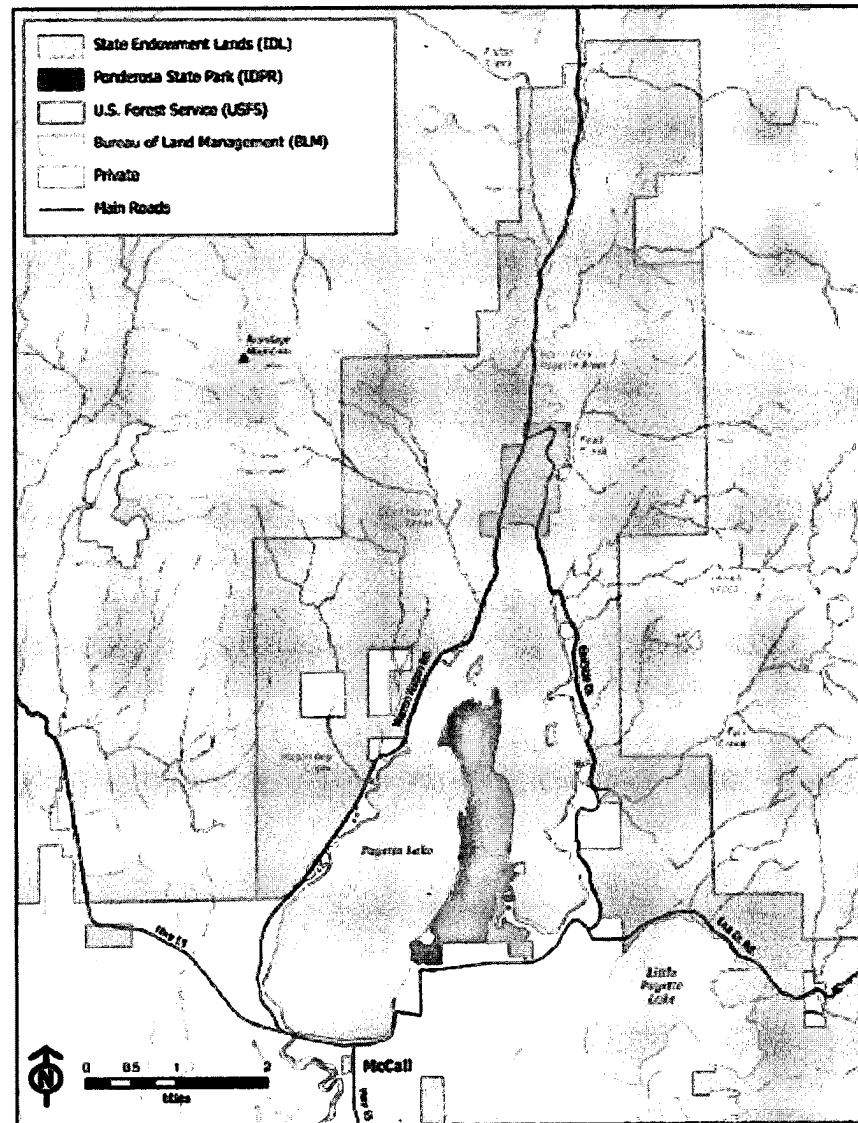


**United Payette**  
**Valley County Land Exchange**  
**Public Opinion Survey Results**  
**October, 2025**

## **Who We Are**

United Payette was formed in the summer of 2021 to lead and represent the community in addressing issues related to the Idaho endowment lands in Valley County and to collaborate with city, county, and state officials.

# McCall endowment lands



# How we arrived where we are

- 2020 - Trident Holdings, LLC proposes 28K acre land exchange
- Early 2021 - Local and state organizations/individuals form United Payette
- March 2021 - IDL develops the Payette Endowment Lands Strategy (PELS)
- UP creates community-based plan to satisfy PELS: Cougar Island conservation easement, recreation leases on both east and west sides, trail easement)
- August 10, 2021 - IDL rejects Trident proposal
- UP continues talks with IDL, USFS, IDPR, Valley County Commissioners, City of McCall
- 2024 - USFS and IDL initiate land exchange discussions (no formal proposal yet)
- 2024 to present - UP collaborates with U of I to design and implement public survey

# **Why a public survey?**

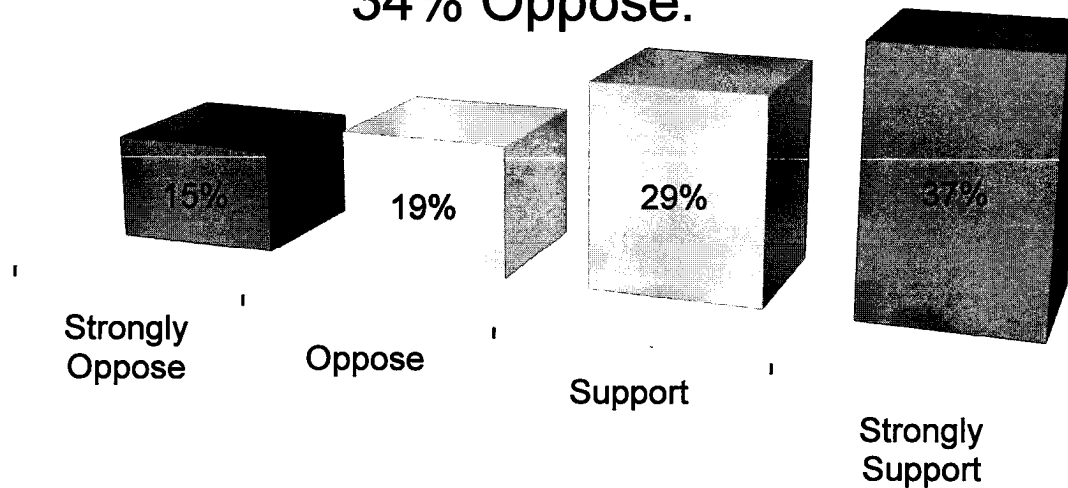
- Public understanding of IDL and USFS missions
- Public perception of endowment land benefits
- Public perception of endowment land threats
- To learn what Valley County residents value when it comes to the area's endowment lands

