



Intermountain West & Dakotas Statewide Surveys Key Findings

April 2025

Methodology

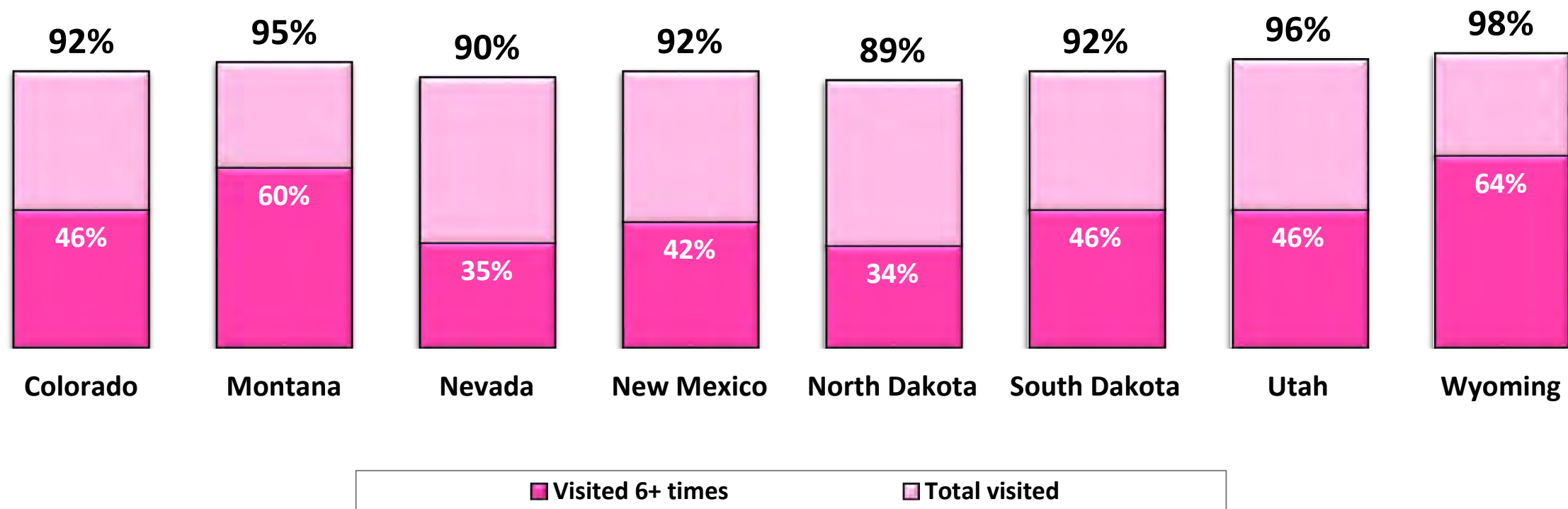
New Bridge Strategy conducted statewide surveys in eight western states (Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming) of N=400 registered voters in each state from March 27-April 10, 2025.

Interviews were conducted via live telephone interviews (both cell phones and landlines) and online via email invitation and text-to-web. Quotas were set for key demographic sub-groups, such as gender and age.

The margin of error is $\pm 4.9\%$ for the overall sample. The margin of error will vary for sub-groups.

Relevant data from a publicly released survey conducted on behalf of the Colorado College's State of the Rockies Project is also referenced in this analysis.

Voters across the Western United States take advantage of national public lands near them.



Thinking about national public lands – Over the past year, how many times do you think you have visited public lands such as national parks, national forests, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, or other national public lands?

Significant shares of voters in every state say they are very concerned about the loss of these federal employees.

Showing % Very Concerned	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Having fewer scientists and wildlife biologists to monitor and care for fish and wildlife on national public lands.	60%	54%	57%	57%	51%	52%	48%	46%
Having fewer park rangers and other employees who provide visitor services and maintain national public lands.	59%	57%	56%	59%	51%	52%	51%	48%
Having fewer employees who monitor and oversee oil and gas sites and other industry activities on national public lands.	58%	54%	54%	58%	50%	52%	46%	44%

Switching topics – As you may know, some employees of government agencies which oversee national public lands like the ones we have been discussing have been fired in recent weeks. How concerned are you about each of the following – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, not at all concerned.

Voters place water and air, conservation of natural areas, wildlife, history and recreation as most important uses of public lands; oil and gas as the least.

Showing % Extremely/Very Important	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Helping to keep air and water clean*	96%	92%	90%	88%	91%	92%	93%	88%
Conserving natural areas for future generations^	91%	89%	84%	86%	88%	88%	88%	87%
Providing a place for wildlife to live^	91%	86%	83%	86%	85%	86%	88%	86%
Protecting historic sites, such as Native American and pioneer sites*	84%	83%	82%	80%	80%	75%	79%	74%
Providing a place for outdoor recreation, like camping and biking*	84%	87%	82%	79%	81%	80%	84%	82%
Attracting visitors, which helps local businesses, restaurants, hotels and shops^	66%	61%	71%	73%	69%	73%	64%	62%
Providing land for ranchers for grazing*	65%	67%	65%	64%	69%	61%	71%	63%
Providing a place to hunt and fish^	60%	79%	49%	70%	69%	66%	61%	77%
Providing land to be leased for oil and gas development	35%	34%	36%	39%	42%	37%	42%	51%

The following are some attributes and potential benefits of having national public lands in the Western United States. For each one, please indicate how important that is to you personally as a benefit of national public lands: is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important?

