

**Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission
Statewide Survey**

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Prepared For:

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Executive Summary

The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and the Idaho Preferred Label contracted with the Social Science Research Unit (SSRU) at the University of Idaho to conduct a statewide telephone survey of Idaho residents. A total of 585 households responded to the survey, including 230 contacts made on mobile phones. The responses were representative of Idaho's population in terms of geographic distribution, sex, income, and age. The results of this study will be used to tailor educational and marketing efforts regarding Idaho's rangeland.

Use of Rangelands by the Public

- The most common ways the survey respondents or a member of their household use rangelands is by camping (37 percent), hiking (34 percent), and fishing (30 percent).
- Ninety percent or more of respondents approved of hiking/camping, mountain biking, livestock grazing, and fishing/hunting on public lands, while energy development and transmission had the lowest rating for public lands, with 62 percent of respondents approving it as a use of public land.

Perceptions of Rangelands and Rangeland Health

- A majority of respondents (57 percent) state that Idaho's rangelands are either in "very good" or "good" condition.
- Most respondents (79 percent) state that cattle and sheep producers manage their rangelands in a responsible manner, and 84 percent of respondents felt that private rangelands provide a large portion of wildlife habitat.
- A third (33 percent) of respondents felt that wildfire was a "moderate" problem for Idaho's rangeland, with an additional 43 percent stating it is a "severe" or "significant" problem.
- Eighty-two percent of respondents "strongly" or "somewhat" agree that grazing should remain a part of the management of public lands.
- On a scale of one to seven where one is "not at all important" and seven is "very important", 68 percent of respondents rated the importance of farms and ranches to preserving wildlife at a five or higher.
- When asked which agencies or groups were reliable with respect to information about rangelands, scientists, ranchers, and the Bureau of Land Management were rated most reliable with 84 percent, 83 percent, and 80 percent of respondents, respectively, rating them as either "very" or "somewhat" reliable. Environmental groups had the lowest reliability ratings, with only 55 percent rating them as "very" or "somewhat" reliable.

Supporters of Livestock Grazing on Public Lands

- Multivariate models examining the relationship between respondent characteristics and opinions on livestock grazing on public lands found that generally, politically conservative Idahoans are more likely to agree that cattle and sheep producers manage rangelands in a responsible manner.
- Also those who engage in ATV/motorized vehicle use, and who have spent a larger proportion of their lifetime in Idaho are more likely to agree that rangelands should be kept as a part of the management of public lands.

Introduction

The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission contracted with the Social Science Research Unit (SSRU) at the University of Idaho to conduct a statewide survey of Idaho residents. The survey and subsequent analysis examined Idaho residents about grazing, as well as how those perceptions might be evolving due to changes in Idaho's demographics and the emergence of the "New West". To accomplish this, 2014 results are compared to earlier iterations of the study.

Telephone interviews were conducted with 585 households. We sampled both traditional landline phones and mobile (cell) phones. Sampling cell phone numbers is increasingly important, as 52.6 percent of Idaho households now exclusively have mobile phone service without a traditional landline.¹ Research has shown that mobile phone-only households tend to be younger (18-29 years), are more likely to be male, and are more highly educated than landline households². Thus, accounting for mobile phone-only households is important in representative survey research. The study was designed to provide results that are representative of the state of Idaho.

The survey instrument was written and designed with input from IRRC and SSRU staff. The survey was divided into two primary sections, one to address each of the study objectives. In addition, demographic questions were asked in order to assist with the analyses, as well as assess the level of sample representativeness. The final survey instrument for the survey is shown in Appendix A.

¹ Blumberg, S. J., and J. V. Luke. "Wireless Substitution: State-level Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, Jan-Dec 2007." U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention. *National Health Statistics Reports, #14*. March 11, 2009.

² Blumberg, S.J. and J.V. Luke. 2007. Coverage bias in traditional telephone surveys of low-income young adults. *Public Opinion Quarterly*. 71:734-749.

Methodology

The telephone survey used two sample frames which are representative of Idaho residents: a random sample of household landlines (n = 1,400), and a random digit dial sample of wireless phone numbers with an Idaho (208) area code (n = 2,000). Both samples were drawn proportionate to population densities in the state. The survey took 15 minutes on average to complete. The study was reviewed by the University of Idaho's Institutional Review Board and has met criteria under federal regulations and university policy, protocol number 14-302. All interviewers completed an online National Institutes of Health training course in human subjects research in addition to training in survey data collection procedures and telephone etiquette. Interviewers were monitored during each calling session by trained supervisors.

To increase the telephone survey response rate, a pre-calling postcard was sent to all landline respondents the week prior to the telephone calls. The postcard stated the SSRU would be contacting the household within the next week, the purpose of the survey, and provided a toll-free number to call the SSRU if they had any questions or concerns regarding the study (Appendix B). Calls began 15 September 2014 and continued until 5 November 2014. Each number in the sample was called at least eight times in attempt to complete an interview. Interviewers made calls during the work week in the mornings, afternoons, evenings, as well as on Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. PST in an attempt to reach as many potential respondents for this project as possible. The SSRU employed a Spanish-language speaking interviewer. Seven interviews were completed in Spanish. Data were collected on Wincati (version 5.0).