# Survey Basics

- UP engaged U of I to conduct survey during Summer, 2025. Survey paid for by generous donations to UP
- Invitations to participate sent to 6,738 addresses in Valley County
  - Needed 372 responses for a 5% margin of error with 95% confidence
- Received 840 complete surveys!
  - Provides a 3.3% margin of error with 95% confidence
- 97% of respondents identify as year-long, primary residents

**And, the survey says.....!**

# Land Exchange Support & Opposition – 66% Support a Land Exchange between IDL and FS; 34% Oppose.



	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Support	Strongly Support
Column1	15%	19%	29%	37%

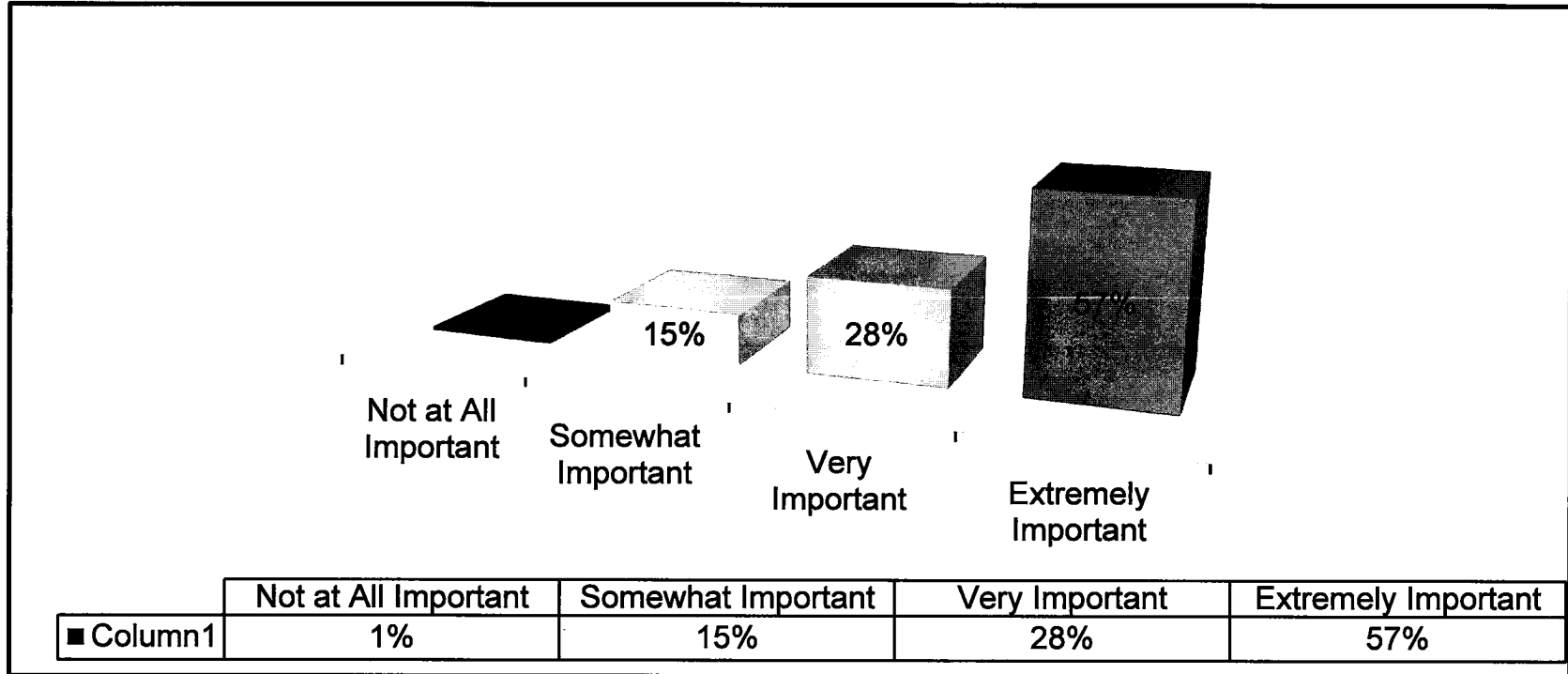


**To what extent would you oppose or support a land exchange that transfers ownership of state endowment lands around Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake from the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to the US Forest Service (USFS)? *In exchange for these state endowment lands (which USFS would own and manage), IDL will receive ownership of timber lands elsewhere in Idaho from the USFS.***

		<b>Support Total</b>	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Support	Strongly Support	Need Info	No Opinion
Valley County	34%	66%	15%	19%	29%	37%	20%	1%
McCall	23%	77%	10%	13%	26%	51%	21%	<1%
Cascade	46%	43%	23%	23%	37%	16%	10%	<1%
Donnelly	66%	34%	21%	45%	17%	17%	34%	<1%
Note: "No Opinion" and "need more information" analyzed separately								

