on your property? |             |                               |             |               |             |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Daily              | Several times per week | Once a month | Several times per month | A few times per year | never        |                            | Very Negative                                    | Negative    | Neither Negative nor Positive | Positive    | Very Positive | N/A         |
| 0%                 | 0%                     | 0%           | 2.4%                    | <b>55.3%</b>         | 42.4%        | black bear                 | 1.4%   | 8.1%        | <b>39.2%</b>                  | 20.3%       | 13.5%         | 17.6%       |
| 1.2                | 2.3                    | 8.1          | 5.8                     | 26.7                 | <b>55.8</b>  | beaver                     | 7.1  | 20.0        | 22.9                          | 14.3        | 8.6           | <b>27.1</b> |
| 0                  | 0                      | 0            | 0                       | 0                    | <b>100.0</b> | big horn sheep             | 0  | 0           | 20.3                          | 5.1         | 13.6          | <b>61.0</b> |
| 0                  | 0                      | 1.2          | 0                       | 7.1                  | <b>91.8</b>  | bobcat                     | 1.7  | 0           | 25.4                          | 6.8         | 13.6          | <b>52.5</b> |
| 2.3                | 2.3                    | 15.1         | 16.3                    | <b>39.5</b>          | <b>39.5</b>  | coyote                     | 4.2  | 14.1        | <b>39.4</b>                   | 15.5        | 16.9          | 9.9         |
| 3.5                | 11.8                   | 18.8         | 9.4                     | <b>29.4</b>          | 27.1         | elk                        | 2.7  | 5.4         | 16.2                          | 21.6        | <b>41.9</b>   | 12.2        |
| 5.9                | 5.9                    | 9.4          | 12.9                    | 25.9                 | <b>40.0</b>  | frogs and other amphibians | 0  | 0           | <b>35.3</b>                   | 23.5        | 16.2          | 25.0        |
| 0                  | 1.1                    | 0            | 0                       | 3.4                  | <b>95.4</b>  | grizzly bear               | 13.1   | 9.8         | 16.4                          | 3.3         | 8.2           | <b>49.2</b> |
| 0                  | 0                      | 0            | 0                       | 10.7                 | <b>89.3</b>  | lynx                       | 1.6  | 0           | 21.5                          | 4.9         | 11.5          | <b>52.5</b> |
| 2.4                | 1.2                    | 5.9          | 10.6                    | <b>57.6</b>          | 22.4         | moose                      | 1.3  | 4.0         | 22.7                          | 30.7        | <b>32.0</b>   | 9.3         |
| 0                  | 0                      | 1.2          | 2.4                     | 17.9                 | <b>78.6</b>  | mountain lion              | 4.8  | 15.9        | 17.5                          | 9.5         | 15.9          | <b>36.5</b> |
| 3.4                | 8.0                    | 17.2         | 12.6                    | <b>33.3</b>          | 25.3         | mule deer                  | 1.4  | 0           | 15.1                          | 34.2        | <b>39.7</b>   | 9.6         |
| 3.5                | 8.1                    | 11.6         | 8.1                     | 19.8                 | <b>48.8</b>  | pronghorn antelope         | 1.5  | 5.9         | 17.6                          | 19.1        | <b>27.9</b>   | <b>27.9</b> |
| 3.4                | 3.4                    | 13.8         | 6.9                     | 35.6                 | <b>36.8</b>  | red fox                    | 2.8  | 1.4         | 22.5                          | 25.4        | <b>26.8</b>   | 21.1        |
| 0                  | 0                      | 8.0          | 5.7                     | 25.3                 | <b>60.9</b>  | sage grouse                | 1.5  | 0           | 22.7                          | 16.7        | 27.3          | <b>31.8</b> |
| 4.8                | 14.3                   | 13.1         | 10.7                    | 20.2                 | <b>36.9</b>  | sandhill cranes            | 1.4  | 0           | 22.2                          | <b>30.6</b> | 25.0          | 20.8        |
| 0                  | 2.3                    | 4.7          | 8.5                     | 16.3                 | <b>73.3</b>  | white pelicans             | 17.2   | 12.5        | 15.6                          | 1.6         | 9.4           | <b>43.8</b> |
| 3.6                | 8.4                    | 12.0         | 9.6                     | 32.5                 | <b>33.7</b>  | white-tailed deer          | 0  | 4.3         | 15.9                          | <b>31.9</b> | <b>31.9</b>   | 15.9        |
| 0                  | 0                      | 2.3          | 0                       | 5.8                  | <b>91.9</b>  | wolverine                  | 3.3  | 3.3         | 25.0                          | 5.0         | 6.7           | <b>56.7</b> |
| 0                  | 1.1                    | 2.3          | 6.9                     | 34.5                 | <b>55.2</b>  | wolf                       | 67   | <b>43.3</b> | 11.9                          | 4.5         | 4.5           | 23.9        |
| 1.2                | 1.2                    | 6.2          | 4.9                     | 28.4                 | <b>58.0</b>  | yellow warbler             | 0  | 0           | 21.9                          | 18.8        | 18.8          | <b>40.6</b> |