*Asked of Sample A, N=200 ^Asked of Sample B, N=200

NEW BRIDGE STRATEGY



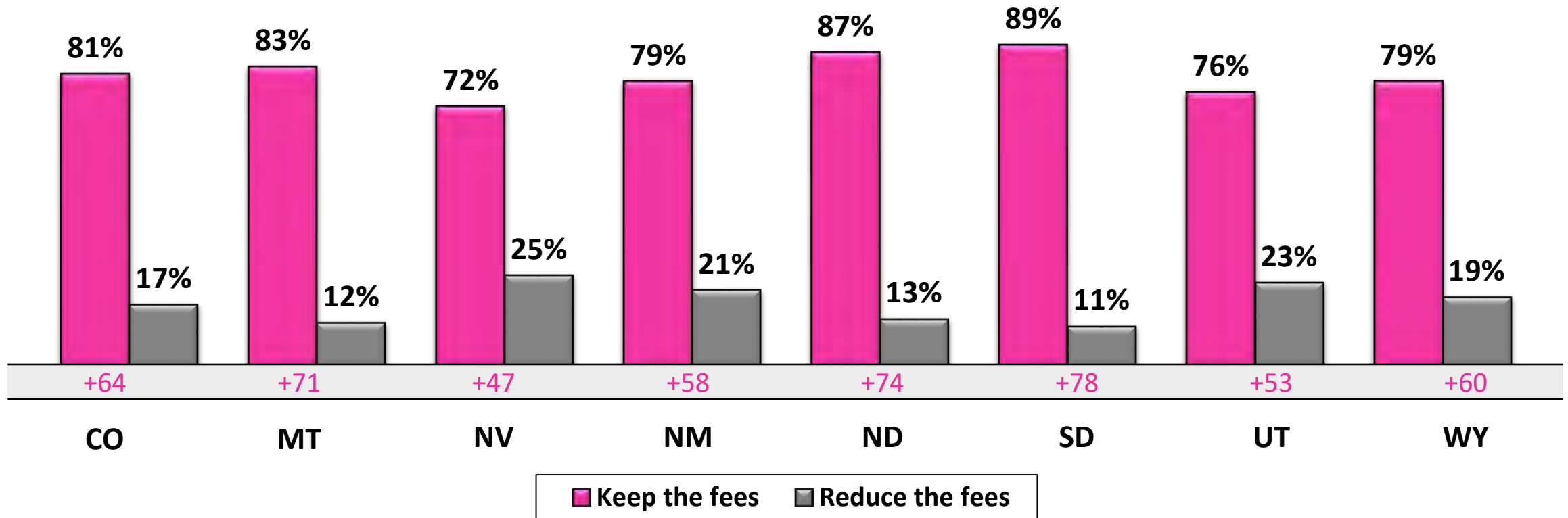
Views of Policies Affecting National Public Lands

We provided the following information to respondents:

Oil and gas companies pay landowners in order to develop on their land. In the case of national public lands, they pay certain fees and a percentage of the value of the oil and gas they produce on national public lands to the Department of Interior and the affected state. Congress and the Bureau of Land Management recently increased some of these fees to help cover land management costs and provide funding to state governments.

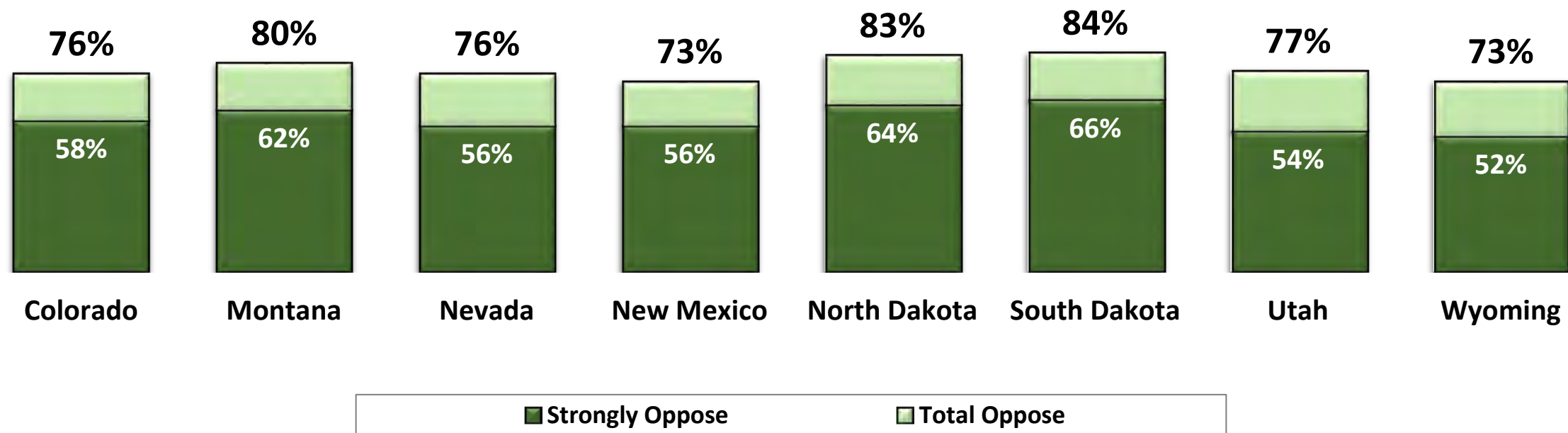
Majorities in every state say we should keep the fees for oil and gas development on national public lands.

Some people have suggested that these fees related to oil and gas development on national public lands should be reduced. Do you think we should -



Similarly, voters strongly oppose getting rid of nomination fees.