**20% of respondents need more information**

85% of respondents indicate an exchange is very to extremely important

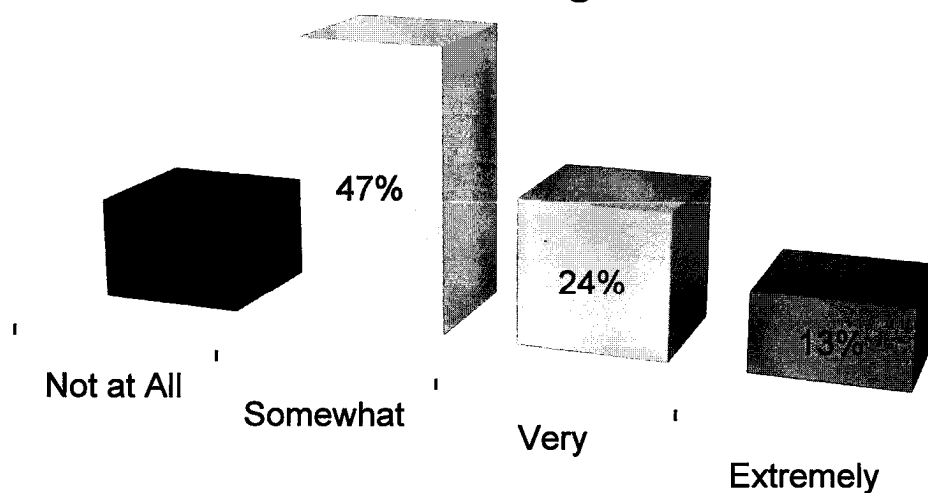


**In general, how important is the issue of a land exchange concerning Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake to you?**

	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	No Opinion
Valley County	1%	15%	28%	57%	3%
McCall	–	12%	25%	63%	3%
Cascade	1%	16%	39%	43%	–
Donnelly	–	27%	18%	56%	–
Note: No opinion analyzed separately					

**Only 1% of respondents say the issue is not at all important**

Prior to this survey, how familiar were you with a land exchange?

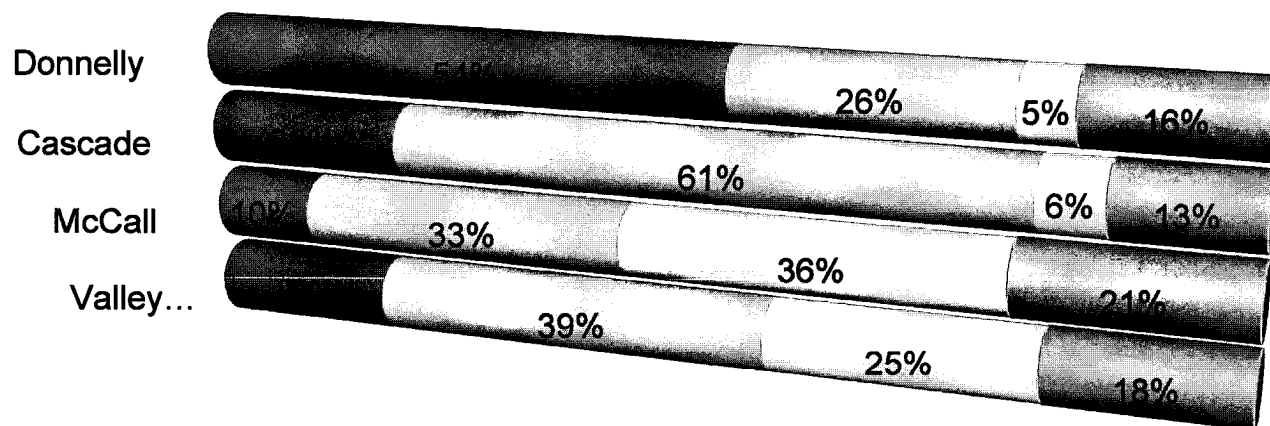


	Not at All	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
Column1	17%	47%	24%	13%

**Prior to this survey, how familiar were you with a land exchange?**

	Not At All Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar
Valley County	17%	47%	24%	13%
McCall	9%	48%	29%	14%
Cascade	20%	51%	17%	12%
Donnelly	51%	34%	11%	4%