\*we know that some wildlife may be seasonal, please report the frequencies based on when each species is present in your region.

**18. The center section below lists different tools for guiding land-use on private land. On the left, indicate how familiar you are with the strategy/tool. On the right, indicate how acceptable the item is to you personally.**

| How familiar are you with the following tools & strategies for guiding development on private lands? |   |                              |                       | Strategy/Tool  | How acceptable are these tools for guiding development on private-land to you personally? |                     |              |             |
|--|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| I have not heard of it   | I have heard of it, but do not know details | I know a little bit about it | I am familiar with it |  | Not Acceptable  | Somewhat Acceptable | Acceptable   | Don't Know  |
| 13.5%  | 14.6%                                       | 13.5%                        | <b>58.4%</b>          | Set-backs from wet/riparian areas  | 9.8%  | 24.4%               | <b>53.7%</b> | 12.2%       |
| 11.2   | 22.5  | 15.7                         | <b>50.6</b>           | Wildlife-friendly fencing  | 12.0  | 19.3                | <b>56.6</b>  | 12.0        |
| <b>46.0</b>  | 19.5  | 11.5                         | 23.0                  | Night-lighting guidelines  | 14.3  | 11.7                | 33.8         | <b>40.3</b> |
| 24.7   | 23.5  | 16.5                         | <b>35.3</b>           | Ordinances for securing outdoor trash  | 8.6   | 13.6                | <b>58.0</b>  | 19.8        |
| 9.1  | 15.9  | 19.3                         | <b>55.7</b>           | Conservation easements (limits activities permissible on property)                     | 18.1  | 18.1                | <b>45.8</b>  | 18.1        |
| 25.8   | 16.9  | 12.4                         | <b>44.9</b>           | Purchase of development rights (limits future development)                             | 18.5  | 17.3                | <b>44.4</b>  | 19.8        |
| 19.1   | 15.7  | 18.0                         | <b>47.2</b>           | Fee simple purchases (outright purchase of land for conservation purposes)             | 18.3  | 17.1                | <b>46.3</b>  | 18.3        |
| 27.0   | 11.2  | 18.0                         | <b>43.8</b>           | Open-space zoning (e.g., minimum acreage per unit)                                     | 17.3  | 25.9                | <b>42.0</b>  | 14.8        |
| 29.2   | 13.5  | 16.9                         | <b>40.4</b>           | Clustered development (concentrates new development near existing)                     | 17.3  | 19.8                | <b>39.5</b>  | 23.5        |
| 30.3   | 15.7  | 16.9                         | <b>37.1</b>           | Tax incentives for wildlife conservation (e.g., providing forage for wintering elk)    | 14.5  | 14.5                | <b>54.2</b>  | 16.9        |
| 32.2   | 17.2  | 12.6                         | <b>37.9</b>           | Payments to landowners for wildlife conservation (e.g., having a wolf den on property) | 28.0  | 13.4                | <b>42.7</b>  | 15.9        |