Final survey dispositions in the landline frame included 358 completed interviews, 148 disconnected numbers, 72 ineligible households (householders were deceased, numbers reached fax machines or businesses, or respondents spoke a language other than English or Spanish), and 250 refusals. 315 households were not able to be contacted for the survey. The final response rate is 30.4 percent, the cooperation rate (the proportion of interviews conducted from all eligible units actually contacted) is 41.4 percent, and the refusal rate is 21.2 percent³.

In the mobile phone frame, the study resulted in 229 completed interviews, 781 disconnected numbers, 197 ineligible households (respondents that spoke a language other than English or Spanish, were too young to complete the survey, lines used only for business purposes, or individuals that did not live in Idaho), and 299 refusals. 298 households were not able to be contacted for the survey. The final

³ The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). 2006. Standards Definitions: Final Disposition of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys, 4th Edition. Lenexa, KS: AAPOR. Available at: http://www.aapor.org/pdfs/standarddefs_4.pdf

response rate is 22.4 percent, the cooperation rate (the proportion of interviews conducted from all eligible units actually contacted) is 31.6 percent, and the refusal rate is 29.3 percent.

The final response rate for the two frames combined is 26.6 percent, the final cooperation rate is 36.8 percent, and the final refusal rate is 24.9 percent.

Estimation Using Dual Frame Methodology

Survey weights were calculated to account for the complex survey design using SAS, Version 9.3⁴. Households had differing probabilities of inclusion in the study based on whether respondents live in a household with only landlines, only wireless phones, or both wireless and landline telephones. The number of occupied households in Idaho is 577,648 using the most recent data available. In addition, recent data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates the fraction of adults living in wireless-only, landline-only, mixed, or no-telephone households. Of all Idaho households, 97.3 percent are estimated to have a telephone of some sort (including wireless), 52.3 percent live in wireless-only households, 4.9 percent live in landline only households, and the remainder (40.2 percent) live in households with both a landline and wireless telephones. Results presented in the comparison to U.S. Census Bureau data are based on weighted frequencies. Error bars are provided for selected results and are representative of the upper and lower 95% Confidence Limits. Percents, standard errors, and 95 percent confidence intervals are based on the weighted frequencies. Tables showing weighted frequencies for every survey question with the associated standard error are shown in Appendix B. Final open-ended comments are presented in Appendix C.

⁴ SAS, Version 9.3. 2013. SAS Institute, Inc. Cary, N.C

Results

Demographic Profile of Respondents and Comparison to Census Data

The respondents to the survey were almost equally split between males (48.3 percent) and females (51.7) percent) and came from every county in Idaho, with the exception of Camas, Butte and Oneida counties (see Table in Appendix C).

We compared the age distribution of respondents in this study to recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates of the adult population of Idaho. Individuals between the ages of 20 and 24, and between the ages of 35 and 44 tended to be slightly underrepresented in the sample, while individuals between the ages of 65 and 84 tended to be slightly overrepresented in the sample (Table 1). This pattern is similar to recent trends detected when using dual-frame surveys. Younger individuals typically respond well to surveys on their wireless phones, while those in the middle age groups have lower response rates, either because they are more mobile and busier with work and/or young families, or because of different behavior with respect to using their wireless phones.

Table 1: Comparison of Weighted Sample Estimates to 2009-2012 ACS⁵ Estimates

Age Category	ACS	This Study	95% Confidence Limits
18 – 19 years old	4.0%	3.4%	1.4% - 5.5%
20 – 24 years old	9.6%	5.8%	3.2% - 8.4%
25 – 34 years old	18.3%	15.1%	11.2% - 19.1%
35 – 44 years old	16.9%	11.1%	8.1% - 14.0%
45 – 54 years old	18.1%	17.9%	13.9% - 21.8%
55 – 59 years old	8.4%	8.4%	5.8% - 11.0%
60 – 64 years old	7.4%	8.1%	5.7% - 10.5%
65 – 74 years old	9.7%	17.2%	13.9% - 20.4%
75 – 84 years old	5.3%	9.6%	7.3% - 11.9%
Over 85 years old	2.2%	3.4%	1.8% - 4.9%

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey Five Year Estimates, 2009-2012. Available at www.census.gov.

Because the nature of the survey involved Idaho issues, it is important to know how long residents have lived in the state, as long-time residents may be more aware of both issues surrounding Idaho's rangelands. About half of the sample has lived in Idaho 30 or more years (49 percent), while an additional 27 percent have lived in the state for 15 or more years (Figure 1).

