

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: **NEW POLL: MONTANANS ADAMANT THAT REP. GIANFORTE MUST SUPPORT PUBLIC LANDS**

Congressman Greg Gianforte's constituents care strongly about public lands issues, and are fiercely opposed to legislation that would shrink western monuments and threaten national monument protections by giving presidents more power to revoke their protected public land status. Gianforte can bolster his favorability by siding with Montanans on this issue and supporting public lands, but risks significant backlash if goes against his constituents' wishes on public lands issues.

Key findings from Global Strategy Group's [recent poll](#) of 400 likely 2018 general election voters in Montana are as follows:

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **Montanans oppose President Trump's executive orders to shrink the size of western monuments.** The majority of Montanans oppose Trump's orders to shrink the size of two national monuments in Utah (42% support/53% oppose), including 44% who "strongly" oppose Trump's decision.

Large segments of Montanans are familiar with the Bears Ears (46% familiar, 39% favorable/6% unfavorable) and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments (44% familiar, 37% favorable/7% unfavorable) by name, and those who are familiar with them have overwhelmingly positive opinions of these monuments.

- **Montanans are determined to stop legislation that would shrink western monuments and give presidents more power to strip public lands protections.** A clear majority (39% support/61% oppose) oppose laws that would reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments and give presidents greater power to lift protections for public lands, including 46% who strongly oppose this legislation. Further, over three in five (62%) would be willing to take action to stop this legislation from passing, such as posting on social media, signing a petition, or contacting an elected official.
- **Greg Gianforte can shore up his standing by siding with Montanans on public lands issues.** Public lands are a highly salient issue in Montana, with three-quarters (76%) saying it is very important to them to preserve Montana's public lands.

Accordingly, over two-thirds (68%) would have a more favorable opinion of Gianforte if he supports laws that help the federal government preserve public lands with national monument protections like the Upper River Missouri Breaks National Monument in Montana. A majority of Montanans (54%) would also have a more favorable opinion of Gianforte if he opposes laws that allow a President to remove protections on public lands without approval from Congress.

- **Gianforte risks sliding deep underwater if he votes to weaken public lands protections.** Montanans are currently divided in their opinions of Gianforte (44% favorable/45% unfavorable), and become 18 points more unfavorable than favorable toward him (36% favorable/54% unfavorable) after hearing simulated advertising saying that Gianforte has tried to undermine people's rights to enjoy public lands in the past and is now considering voting for laws that would threaten public lands.

ABOUT THIS POLL: Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 400 likely general election voters in Montana from January 26 to 30, 2018. The results of this survey have a margin of error of +/-4.9%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the expected electorate are properly represented based on historical turnout.