## Familiarity with the Difference Between Public Lands and Endowment Lands

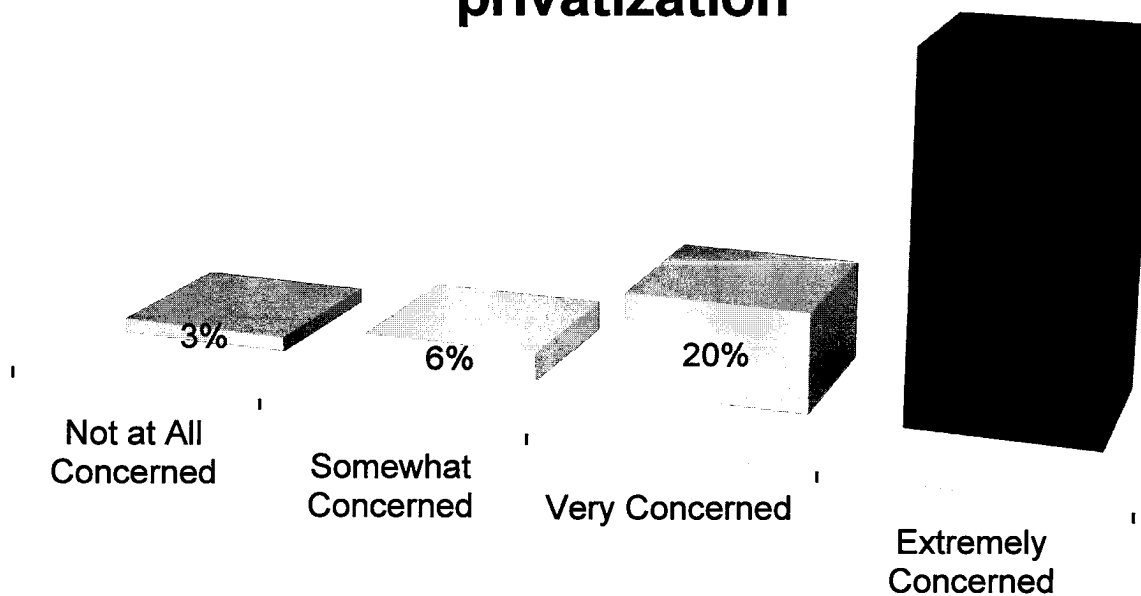


	Valley County	McCall	Cascade	Donnelly
■ Not at all Familiar	18%	10%	20%	54%
▒ Somewhat Familiar	39%	33%	61%	26%
░ Very Much Familiar	25%	36%	6%	5%
░░ Extremely Familiar	18%	21%	13%	16%

**Prior to this survey, how familiar were you with the difference between public lands and state endowment lands?**

	Not At All Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Very Familiar	Extremely Familiar
Valley County	18%	39%	25%	18%
McCall	10%	33%	36%	21%
Cascade	20%	61%	6%	13%
Donnelly	54%	26%	5%	16%

## 91% are very or extremely concerned about future privatization





**To what extent are you concerned that state endowment lands around Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake will be privatized in the future?**

	Not at all Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Very Concerned	Extremely Concerned	No Opinion
Valley County	1%	8%	20%	71%	3%
McCall	1%	9%	14%	76%	—
Cascade	4%	5%	38%	53%	—
Donnelly	0%	5%	15%	81%	21%

**Note: No Opinion analyzed separately**

**Poll by Conservation Voters for Idaho conducted in July:**

When asked whether public lands in Idaho should remain public, or be made available for purchase and private ownership, **96% of registered voters in Idaho say public lands should remain in public hands.**

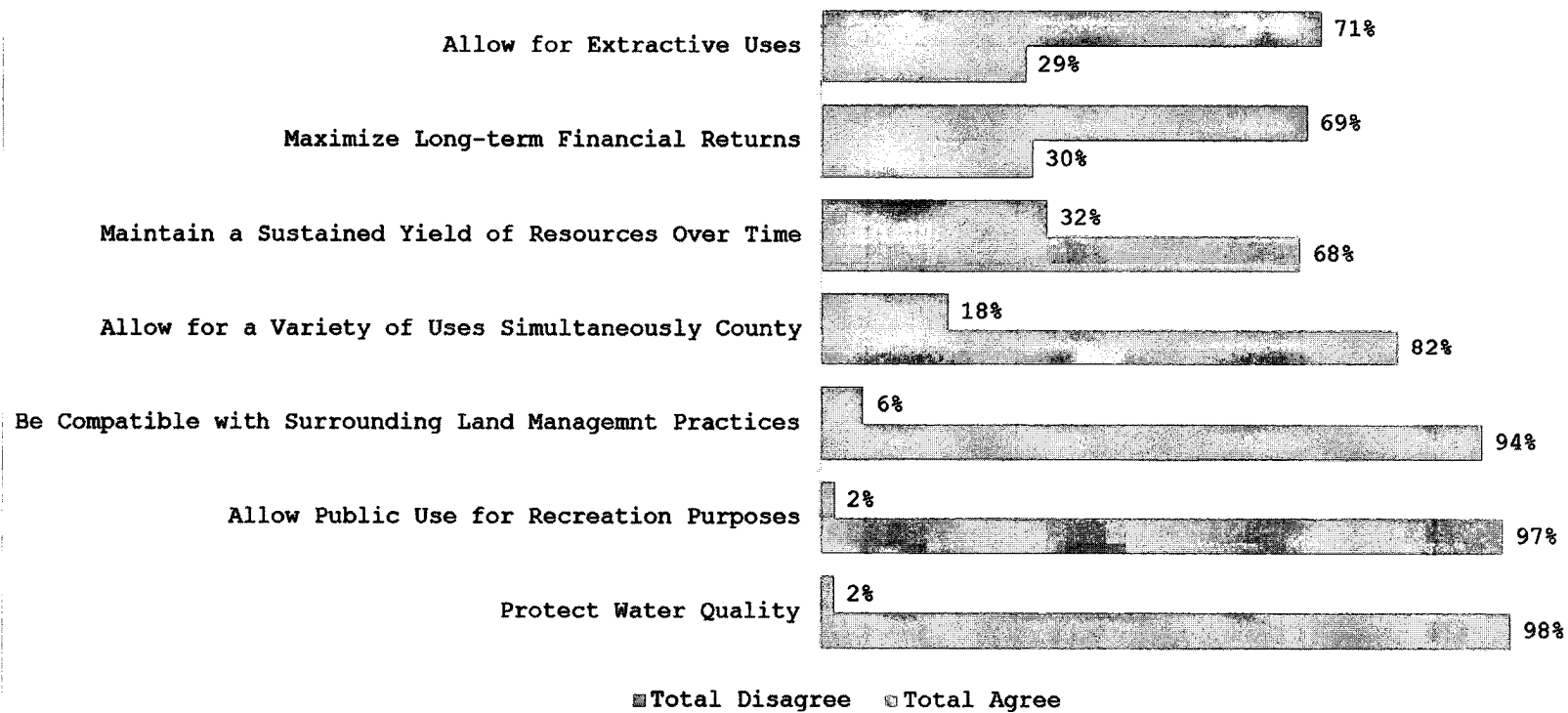
The consensus transcends partisanship, with 97% of registered Democrats, 95% of registered Republicans, and 99% of voters registered without part preference agree.