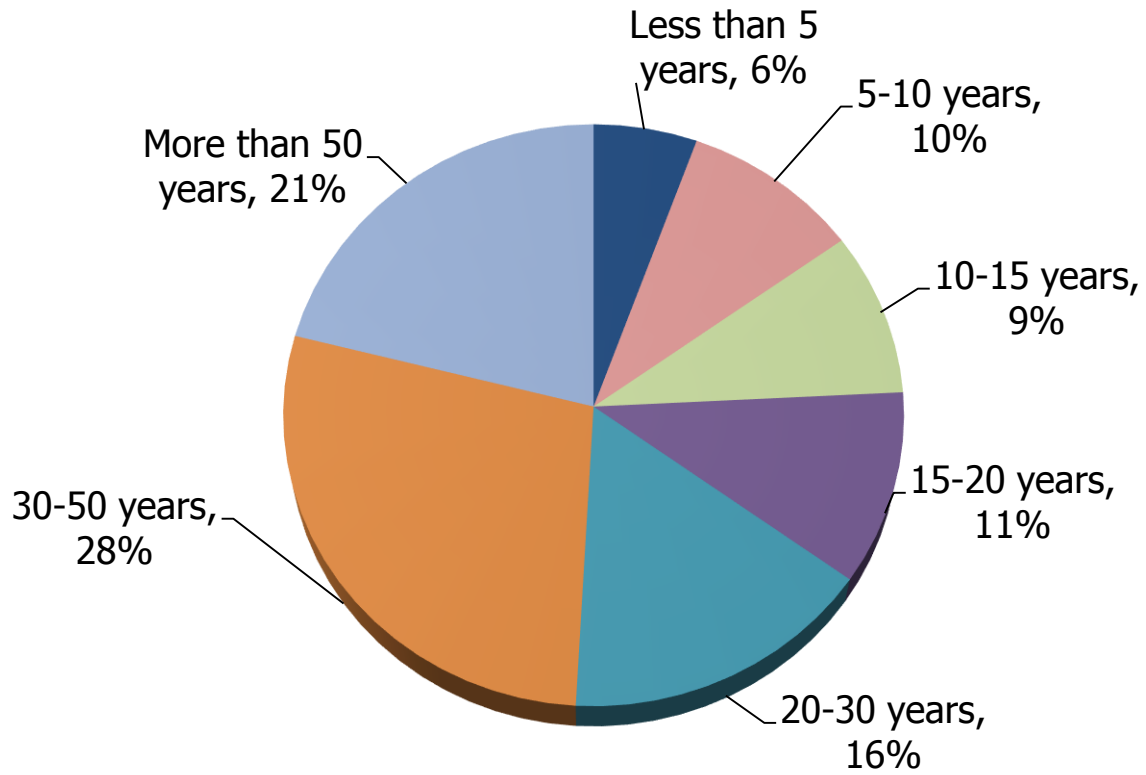


Figure 1. Length of Residence in Idaho

While the number of years a respondent has resided in the state is important, we have found that a more important variable for predicting opinions and preference on Idaho issues tends to be the proportion of their lifetime they have lived in the state. This variable is calculated by dividing the number of years they have resided in the state by their current age. When this variable is used in conjunction with other demographic variables (such as their age) in analyses, it enables us to tease apart generational effects from cultural effects produced by growing up in a particular region. When we calculated the proportion of lifetime variable, we found that 17 percent of the sample had lived in Idaho less than 25 percent of their life, but 44 percent had lived here for 75 percent or more of their lives (Figure 2).

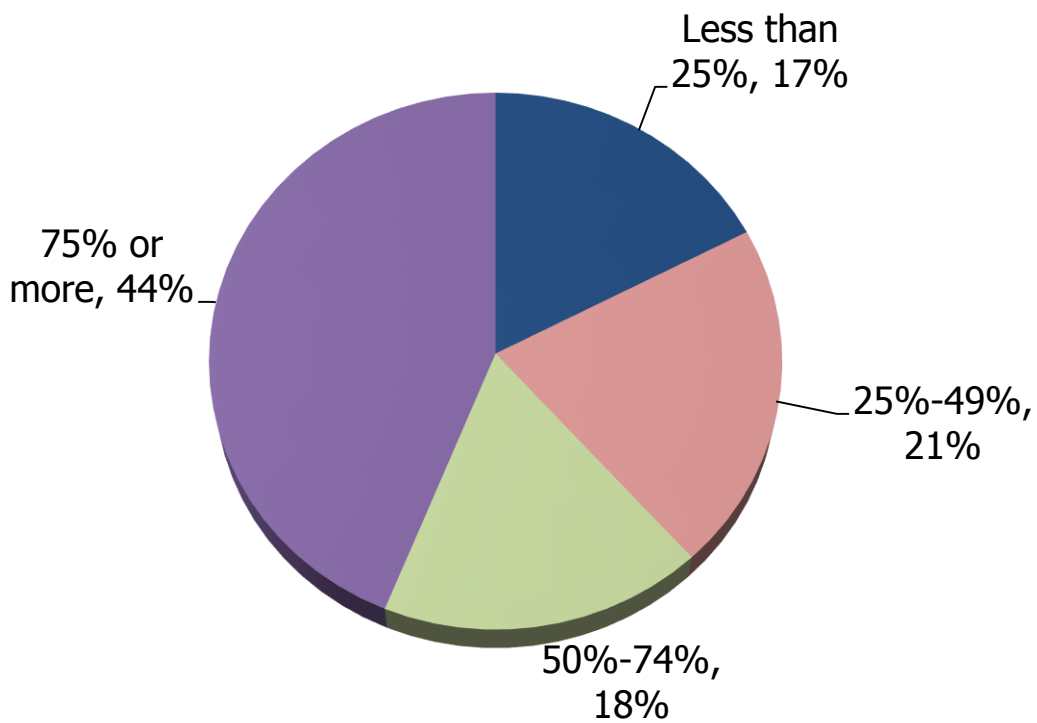


Figure 2. Proportion of Lifetime Spent in Idaho

We compared the educational attainment of respondents over the age of 25 in this study with Census estimates. Respondents in this study tended to be better educated than Idaho residents in general, as this study underrepresented those without a high school diploma and over represented those with college degrees by virtue of those in the sample who agreed to complete the survey (Table 2).