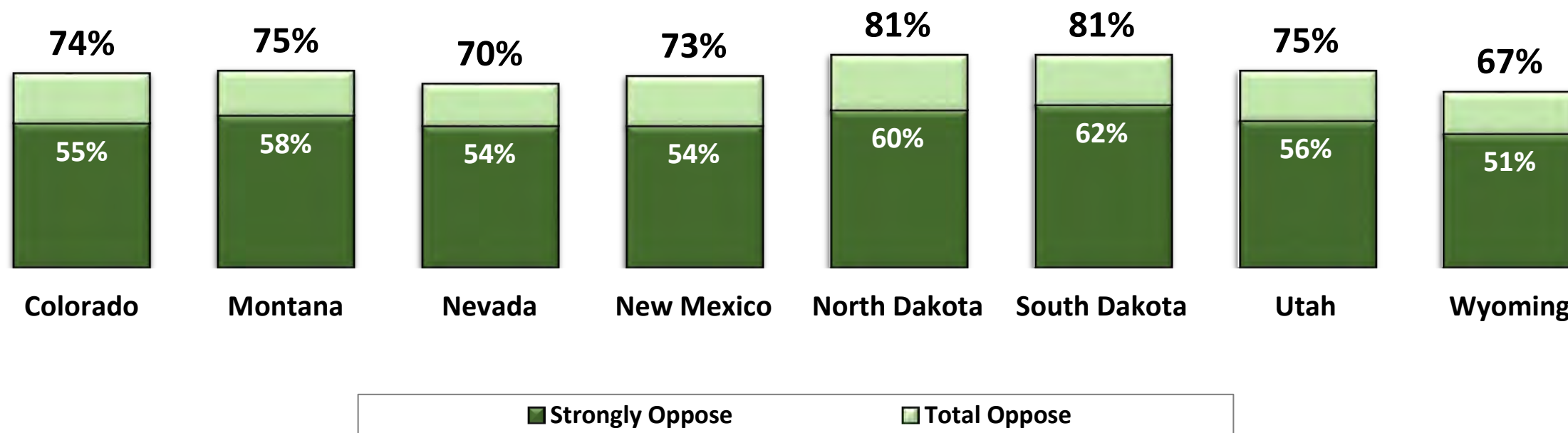
(Nomination fee) One proposal would get rid of the \$5 per acre fee paid by oil and gas companies that helps cover the cost to review whether lands that oil and gas companies want to drill on are appropriate for development or whether they should be prioritized for wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation or other uses.



Some people have made proposals that would set standards for how oil and gas companies operate on national public lands. For each one of these, please indicate whether that sounds like something you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

More than two-in-three voters in every state oppose reducing the review process and opportunities for public input.

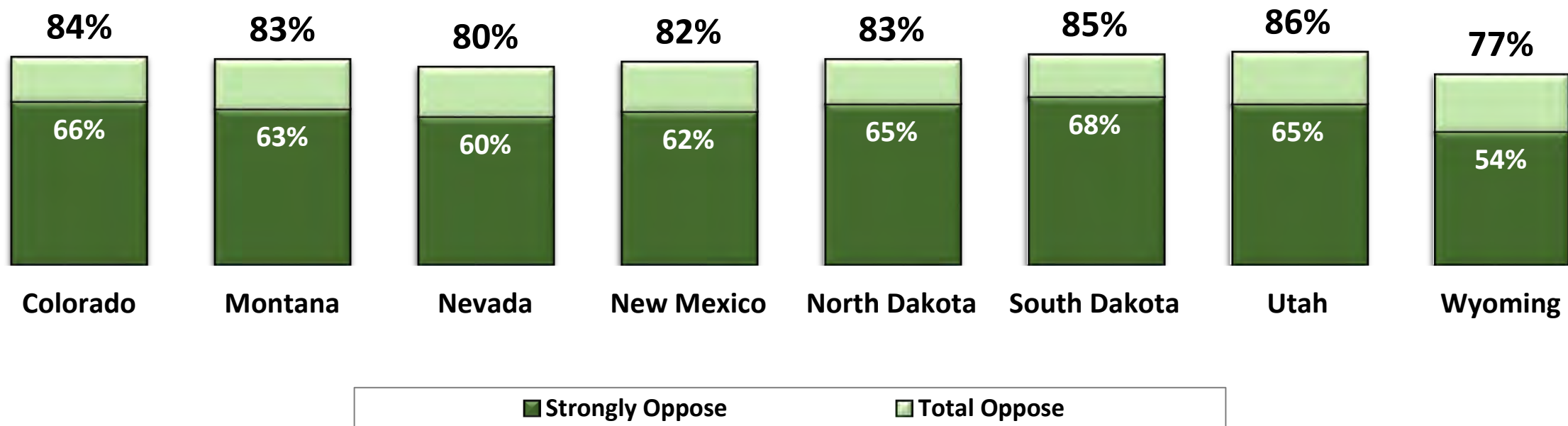
(Reduce Public Input) One proposal would reduce the review process and opportunities for nearby communities and local residents to give input regarding decisions about what takes place on national public lands, including potential oil and gas development



Some people have made proposals that would set standards for how oil and gas companies operate on national public lands. For each one of these, please indicate whether that sounds like something you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

More than three-in-four voters oppose limiting the ability of federal agencies to respond to local concerns on land management.

