

PUBLIC LAND ACCESS IN WYOMING



From August-December 2023, a total of 960 Wyoming residents completed TRCP's Public Land Access Survey with a 51% response rate. These participants included TRCP members and other Wyoming hunters and anglers. All Wyoming residents who identified as hunters and anglers were encouraged to participate through emails and online advertising, and individuals were only allowed to complete the survey once.

The below survey results* should be considered by policymakers and agency staff as they look to expand public access and address access challenges in the state of Wyoming.

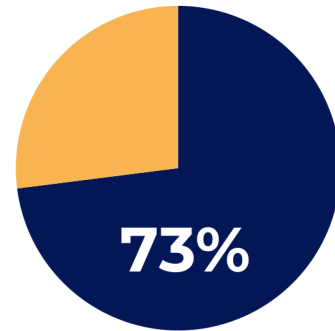
GROUPS Respondents identified as:

Private Landowner = **21%**

Private Land Hunter/Angler/Recreationist = **29%**

Public Land Hunter/Angler/Recreationist = **91%**

Respondents had the opportunity to choose all that apply.



73% believe there should be more public access in the places where they hunt, fish, or recreate.

70% support voluntary land swaps between private landowners and land management agencies to consolidate public and private land holdings and to expand public access.

■ Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Other



76% support voluntary land acquisitions by federal land management agencies from private landowners.

■ Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Other



82% support acquisition of voluntary access easements across private land by federal land management agencies to create new public roads that open access to inaccessible public lands.

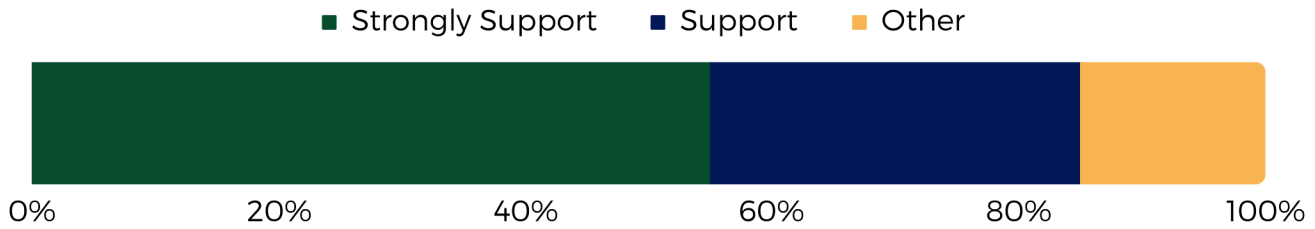
■ Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Other



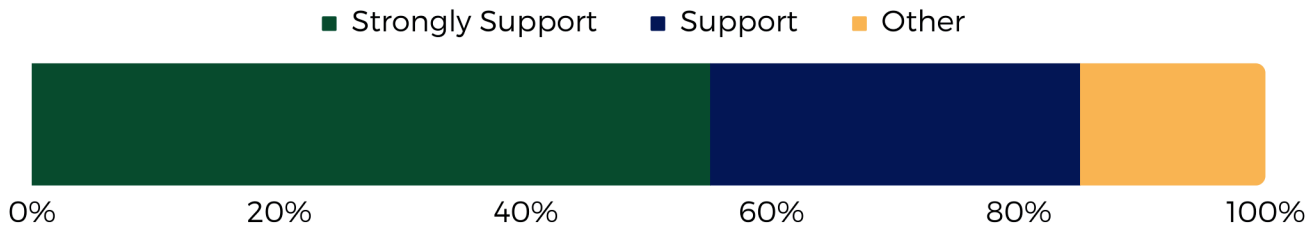
* The confidence levels and margin of error were not calculated for the survey.

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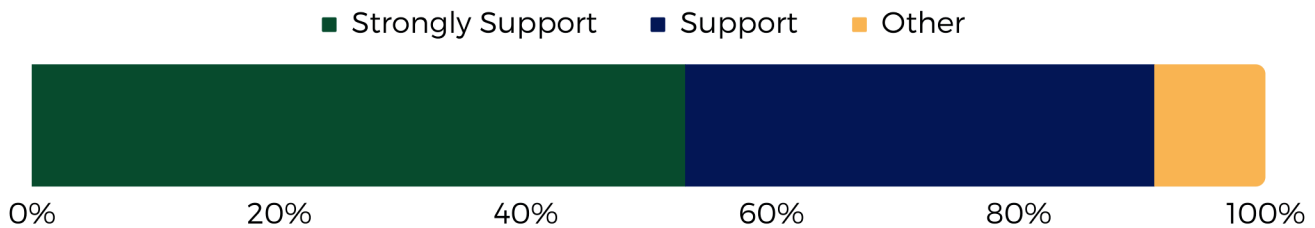
85% support state legislation that clarifies and facilitates public access to corner locked public lands while respecting private property rights.



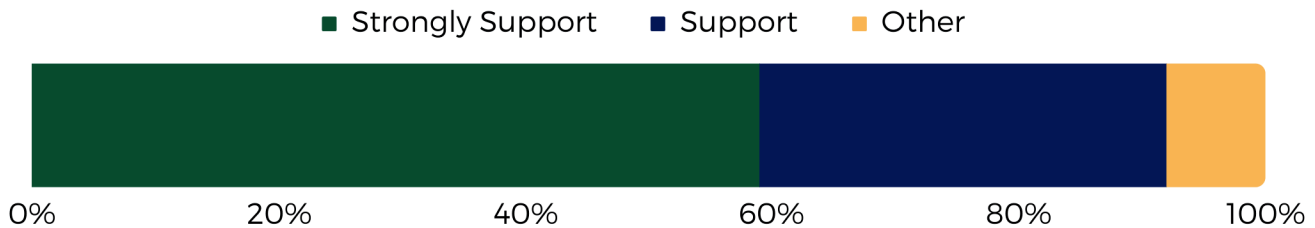
88% support state purchase of small parcels of land from willing private landowners to unlock access to larger parcels of inaccessible public land.



91% support voluntary agreements between state agencies and private landowners that expand public access to inaccessible public land and private land such as access easements, walk-in areas, and Hunter Management Areas.



92% support consistent and thorough mapping software to show public access available to state and federal land through existing state held access easements.



Additional Takeaways

- Reservations expressed about increasing public access to public lands include concerns about impacts to wildlife and habitat, damage to adjacent private property, cost to taxpayers, and adequate enforcement.
- Education of sportspeople on how to respect resources is vital to keeping public access available.
- Reminders to close gates, stay on open roads, and clean up trash will ensure public access remains for the future.

Hunting and fishing organizations can help by:

- Educating our members on good behavior while advocating in support of public access.
- Keeping members informed of relevant issues and providing opportunities for public participation.
- Holding training courses for sportspeople on how to effectively work with decision makers.