Table 2: Educational Attainment

Education	ACS⁶	This Study	95% Confidence Limits
Some high school	11.4%	3.0%	1.3% - 4.6%
High school graduate	28.0%	20.0%	15.9% - 24.0%
Some college	27.3%	23.1%	18.9% - 27.3%
Associates' degree	8.7%	12.1%	8.9% - 15.3%
Bachelor's degree	17.0%	29.4%	27.8% - 34.0%
Graduate or professional degree	7.8%	12.5%	9.1% - 15.8%

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey Five Year Estimates, 2009-2012. Available at www.census.gov.

When asked their employment status, nearly half (46 percent) were employed full time. A little under a third (32 percent) of respondents were retired, and the remainder were employed part time, were students, homemakers, unemployed, or disabled (Figure 3).

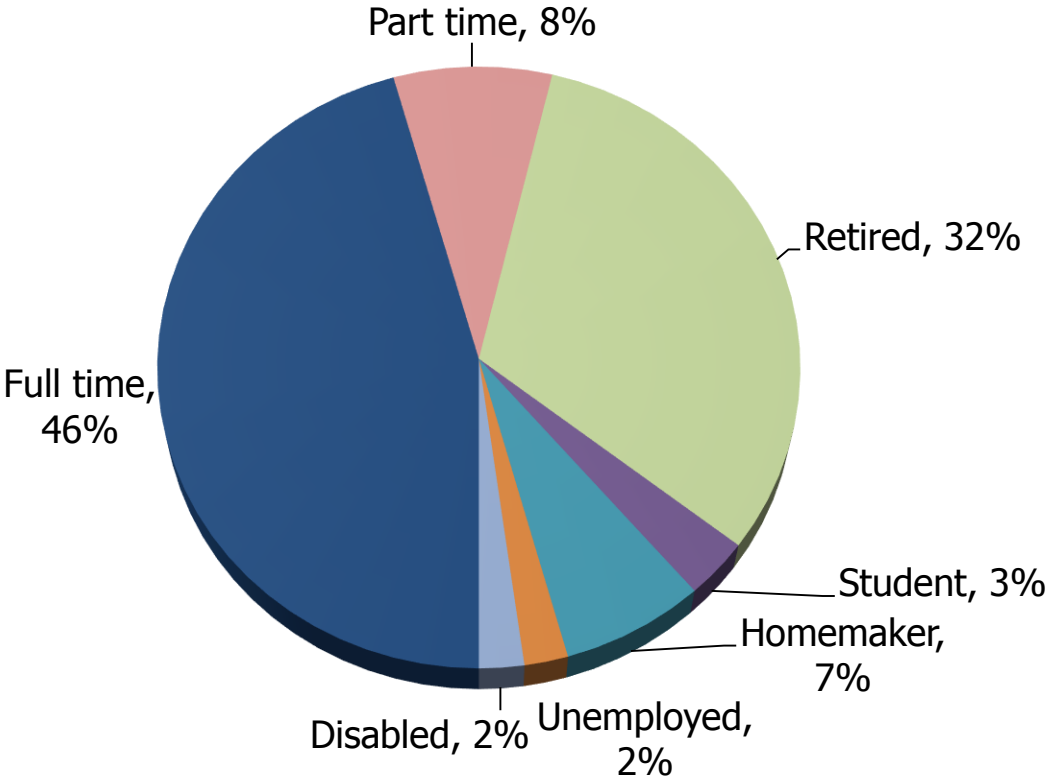


Figure 3. Employment Status

When asked their political affiliation on a scale of one to seven, where one is “very conservative” and seven is “very liberal,” 38 percent categorized themselves as “conservative” (rated one, two, or three), 35 percent rated themselves as moderate (a four), and 23 percent as liberal (rated five, six, or seven). Five percent of respondents were not sure (Figure 4).