**19. For each statement below, circle the number that best reflects your opinion.**  
*(Please circle one number for each item.)*

|   | Strongly Disagree | Disagree    | Neutral      | Agree       | Strongly Agree | Don't Know/Not Applicable |
|---|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| a. I am interested in changing the way I manage my property to protect wildlife.  | 14.8%             | 25.0%       | <b>36.4%</b> | 10.2%       | 5.7%           | 8.0%                      |
| b. I am interested in changing my livestock grazing patterns to protect wildlife.   | 15.5              | 17.9        | 26.2         | 4.8         | 1.2            | <b>34.5</b>               |
| c. I am interested in landscaping my land with native vegetation.   | 9.2               | 11.5        | <b>25.3</b>  | 24.1        | 19.5           | 10.3                      |
| d. Profitability is the primary consideration driving my land-use decisions.  | 25.3              | <b>31.0</b> | 14.9         | 14.9        | 6.9            | 6.9                       |
| e. Balancing profit and the needs of wildlife is the primary consideration driving my land-use decisions.                             | 17.2              | 21.8        | <b>35.6</b>  | 11.5        | 4.6            | 9.2                       |
| f. I am willing to install wildlife-friendly fencing.   | 17.2              | 16.1        | <b>26.4</b>  | 13.8        | 12.6           | 13.8                      |
| g. I am willing to dispose of carcasses securely away from scavenging wildlife.   | 10.5              | 16.3        | 19.8         | 15.1        | <b>20.9</b>    | 17.4                      |
| h. I am interested in restricting development rights on my property to maintain open space.   | 12.6              | 12.6        | 20.7         | 18.4        | <b>26.4</b>    | 9.2                       |
| i. I am interested in restricting development rights on my property to protect the ranching lifestyle.                                | 12.6              | 4.6         | 23.0         | 18.4        | <b>25.3</b>    | 16.1                      |
| j. I am willing to store my barbeque grill inside.  | 9.1               | 15.9        | 21.6         | <b>28.4</b> | 13.6           | 11.4                      |
| k. I am willing to store my trash inside.   | 9.2               | 16.1        | 14.9         | <b>34.5</b> | 17.2           | 8.0                       |
| l. I am willing to have some of my tax dollars used for wildlife conservation on private land.  | 18.2              | 14.8        | 22.7         | <b>26.1</b> | 15.9           | 2.3                       |
| m. I would be willing to see some of my tax dollars invested in another Beaverhead County resident's property that protects wildlife. | 20.5              | 20.5        | <b>26.1</b>  | 17.0        | 12.5           | 3.4                       |
| n. I am interested in leveraging a bond against Beaverhead County's revenue that would protect wildlife.                              | 26.4              | 21.8        | <b>27.6</b>  | 9.2         | 10.3           | 4.6                       |

**20. For each statement below, circle the number that best represents your opinion. (Please circle one number for each item.)**