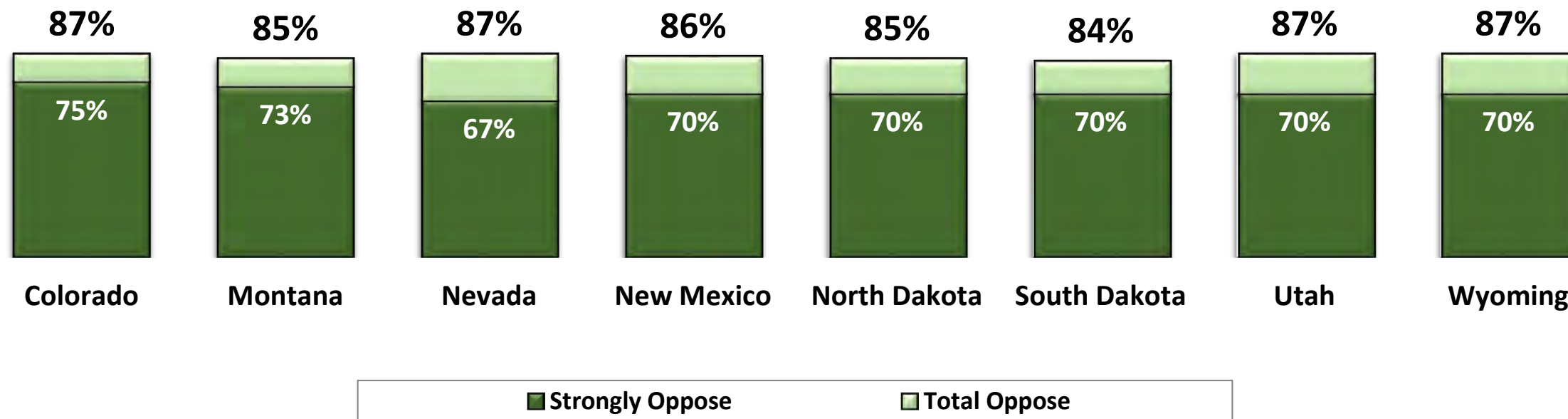
(No flexibility) One proposal would require that government agencies allow oil and gas companies access to lands they can develop, even if local community members, hunters or anglers, nearby farmers and ranchers, and others raise concerns about impacts on wildlife, water and other resources



Some people have made proposals that would set standards for how oil and gas companies operate on national public lands. For each one of these, please indicate whether that sounds like something you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

There is overwhelming opposition to the use of eminent domain on private lands to facilitate pipelines from oil and gas on public lands.

(Eminent Domain) One proposal would increase the use of eminent domain, where the federal government takes a portion of privately owned property, including portions of family farms and ranches, for the purpose of building oil and gas pipelines that move oil and gas from where it is produced on national public lands to where it can be refined or used.



Some people have made proposals that would set standards for how oil and gas companies operate on national public lands. For each one of these, please indicate whether that sounds like something you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

Majorities of MAGA supporters in all these states are opposed to these proposals.

<i>Showing % Total Oppose among MAGA Supporters</i>	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Eminent Domain	73%	77%	78%	74%	75%	76%	82%	81%
No flexibility	64%	68%	62%	63%	69%	72%	76%	64%
Nomination fee	57%	69%	59%	54%	73%	74%	65%	60%
Reduce public input	57%	59%	54%	57%	70%	69%	61%	56%

Some people have made proposals that would set standards for how oil and gas companies operate on national public lands. For each one of these, please indicate whether that sounds like something you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

Nearly three quarters or more independent voters are opposed to these policies.

<i>Showing % Total Oppose among Independents</i>	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Eminent Domain	90%	87%	84%	87%	91%	90%	88%	91%
No flexibility	85%	88%	83%	84%	86%	95%	85%	89%
Nomination fee	78%	82%	75%	78%	90%	94%	85%	86%
Reduce public input	73%	82%	76%	81%	83%	87%	82%	82%

Some people have made proposals that would set standards for how oil and gas companies operate on national public lands. For each one of these, please indicate whether that sounds like something you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

Opposition is consistent and strong among Democrats in all states.

<i>Showing % Total Oppose among Democrats</i>	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Eminent Domain	95%	93%	96%	93%	96%	93%	94%	100%
No flexibility	96%	98%	92%	93%	99%	99%	94%	94%
Nomination fee	87%	94%	87%	82%	96%	91%	88%	82%
Reduce public input	88%	91%	81%	81%	97%	93%	89%	80%

Some people have made proposals that would set standards for how oil and gas companies operate on national public lands. For each one of these, please indicate whether that sounds like something you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

Strong majorities of sportsmen in every state are opposed to these proposals.

<i>Showing % Total Oppose among Sportsmen</i>	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Eminent Domain	82%	83%	83%	82%	84%	80%	86%	86%
No flexibility	74%	79%	75%	77%	81%	80%	80%	73%
Nomination fee	65%	78%	72%	68%	81%	79%	70%	73%
Reduce public input	64%	74%	68%	68%	78%	76%	68%	65%

Some people have made proposals that would set standards for how oil and gas companies operate on national public lands. For each one of these, please indicate whether that sounds like something you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

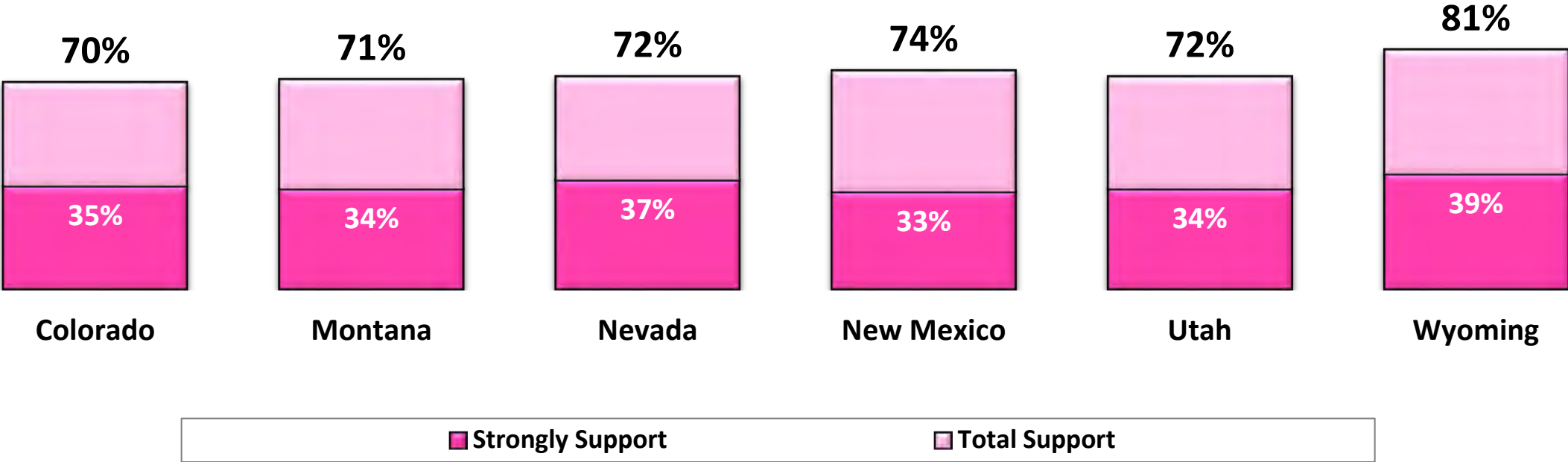
A majority of voters in rural areas are opposed to these proposals.