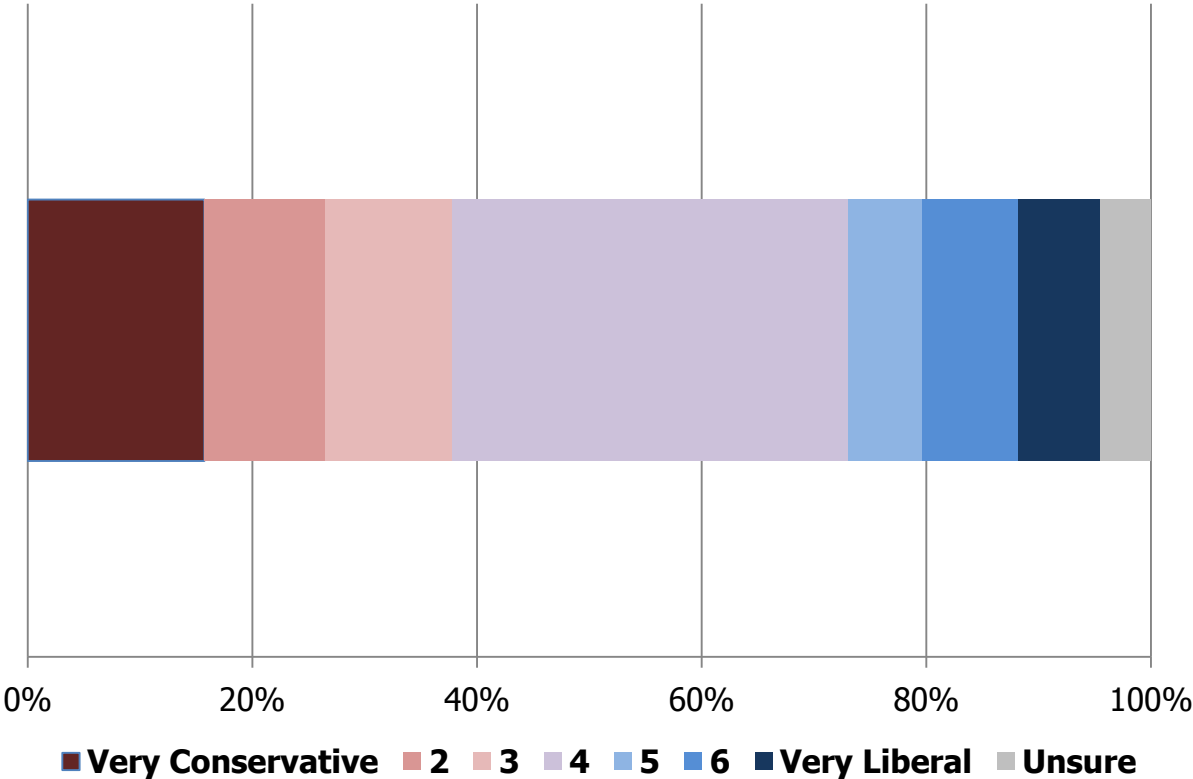


Figure 4. Political Affiliation

With respect to household income, this sample closely matches Census estimates, with exception that this survey slightly underrepresented those in the category earning between \$25,000 and \$34,999 (16.5 percent compared to the Census estimate of 12.6 percent) and slightly overrepresented those in earning between \$10,000 and \$24,999 (13.8 percent vs. 17.7 percent, Table 3).

Table 3: Household Income

Annual Household Income	ACS⁷	This Study	95% Confidence Limits
Less than \$10,000	6.7%	5.8%	3.3% - 8.3%
\$10,000-\$24,999	17.7%	13.8%	10.1% - 17.5%
\$25,000-\$34,999	12.6%	16.5%	12.8% - 20.3%
\$35,000-\$49,999	15.9%	18.2%	14.2% - 22.2%
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.7%	18.6%	14.8% - 22.5%
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.9%	15.4%	11.6% - 19.1%
More than \$100,000	14.6%	11.7%	8.5% - 14.8%

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey Five Year Estimates, 2009-2012. Available at www.census.gov.

Use of Rangelands by the Public

Idaho residents use rangelands in a variety of ways. When asked how they or a member of their household use Idaho's rangelands, the most commonly cited responses were camping (37 percent), hiking (34 percent), and fishing (30 percent). Six percent of respondents report they, or a member of their household, use rangelands for grazing (Figure 5).