|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree    | Neutral     | Agree        | Strongly Agree | Don't Know |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| a. Growth and development can be accommodated without negatively affecting wildlife.       | 13.8%             | 20.7%       | 19.5%       | <b>35.6%</b> | 8.0%           | 2.3%       |
| b. The Big Hole has enough protected land for wildlife.                                    | 16.1              | 20.7        | 13.8        | <b>23.0</b>  | 19.5           | 6.9        |
| c. I support development restrictions that benefit wildlife.                               | 6.9               | 17.8        | 20.7        | <b>36.8</b>  | 20.7           | 1.1        |
| d. I am opposed to most development restrictions.  | 19.5              | <b>33.3</b> | 19.5        | 19.5         | 6.9            | 1.1        |
| e. The Big Hole can accommodate a lot more growth and development.                         | 24.1              | <b>35.6</b> | 19.5        | 6.9          | 9.2            | 4.6        |
| f. Counties should have guidelines for promoting developments that will not harm wildlife. | 5.7               | 6.9         | 20.7        | <b>42.5</b>  | 23.0           | 1.1        |
| g. There is adequate planning in the Big Hole to manage growth and development.            | 13.8              | 18.4        | <b>25.3</b> | 17.2         | 8.0            | 17.2       |
| h. The use of land should be determined only by the person who owns it.                    | 9.1               | 22.7        | 12.5        | <b>30.7</b>  | 25.0           | 0          |
| i. I would support changes in land use regulations if it would benefit wildlife.           | 8.1               | 17.4        | <b>40.7</b> | 20.9         | 11.6           | 1.2        |
| j. Land-use regulations hurt more than they help an area.                                  | 8.0               | 23.0        | <b>29.9</b> | 24.1         | 10.3           | 4.6        |
| k. Land should be set aside and protected from development.                                | 8.0               | 10.3        | 26.4        | <b>32.2</b>  | 23.0           | 0          |



**27. What do you intend to do with your property in the Big Hole in the next 5 years?**  
 (Please check all that apply.)

- 71.5% Leave it as is
- 23.9% Give some or all of my land to my children or other heirs
- 14.1% Sell the whole property
- 1.1% Divide all or part of the land and sell the subdivisions
- 5.4% Build a single residence
- 1.1% Build multiple residences
- 5.4% Develop it for agricultural purposes
- 3.3% Develop it for commercial recreational purposes
- 6.5% No plans/I don't know
- 6.5% Other (please specify \_\_\_\_\_ [5 responses] \_\_\_\_\_)

**28. What is your occupation?** \_\_\_\_\_

- 35.6% Retired, housewives, unemployed
- 28.7% Professional, technical, kindred
- 8.0% Farmers, farms mgrs
- 1.1% Mgrs, officials, proprietors
- 0% Clerical, kindred
- 4.6% Sales
- 3.4% Craftsmen, foremen, military, kindred
- 0% Operatives, kindred
- 0% Private household workers
- 0% Service workers, includes protective service (police, etc.)
- 0% Farm laborers, farm foremen
- 1.1% Laborers

**29. Please indicate which of the following provide income for your household, now or in the past. If currently providing income, please list what percent of your income comes from that source.**

|   | No     | Yes, in the past | Yes          | Percent of 2008 Income |   |
|---|--------|------------------|--------------|------------------------|---|
| a. raising livestock                        | 60.6%  | <b>12.7%</b>     | 26.8%        | _____                  |   |
| b. raising crops                            | 80.6%  | 6.5%             | 12.9%        | _____                  | For questions that less than 30 respondents answered, we did not calculate means. |
| c. guiding wildlife watchers                | 98.3%  | 1.7%             | 0%           | _____                  |   |
| d. guiding hunters                          | 98.3%  | 1.7%             | 0%           | _____                  |   |
| e. guiding anglers                          | 100.0% | 0%               | 0%           | _____                  |   |
| f. other tourism or recreation business     | 90.0%  | 3.3%             | 6.7%         | _____                  |   |
| g. work you commute to unrelated to a-f     | 65.1%  | 9.5%             | 25.4%        | _____                  |   |
| h. work you telecommute to unrelated to a-f | 89.3%  | 1.8%             | 8.9%         | _____                  |   |
| i. investments or pensions                  | 41.9%  | 2.7%             | <b>55.4%</b> | <u>Mean=64.4%</u>      |   |

**30. What was your total family income before taxes in 2008?**

*(Please check one category.)*

|                     |                   |              |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <u>23.8%</u>        | \$49,999 or less  | <u>8.8%</u>  | \$150,000-199,999 |
| <b><u>36.2%</u></b> | \$50,000-99,999   | <u>17.5%</u> | \$200,000 or more |
| <u>13.8%</u>        | \$100,000-149,999 |              |                   |