<i>Showing % Total Oppose among Rural Voters</i>	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Eminent Domain	83%	85%	90%	86%	86%	82%	84%	92%
No flexibility	80%	72%	80%	80%	77%	76%	84%	64%
Nomination fee	73%	71%	67%	71%	78%	82%	79%	67%
Reduce public input	72%	68%	59%	77%	80%	75%	75%	60%

Some people have made proposals that would set standards for how oil and gas companies operate on national public lands. For each one of these, please indicate whether that sounds like something you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

More than seven-in-ten voters in these states say oil and gas drilling should be restricted to areas where there is high likelihood to produce oil and gas.

Only allowing oil and gas companies the right to drill in areas of public land where there is high likelihood to actually produce oil and gas.

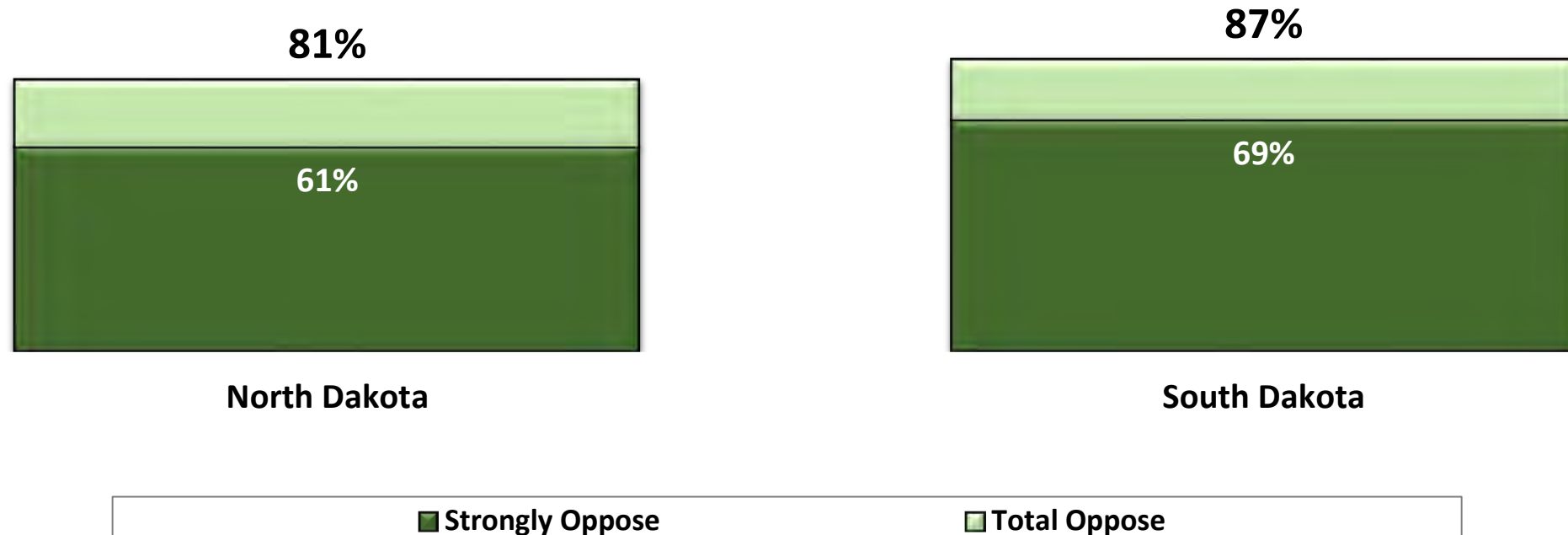


Thinking now about our national public lands, such as U.S. forests and national monuments. There are a number of actions which could be taken in the next year or two. For each one, please indicate if you would support or oppose each one.

**Data from 2025 State of the Rockies Project*

Similarly, more than three-in-five voters in North Dakota and South Dakota are opposed to expanding drilling areas beyond where it is highly likely to produce oil and gas.