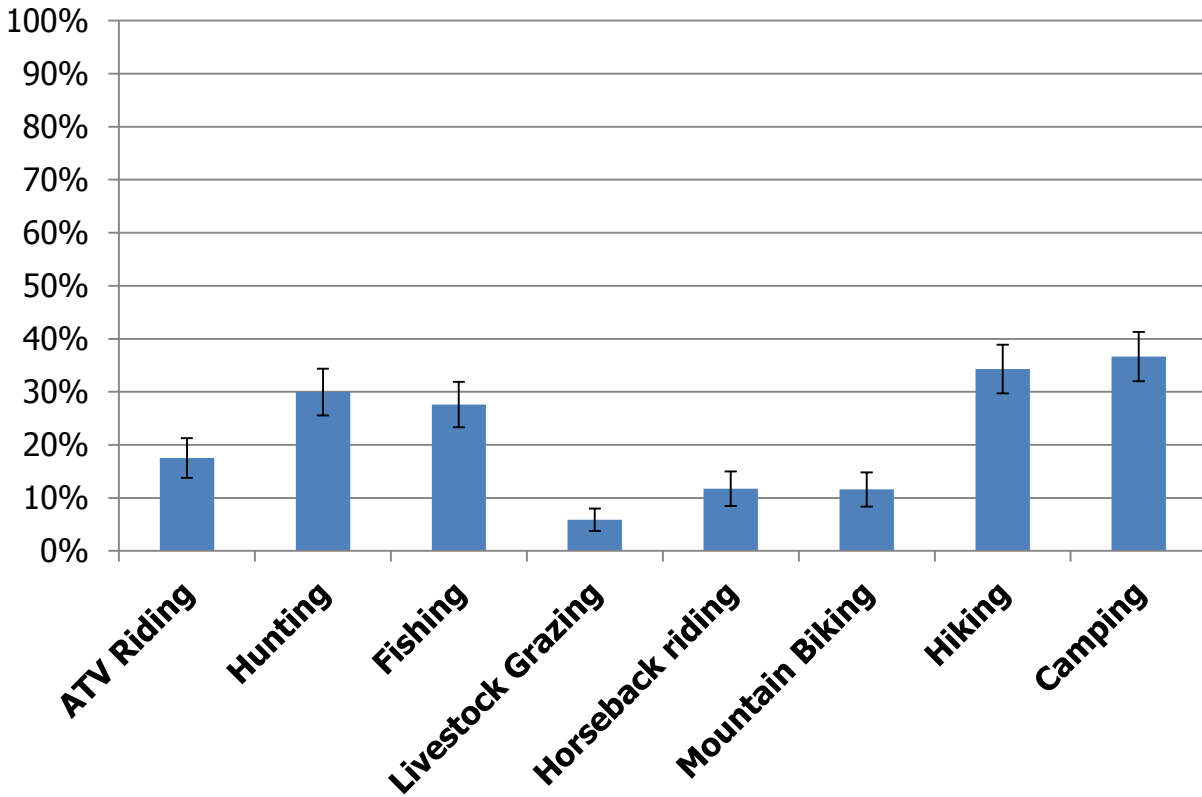


Figure 5. Use of Idaho's Rangelands by Respondents

Where applicable, the results of the 2014 study are compared with the results of earlier Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission studies. Participation in activities on Idaho’s rangelands decreased. Camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing continue to be the activities with the highest relative participation (Table 4).

Table 4: Respondent Use of Idaho’s Rangelands by Year

Uses	2010	2014
ATV Riding	26%	18%
Hunting	42%	30%
Fishing	53%	28%
Livestock Grazing	8%	6%
Horseback riding	15%	12%
Mountain Biking	17%	12%
Hiking	49%	34%
Camping	59%	37%

Respondents were also asked whether they approve or disapprove of a series of specific uses that might occur on public lands. The list was randomized to avoid primacy effects in the survey. Of the items tested, hiking and camping (99 percent), hunting and fishing (95 percent), livestock grazing (90 percent), and guided recreation (90 percent) had the highest levels of approval (Figure 6). Energy development (62 percent) and ATV/motorized vehicle use (65 percent) had the lowest levels of approval. These results match similar trends detected in 2010 (Table 5).