**31. How much school have you completed? (Check the highest level.)**

|              |                    |                     |  |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| <u>0%</u>    | Some high school   | <b><u>26.1%</u></b> | Bachelor's degree or equivalent        |
| <u>20.7%</u> | High school or CED | <u>17.4%</u>        | Master's degree or equivalent          |
| <u>23.9%</u> | Some college       | <u>12.0%</u>        | Other degree (M.D., Ph.D., J.D., etc.) |

**32. Approximately what percent of your total leisure time do you spend outdoors?**

Mean = 62.2 % of leisure time

**33. Approximately what percent of your total work time do you spend outdoors?**

Mean = 41.4 % of work time

**34a. Are you willing to be contacted in the future for:**

a. community meetings or other activities related to this survey?

55.3% No                      44.7% Yes

b. to monitor wildlife and map wildlife movements in your community?

62.8% No                      37.2% Yes

**34b. If you answered yes, please provide:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Reminder, even if you provide us your name in question 34, we will never associate your name with your responses to questions 1-33.**

**Please use the space below for any comments you may have about the survey or wildlife and private lands management. If you have additional comments or questions please contact us at [bigholesurvey@gmail.com](mailto:bigholesurvey@gmail.com)**

**30.1% of the respondents provided additional comments.**

**Thank You for Your Time and Effort!**

**To return this questionnaire, seal it with the white removable seal (postage has been provided) and drop it in the nearest mailbox.**

**Comparison of non-respondent results with survey results for the Big Hole.**

| <b>Question</b>   | <b>Significant Difference?</b> | <b>Statistics</b>         | <b>Notes</b>   |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| How long have you owned or leased property in the Big Hole?   | Yes                            | F=6.022, p=0.016          | Survey respondents owned or leased property for significantly less time. (mean 25 years versus 32 years) |
| Are you currently a permanent or seasonal resident of the Big Hole, or do you not reside there for any part of the year?        | No                             |                           |  |
| On a 5-point scale, where 1 is very negative and 5 is very positive, how would you rate your general experiences with wildlife? | No                             |                           |  |
| How about your general feelings about wildlife?   | No                             |                           |  |
| To what extent do you agree with the policies and programs of your local planning board in Beaverhead County?                   | No                             |                           |  |
| To what extent do you agree with the policies and programs of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks?                                  | No                             |                           |  |
| To what extent do you agree with the policies and programs of the U.S. Forest Service?  | No                             |                           |  |
| How frequently have you seen elk on your property?  | Yes                            | $\chi^2=15.392$ , p=0.009 | A higher percentage of non-respondents either saw elk daily or never compared to survey respondents.     |
| On average, how would you describe your interactions with elk on your property?   | No                             |                           |  |
| How frequently have you seen black bears on your property?  | No                             |                           |  |
| On average, how would you describe your interactions with black bears on your property?   | No                             |                           |  |
| How frequently have you seen grizzly bears on your property?  | No                             |                           |  |
| On average, how would you describe your interactions with grizzly bears on your property?                                       | N/A                            |                           | Not enough non-respondents answered this question  |

|  |     |                                |   |
|--|-----|--------------------------------|---|
| How frequently have you seen moose on your property?   | No  |                                |   |
| On average, how would you describe your interactions with moose on your property?  | No  |                                |   |
| How familiar are you with conservation easements that limit activities permissible on property?                          | Yes | $\chi^2=17.699$ ,<br>$p=0.001$ | A higher percentage of non-respondents were familiar with or knew a little bit about conservation easements compared to survey respondents. |
| How acceptable to you personally are conservation easements as a tool for guiding development on private land?           | No  |                                |   |
| How familiar are you with purchasing development rights as a tool, which would limit future development?                 | No  |                                |   |
| How acceptable to you personally are purchasing development rights as a tool for guiding development on private land?    | No  |                                |   |
| How familiar are you with clustered development as a tool, which concentrates new development near existing development? | No  |                                |   |
| How acceptable to you personally is clustered development as a tool for guiding development on private land?             | No  |                                |   |
| Gender   | No  |                                |   |