\*Poll conducted by Change Research for  
Conservation Voters for Idaho; 1,027 registered  
voters polled July 15-17, 2025

**To what extent do you disagree or agree that the following should be management goals for the “public lands” around Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake?**

		<b>Agree Total</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
Protect water quality	2%	98%	2%	0%	11%	<b>87%</b>	0%
Allow public use for recreation purposes	2%	97%	2%	0%	21%	<b>76%</b>	1%
Be compatible with surrounding land management practices	6%	94%	2%	4%	55%	<b>39%</b>	7%
Allow for a variety of uses simultaneously	18%	82%	3%	15%	48%	<b>34%</b>	5%
Maintain a sustained yield of resources over time	32%	68%	11%	21%	39%	<b>29%</b>	9%
Maximize long-term financial returns	69%	30%	39%	30%	22%	<b>8%</b>	6%
Allow for extractive uses	71%	29%	38%	33%	23%	<b>6%</b>	0%
Note: “No Opinion” analyzed separately							

## Total Agree/Total Disagree -

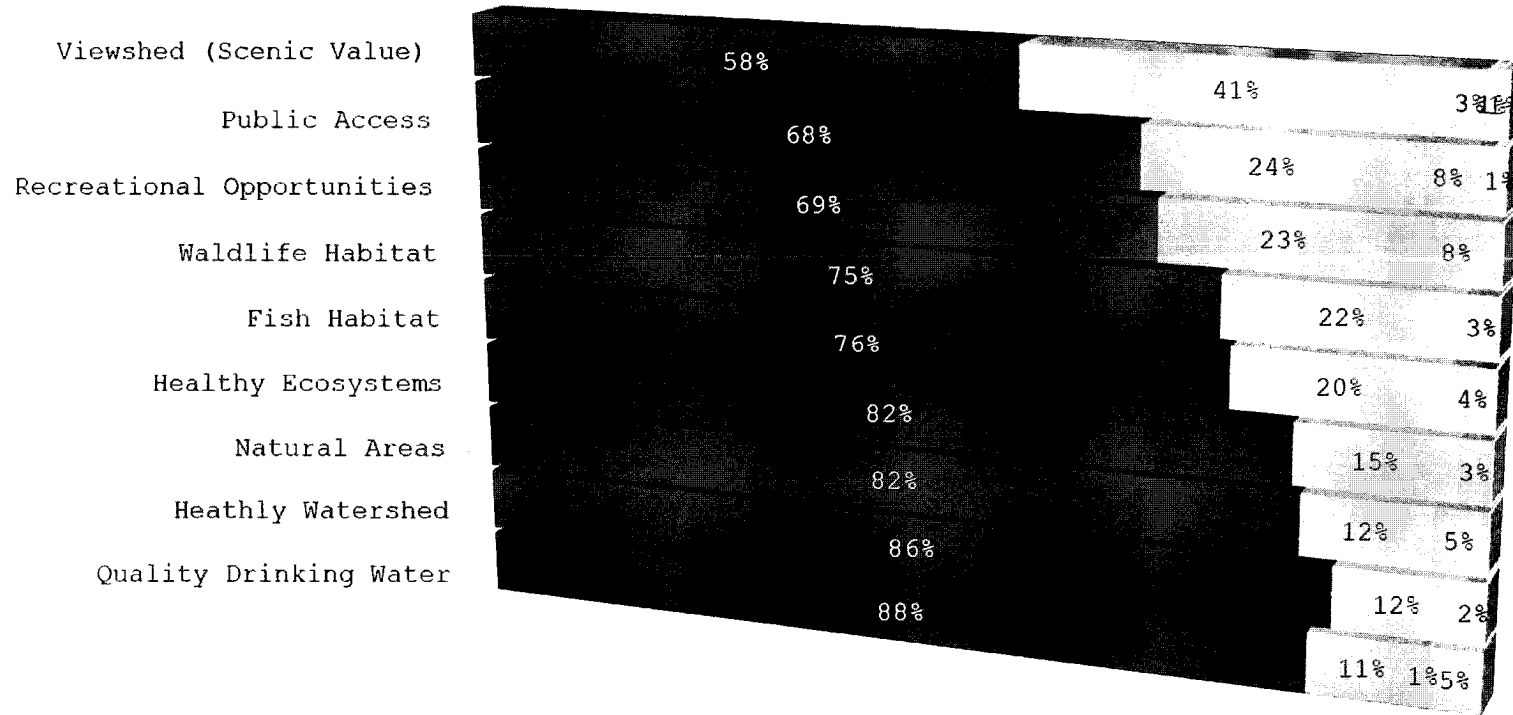


**From your perspective, how important is each of the following benefits provided by the public lands around Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake.**