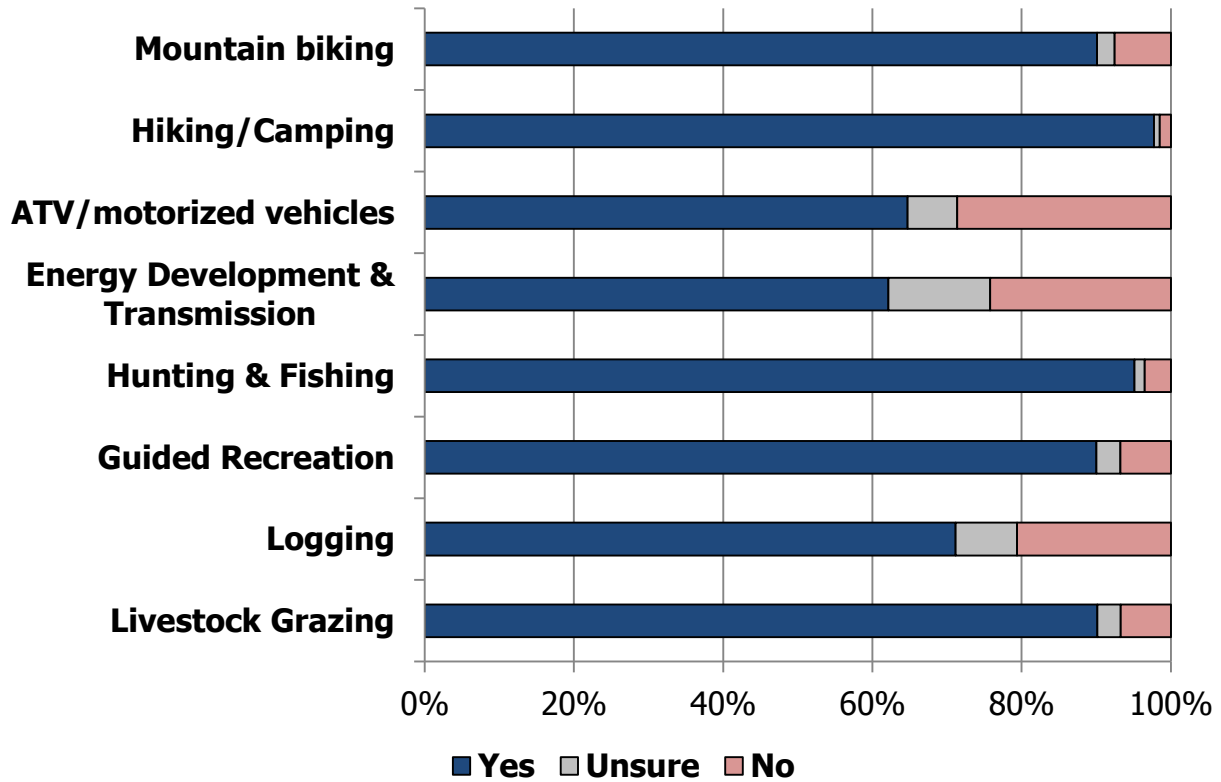


Figure 6. Approval of Specific Uses of Public Lands

Table 5: Approval of Specific Uses of Public Lands by Year

Uses	Approval	2010	2014
Livestock Grazing	Yes	89%	90%
	Unsure	2%	3%
	No	9%	7%
Logging	Yes	77%	71%
	Unsure	4%	8%
	No	19%	21%
Guided Recreation	Yes	95%	90%
	Unsure	1%	3%
	No	4%	7%
Hunting & Fishing	Yes	97%	95%
	Unsure	1%	1%
	No	2%	4%
Energy Development & Transmission	Yes	75%	62%
	Unsure	7%	14%
	No	18%	24%
ATV/motorized vehicles	Yes	67%	65%
	Unsure	2%	7%
	No	31%	29%
Hiking/Camping	Yes	99%	98%
	Unsure	0%	1%
	No	1%	1%
Mountain biking	Yes	90%	90%
	Unsure	1%	2%
	No	9%	8%

Perceptions of Rangelands and Rangeland Health

A primary objective of this study was to document the perceptions and views of Idaho's residents with respect to rangelands and rangeland health. The survey began with a general question about the condition of Idaho's rangelands. Respondents were asked to rate the condition of rangelands in the state on a scale from "very poor" to "very good." A majority of respondents (57 percent) stated that rangelands in Idaho are either in "good" or "very good" condition, with only six percent stating that rangelands are in "poor" or "very poor" condition (Figure 7). However, almost 20 percent were unsure.

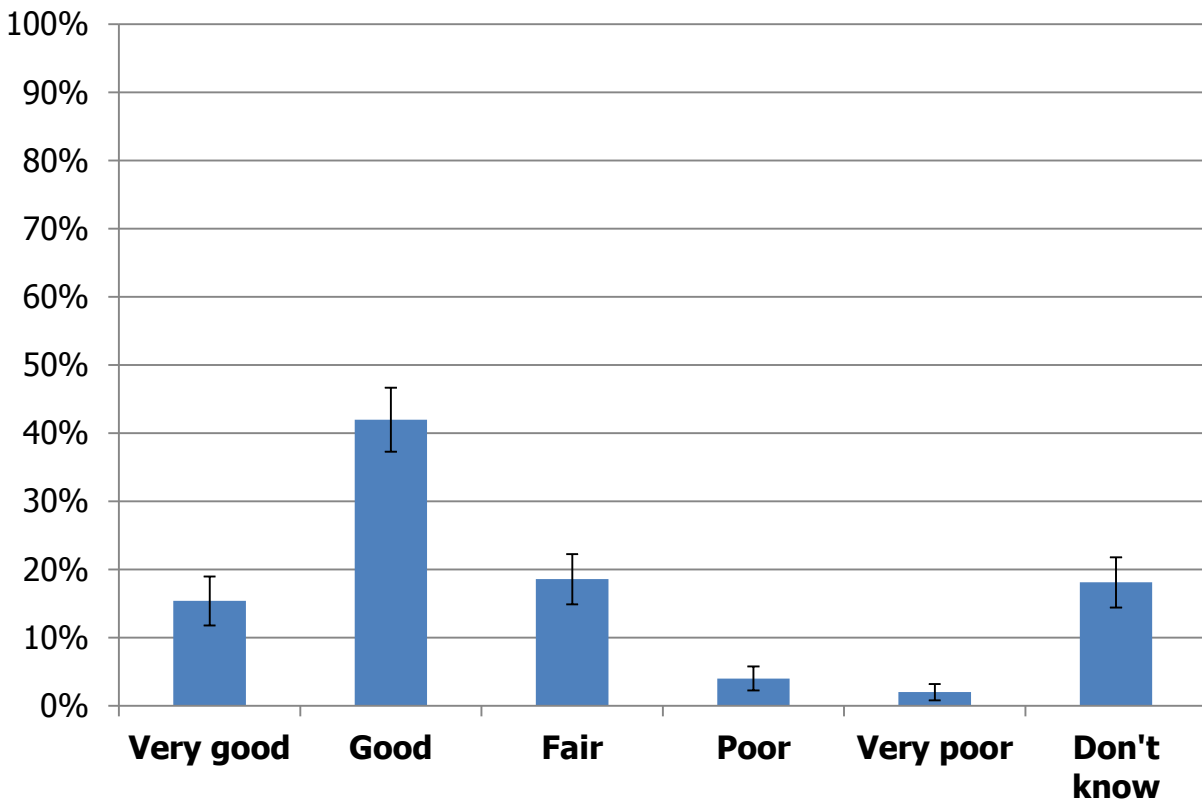


Figure 7. Condition of Idaho's Rangelands

In 2014, respondents rated the condition of Idaho’s rangelands similar to the last study but slightly higher than in earlier studies, with 57 percent of respondents rating the condition as good or very good, compared to 60 percent in 2010 and to 45 and 44 percent in 1997 and 2001, respectively. The question added a “very poor” option in 2010, and a small percentage of respondents continue to choose that category to describe Idaho’s rangelands (Table 6).

