



Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates - FM3

Public Opinion Research & Strategy

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TO: Interested Parties

FROM: David Metz and Rachel Weiler
Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates

Lori Weigel
Public Opinion Strategies

RE: Support for LWCF in Oregon

DATE: January 31, 2014

The bipartisan polling team of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D) and Public Opinion Strategies (R) recently completed a survey of 600 telephone interviews with Oregon voters on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts.¹ **The survey found broad, bipartisan support for the continued use of fees from offshore drilling to finance the Land and Water Conservation Fund.**

Survey respondents were read a brief description of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (shown below), and were asked whether they supported the continued dedication of fees generated by offshore drilling to this fund, or would rather see this money go toward other priorities. As shown in **Figure 1** on the following page, 89 percent of voters say that the funds should continue to go to conservation purposes, with over three quarters (76%) saying they feel “strongly” that the money should continue to be used in this way.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal program that was established in 1965 to help preserve, develop and ensure access to natural and outdoor recreation resources for the benefit of all Americans. This fund supports our parks, recreation and open spaces, and protects our forests, rivers, lakes and wildlife habitat. The primary source of income to the fund is fees paid by oil and gas companies drilling offshore in waters owned by the American people. Do you think that some of the money from fees charged to oil and gas companies that drill offshore should: continue to be used to conserve natural areas and clean water, and to ensure access to outdoor recreation, OR would you not use it for those purposes?

FIGURE 1
Support for Continuing the Land and Water Conservation Fund

Position on Continuing LWCF Funding	% Responding
Strongly continue	76%
Not so strongly continue	14%
TOTAL CONTINUE	89%
Not so strongly not use for those purposes	3%
Strongly not use for those purposes	5%
TOTAL NOT USE FOR THOSE PURPOSES	8%
DON'T KNOW	3%

Continued funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund enjoys broad support across all demographic and attitudinal subgroups, including:

- 88% of men and 90% of women;
- 95% of Democrats, 80% of Republicans, and 91% of independent voters;
- 94% of liberals, 85% of conservatives, and 94% of moderates;
- At least 86% of voters at all income brackets;
- 89% of voters under age 50, 89% of voters aged 50 and over, and 87% of voters aged 65 and older;
- At least 85% of voters in all large counties in the state; and
- 91% of outdoorsmen, including hunters and fishers, and 88% of non-outdoorsmen.

ⁱ **Methodology:** From December 19-22, 2013, FM3 and POS completed 600 telephone interviews (on landlines and cell phones) with likely voters in Oregon. The margin of sampling error is +/-4.1% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.