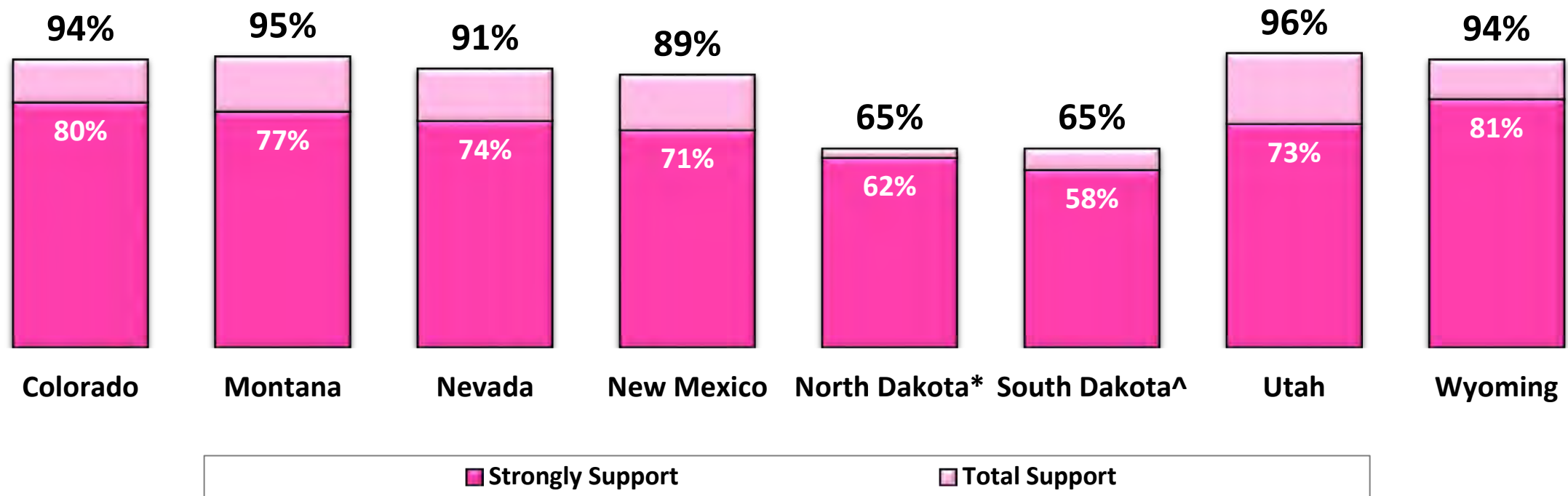
(High likelihood) One proposal would allow oil and gas companies to expand drilling to nearly all areas of national public lands, even areas where there is unlikely to be much oil or gas



Some people have made proposals that would set standards for how oil and gas companies operate on national public lands. For each one of these, please indicate whether that sounds like something you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose.

Majorities of voters in every state support bonding requirements.

(Bonding) One proposal is to keep the requirement that oil and gas companies, rather than taxpayers, pay for all of the clean-up and land restoration costs after drilling is finished.



Thinking now about our national public lands, such as U.S. forests and national monuments. There are a number of actions which could be taken in the next year or two. For each one, please indicate if you would support or oppose each one.

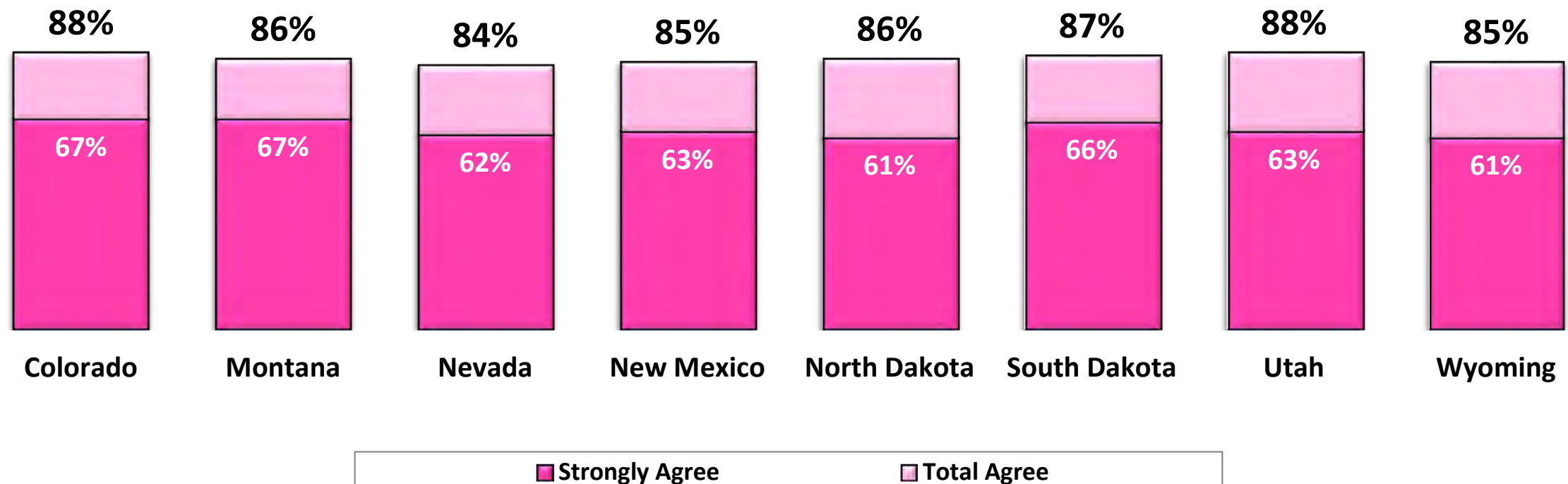
CO, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY data from 2025 State of the Rockies Project – question language: “Keeping the requirement that oil and gas companies, rather than taxpayers, pay for all of the clean-up and land restoration costs after drilling is finished.”

**ND asked only of N=199 respondents. ^SD asked only of N=197 respondents*

NEW BRIDGE STRATEGY

Voters across the west agree that we should ensure the broader public interest is represented in decisions about how national public lands are used.