	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	No Opinion
Quality drinking water	0%	1%	11%	88%	5%
Healthy watershed	0%	2%	12%	86%	0%
Natural areas	0%	5%	12%	82%	0%
Healthy ecosystems	0%	3%	15%	82%	5%
Fish habitat	0%	4%	20%	76%	0%
Wildlife habitat	0%	3%	22%	75%	0%
Recreational opportunities	0%	8%	23%	69%	0%
Public access	1%	8%	24%	68%	0%
Viewshed (scenic value)	0%	10%	32%	58%	1%
Rural character	1%	3%	41%	55%	2%
Winter recreation opportunities	3%	19%	24%	54%	0%
Cultural resources (heritage)	2%	20%	27%	51%	1%
Irrigation water source	6%	38%	39%	17%	6%
Tourism industry	15%	44%	25%	16%	0%
Natural resources industries	35%	43%	14%	8%	0%
Logging	28%	52%	14%	7%	1%
Mining	70%	24%	3%	4%	1%
Residential development	88%	11%	1%	0%	0%

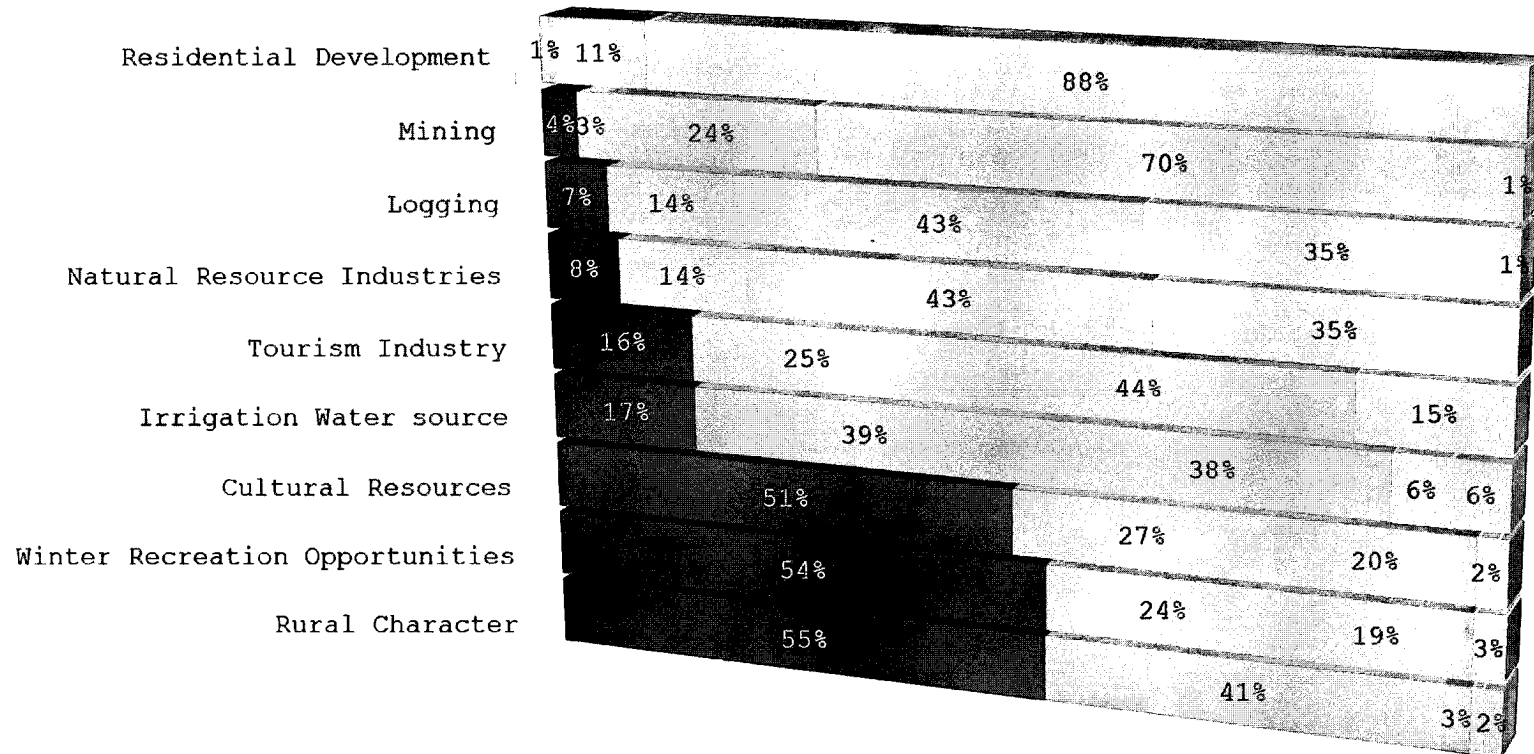
**Note:** "No Opinion" analyzed separately

From your perspective, how important is each of the following benefits provided by the public lands around the lakes? (chart 1 of 2)



■ Extremely Important    ■ Very Important    ■ Somewhat Important  
 ■ Not at all Important    ■ No Opinion

# Importance of Benefits Provided by Public Lands (chart 2 of 2)



■ Extremely Important   ■ Very Important   ■ Somewhat Important  
 ■ Not at all Important   ■ No Opinion

**To what extent do you feel each of the following is a threat to the benefits provided by public lands around Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake?**

