

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
DATE: August 15, 2017
RE: **NEW MONTANA POLL RESULTS – Montanans Oppose Ryan Zinke on Privatizing Public Lands**

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's stance on privatizing public lands is starkly at odds with the views of 2018 likely voters in Montana. Montanans are strongly opposed to proposals to open up public lands for private entities and privatize campgrounds in national parks – including Trump supporters, who oppose the proposals by wide margins. Zinke's job approval falls by 16-points after voters hear about efforts to privatize public lands and a full 21-points after voters hear about potential plans to privatize public campgrounds.

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **Montanans are strongly against privatizing public lands and public campgrounds:** Fully 68% of likely voters oppose opening national public lands to private entities—include 57% who strongly oppose—while only a quarter of voters support this proposal. Montanans are even more opposed to privatizing public campgrounds at America's national parks: fully three-quarters are against this—including 62% who are strongly against it—while only 16% support this proposal.

Question text: "Do you support or oppose a proposal to open up national public lands to private entities?" and "And as you may know, some people have proposed privatizing public campgrounds at America's national parks. Do you support or oppose that proposal?"

- **A majority of Trump supporters oppose privatizing public lands as well.** Among those who are favorable to Trump, 47% oppose opening up public lands to private entities—including 33% who strongly oppose—while 42% support the proposal. And 62% of those favorable to Trump oppose privatizing public campgrounds—including 50% who strongly oppose—compared to a quarter who support it.

Question text: "Do you support or oppose a proposal to open up national public lands to private entities?" and "And as you may know, some people have proposed privatizing public campgrounds at America's national parks. Do you support or oppose that proposal?"

- **Once voters link Zinke to these proposals, Zinke's job approval suffers severely:** From the outset, Zinke's job approval is middling: 38% rate him as doing an "excellent" or "good" job and 41% rate him as doing "just fair" or "poor." Yet, once voters learn that Zinke is leading the initiative to privatize public lands, fully 68% rate him negatively—with 51% who say he's doing a "poor" job. And when voters learn that Zinke is in charge of a commission aimed at privatizing public campgrounds, his job approval further plummets to 71% who rate him negatively—with 53% who say he's doing poorly.

Question text: "If you knew that as Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke was leading an initiative to try to privatize or decrease America's public lands, how would you rate the job being done by Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the Interior – excellent, good, just fair, or poor?" and "If you knew that as Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke was in charge of a commission responsible for trying to privatize public campgrounds at our national parks, how would you rate the job being done by Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the Interior – excellent, good, just fair, or poor?"

- **Even Trump supporters, who initially stand with Zinke, turn against him:** Trump supporters start off with positive views of Zinke’s job approval: 60% say he’s doing an “excellent” or “good” job, while 21% say he’s doing a “just fair” or “poor” job. However, once Trump supporters learn that Zinke is trying to privatize public lands, his approval ratings tumble: 51% view Zinke negatively—including 27% who say he’s doing a poor job—while only 22% view him positively. And Trump supporters further lose faith in Zinke on public campgrounds: 56% rate Zinke’s job approval negatively—including 32% who say he’s doing a poor job—while only 17% view him positively.

Question text: “If you knew that as Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke was leading an initiative to try to privatize or decrease America’s public lands, how would you rate the job being done by Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the Interior – excellent, good, just fair, or poor?” and “If you knew that as Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke was in charge of a commission responsible for trying to privatize public campgrounds at our national parks, how would you rate the job being done by Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the Interior – excellent, good, just fair, or poor?”

ABOUT THIS POLL

Global Strategy Group conducted a state-wide survey of 505 likely 2018 general election voters in Montana between July 25-30, 2017. The results of this survey have a margin of error of +/-4.4%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the expected electorate are properly represented based on historical turnout.