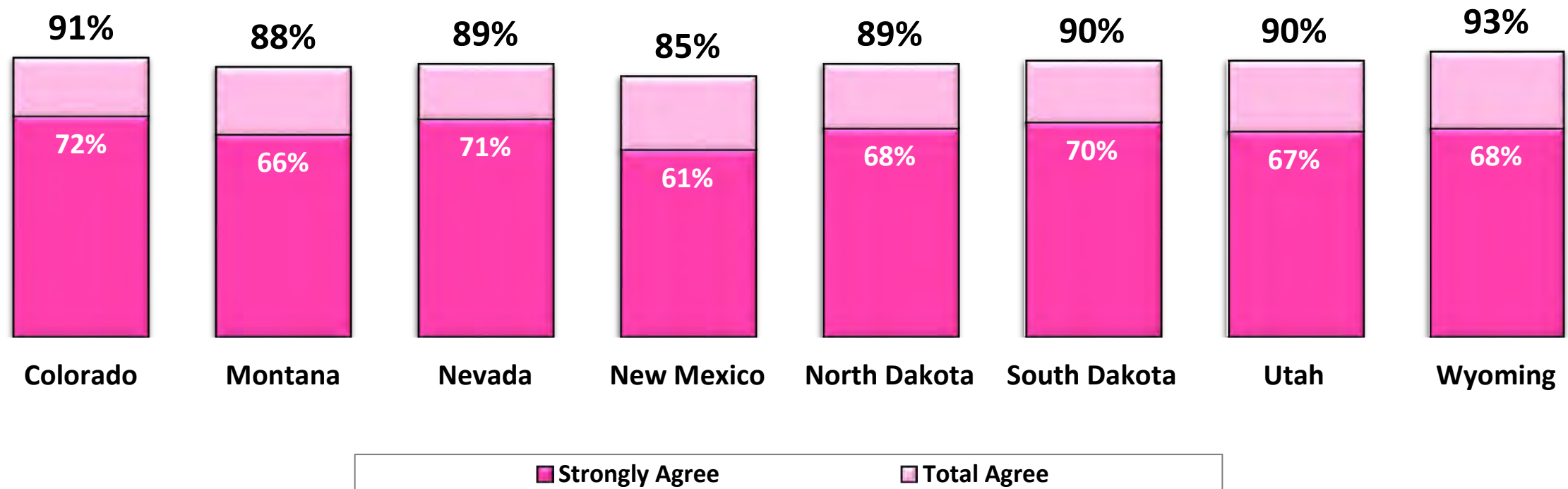
When land is leased to oil and gas companies it can limit other uses of that land, including hunting, fishing, viewing wildlife, riding ATV's and other recreation. We need to ensure the broader public interest is represented in all decisions about how national public lands are used so that future generations of Americans can enjoy them as we do today.



Taking a step back for a moment – For each one, please indicate whether you generally agree or disagree.

More than four-in-five voters across the west agree that we need to be cautious in how oil and gas is developed on public lands.

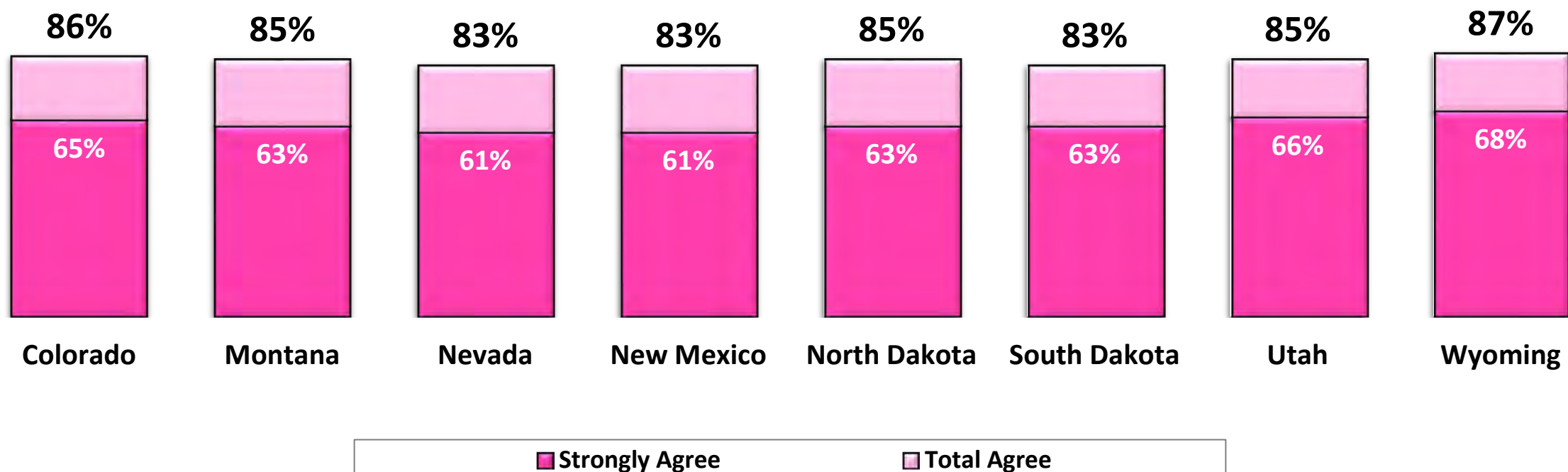
Oil and gas development can take place in some areas of national public lands responsibly, but some areas close to rivers and streams or where threatened wildlife migrate are too important to risk. We need to be cautious, allow adequate public input, and not risk potentially impacting sources of drinking water and wildlife habitat.



Taking a step back for a moment – For each one, please indicate whether you generally agree or disagree.

The statement evoking private landowners' rights resonates for majorities of voters across the west.