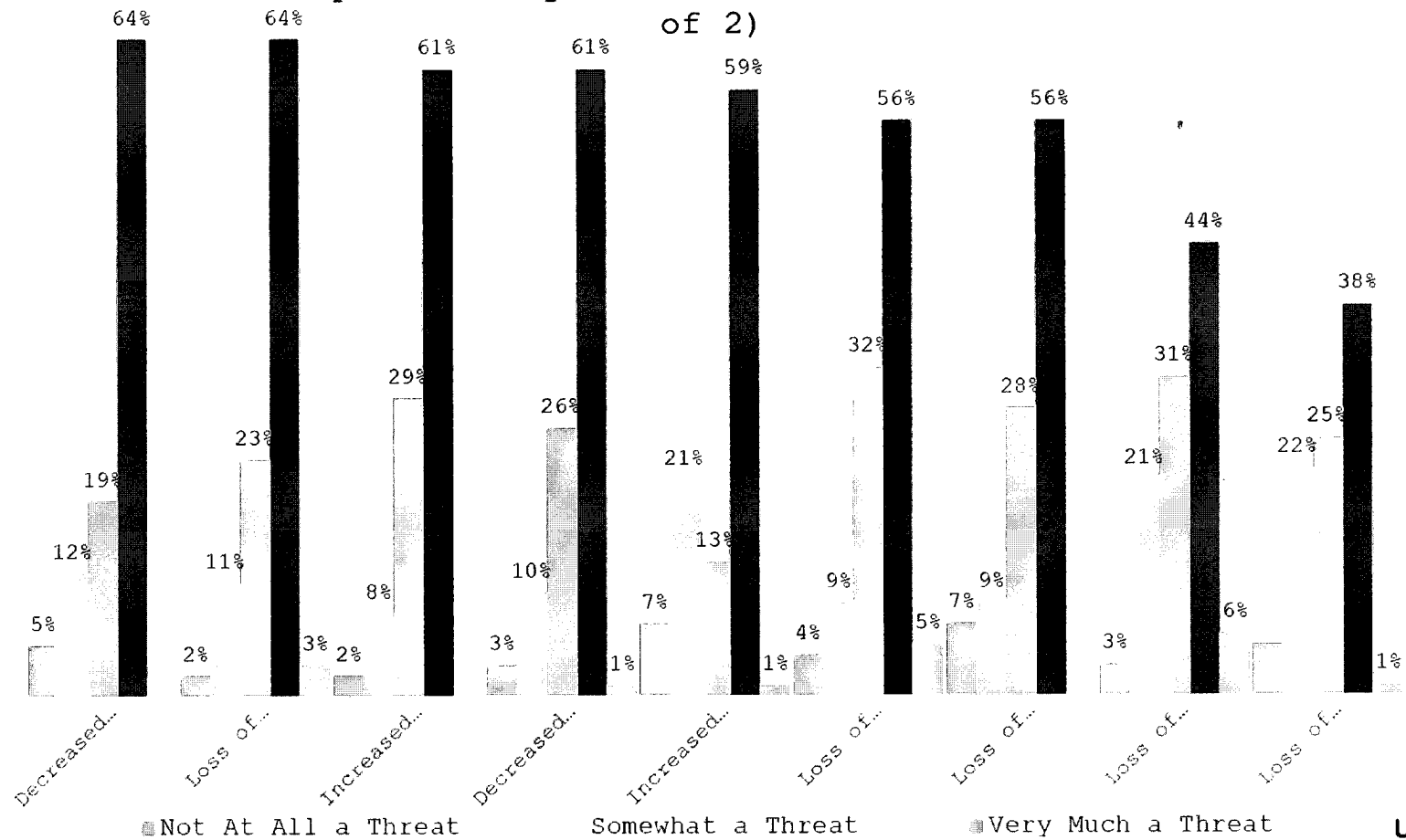
	Not At All a Threat	Somewhat a Threat	Very Much a Threat	An Extreme Threat	No Opinion
Decreased Drinking Water Quality	5%	12%	19%	64%	0%
Loss of Wildlife Habitat	2%	11%	23%	64%	3%
Increased Residential Development	2%	5%	30%	63%	0%
Decreased Ecosystem Health	2%	8%	29%	61%	3%
Decreased Watershed Health	3%	10%	26%	61%	1%
Increased Mining Activities	7%	21%	13%	59%	1%
Loss of Natural Areas	4%	9%	32%	56%	5%
Loss of Public Access	7%	9%	28%	56%	0%
Loss of Rural Character	3%	21%	31%	44%	6%
Loss of Recreational Opportunities	5%	22%	35%	38%	1%
Loss of Viewshed (Scenic Value)	4%	31%	28%	37%	2%
Increased Logging Activities	14%	34%	20%	32%	1%
Loss of Cultural Resources (heritage)	9%	31%	31%	30%	4%
Increased Tourism	6%	46%	21%	26%	1%
Loss of Winter Recreation Opportunities	15%	37%	25%	23%	1%
Increased Recreation Use	34%	39%	15%	12%	0%
Loss of Tourism Industry	24%	43%	22%	11%	2%
Increased Winter Recreation Use	25%	55%	10%	10%	2%

Note: "No Opinion" analyzed separately; This is a condensed table from the original question/response





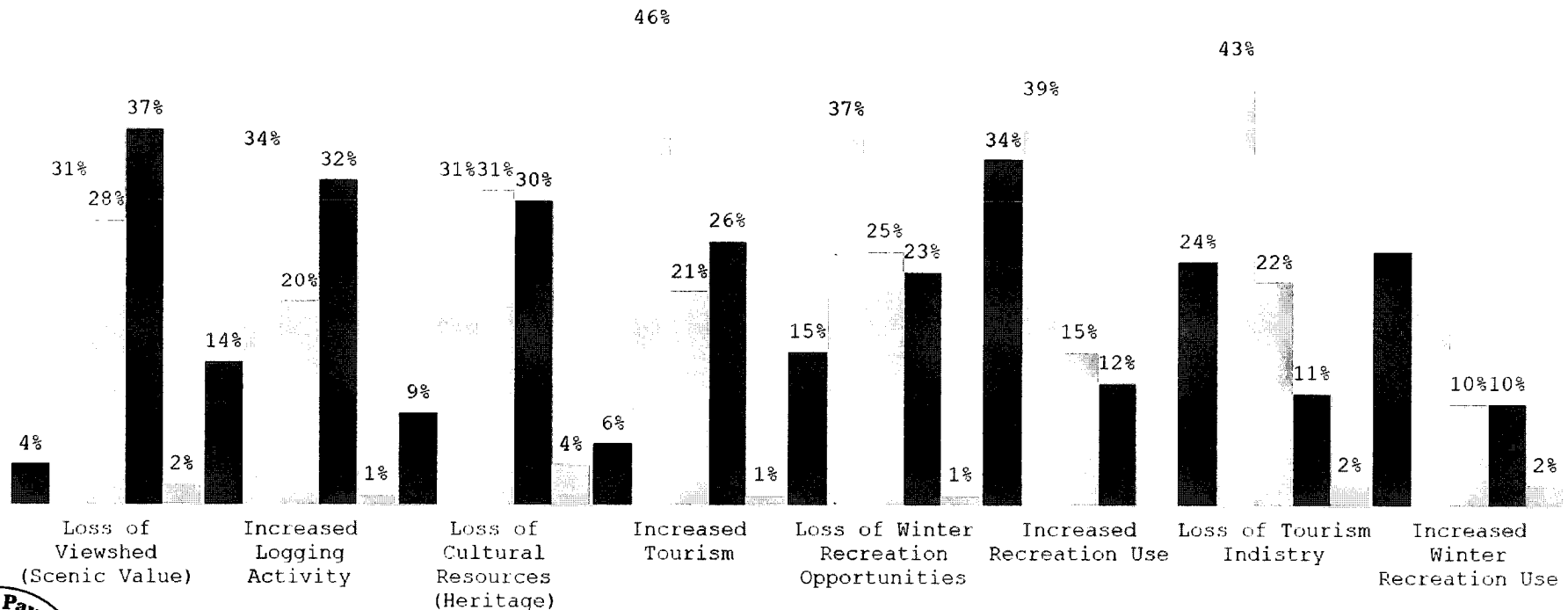
To what extent do you feel each of the following is a threat to benefits provided by the lands around the lakes? (chart 1



To what extent do you feel each of the following is a threat to benefits provided by the lands around the lakes?

(chart 2 of 2)

55%



■ Not At All a Threat

■ Somewhat a Threat

■ Very Much a Threat

# What do the Threats results mean?

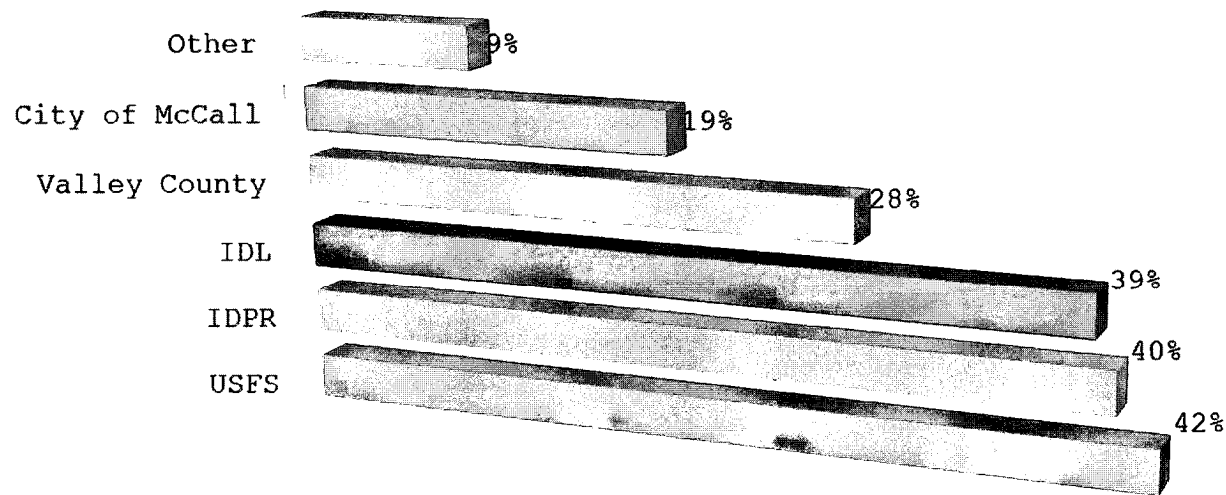
- **83%** of survey respondents believe decreased water quality is a considerable threat
- **87%** believe loss of wildlife habitat poses a significant threat
- **90% believe decreased ecosystem and watershed health represent significant threats**
- Categories associated with economic values are generally not considered a threat, or only slightly a threat

# **What do the Threats results mean?**

**(Percentages reflect extreme threat + very much a threat)**

- 83% responded loss of fish habitat is a significant threat
- 88% responded loss of natural places is a significant threat
- 84% view loss of public access as a serious to extreme threat
- 75% responded loss of rural character is a significant threat
- 65% responded loss of viewshed and/or scenic value represents a significant threat

Who should be responsible for management of state endowment lands around the lakes? (all that apply selected - analyses totals over 100%)



Column1	USFS	IDPR	IDL	Valley County	City of McCall	Other
	42%	40%	39%	28%	19%	9%

**In your opinion, who should be responsible for the management of state endowment lands around Payette Lake and Little Payette Lake? (Select all that apply)**

	USFS	IDPR	IDL	Valley County	City of McCall	Other
Valley County	42%	40%	39%	28%	19%	9%

Note: "Select All That Apply" analyses total over 100%

# Questions?