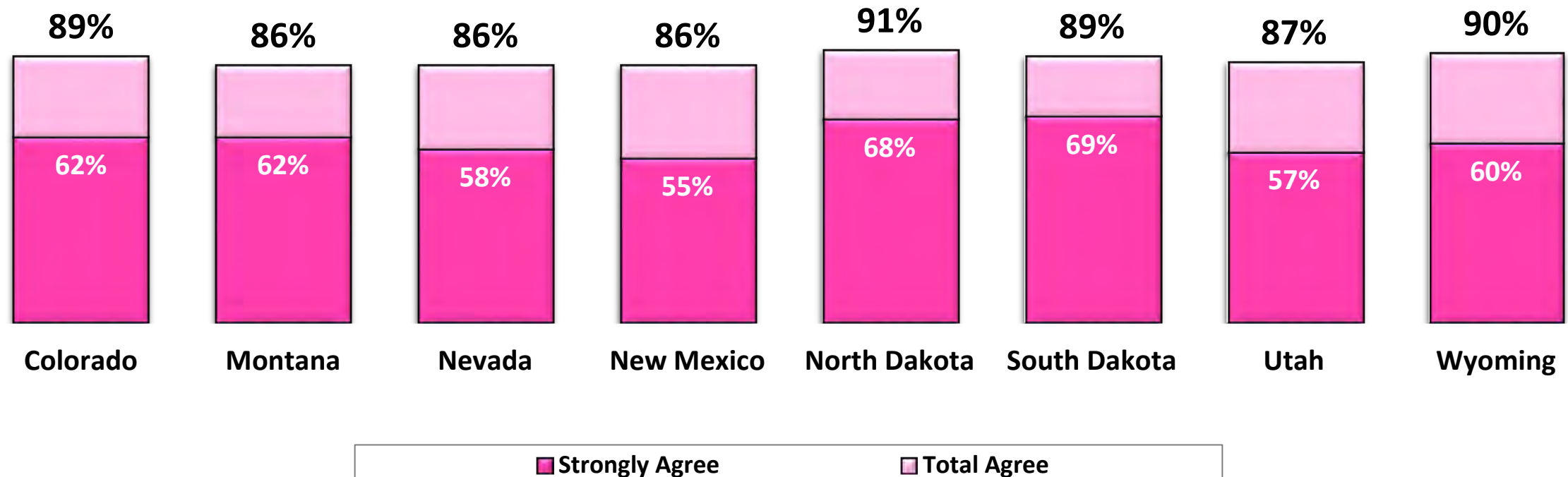
Increasing oil and gas development will not just affect national public lands, but also farms, ranches and nearby communities. The government has indicated that they may take private land through eminent domain to complete oil and gas pipelines. We need to not only protect our national public lands, but private landowners' rights as well.



Taking a step back for a moment – For each one, please indicate whether you generally agree or disagree.

Quantifying lost taxpayer revenue also resonates with voters.

Taxpayers have lost out on billions of dollars in revenue from the oil and gas industry's development on our national public lands and sometimes been stuck with the bill for cleaning up abandoned wells. We should keep those updated rates in place to protect taxpayers.



Taking a step back for a moment – For each one, please indicate whether you generally agree or disagree.

Strong majorities of MAGA supporters agree with these statements.

<i>Showing % Total Agree among MAGA Supporters</i>	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Oil and gas development can take place in some areas of national public lands responsibly	86%	83%	84%	79%	86%	91%	88%	92%
Taxpayers have lost out on billions of dollars in revenue from the oil and gas industry's development on our national public lands	82%	80%	79%	80%	92%	87%	80%	87%
When land is leased to oil and gas companies it can limit other uses of that land	76%	77%	73%	77%	81%	80%	81%	78%
Increasing oil and gas development will not just affect public lands	73%	77%	77%	73%	84%	76%	81%	81%

Taking a step back for a moment – For each one, please indicate whether you generally agree or disagree.

Support is overwhelming among independent voters as well.

<i>Showing % Total Agree among Independents</i>	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Oil and gas development can take place in some areas of national public lands responsibly	91%	95%	90%	80%	85%	89%	91%	95%
Taxpayers have lost out on billions of dollars in revenue from the oil and gas industry's development on our national public lands	89%	91%	89%	85%	91%	89%	91%	93%
When land is leased to oil and gas companies it can limit other uses of that land	89%	89%	83%	86%	91%	90%	87%	88%
Increasing oil and gas development will not just affect public lands	88%	86%	85%	87%	86%	90%	86%	90%

Taking a step back for a moment – For each one, please indicate whether you generally agree or disagree.

Nearly nine-in-ten Democrats across the states agree with all of these statements.

<i>Showing % Total Agree among Democrats</i>	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Oil and gas development can take place in some areas of national public lands responsibly	93%	91%	94%	89%	96%	93%	92%	97%
Taxpayers have lost out on billions of dollars in revenue from the oil and gas industry's development on our national public lands	92%	88%	88%	92%	95%	96%	94%	94%
When land is leased to oil and gas companies it can limit other uses of that land	96%	97%	92%	92%	93%	96%	96%	98%
Increasing oil and gas development will not just affect public lands	95%	94%	85%	87%	89%	89%	89%	96%

Taking a step back for a moment – For each one, please indicate whether you generally agree or disagree.

Majorities of sportsmen agree with these statements.

<i>Showing % Total Agree among Sportsmen</i>	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Oil and gas development can take place in some areas of national public lands responsibly	89%	91%	88%	83%	85%	90%	88%	92%
Taxpayers have lost out on billions of dollars in revenue from the oil and gas industry's development on our national public lands	85%	86%	87%	84%	89%	89%	85%	90%
When land is leased to oil and gas companies it can limit other uses of that land	83%	87%	77%	83%	84%	85%	83%	86%
Increasing oil and gas development will not just affect public lands	80%	83%	85%	78%	81%	84%	82%	86%

Taking a step back for a moment – For each one, please indicate whether you generally agree or disagree.

These statements resonate for the overwhelming majority of rural voters as well.

<i>Showing % Total Agree among Rural Voters</i>	CO	MT	NV	NM	ND	SD	UT	WY
Oil and gas development can take place in some areas of national public lands responsibly	89%	89%	88%	88%	84%	89%	80%	89%
Taxpayers have lost out on billions of dollars in revenue from the oil and gas industry's development on our national public lands	92%	78%	91%	80%	89%	85%	84%	87%
When land is leased to oil and gas companies it can limit other uses of that land	89%	84%	82%	84%	77%	83%	90%	77%
Increasing oil and gas development will not just affect public lands	89%	78%	79%	79%	79%	76%	71%	84%

Taking a step back for a moment – For each one, please indicate whether you generally agree or disagree.



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