Table 6: Condition of Idaho’s Rangelands by Year

Condition	1997	2001	2010	2014
Very good	4%	3%	10%	15%
Good	41%	41%	50%	42%
Fair	41%	42%	21%	19%
Poor	7%	7%	5%	4%
Very poor	-	-	1%	2%
Don't know	7%	7%	13%	18%

Most respondents had encountered livestock when recreating on Idaho’s rangelands, and would describe the experience as positive (68 percent). Ten percent of respondents had encountered livestock but qualified the experience as negative. A little less than a fifth had not encountered livestock, and 5 percent were unsure. This a stark difference from 2010 when most respondents (70 percent) had not encountered livestock when recreating on Idaho’s rangelands. This year we made revisions to the wording of these questions. The three categories in 2010 (positive, neutral, and negative) were reduced into two categories (positive and negative). Therefore we are unable to make exact comparisons as to how respondents qualified their experiences with livestock on Idaho’s rangelands between 2010 and 2014.

Residents were also asked about their perception of wildfire as a problem on Idaho’s rangelands. A little under half (43 percent) of respondents perceive wildfire to be a “severe” or “significant” problem. One third of respondents feel it is a moderate problem. Eight percent of respondents were unsure (Figure 8). Compared to 2010, more respondents identified wildfire as greater than a “moderate” problem (in 2010 25 percent identified it as a “large” problem). However, results are not directly comparable due to wording changes between years.

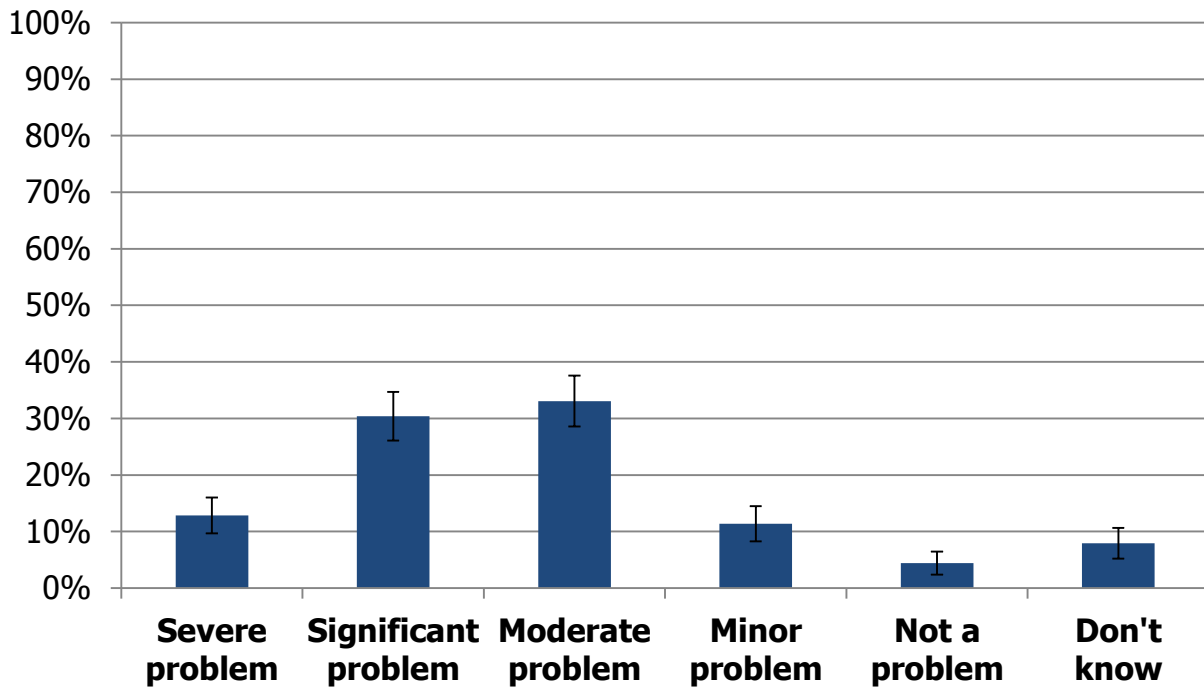


Figure 8. Perceptions of Wildfire as Problem on Idaho's Rangelands

Respondents were also asked for their level of agreement with two statements about rangelands. When asked whether private rangelands provide a large portion of wildlife habitat, 84 percent of respondents agreed either strongly or somewhat. Most respondents (79 percent) strongly or somewhat agree that cattle and sheep producers manage rangelands in a responsible manner, although 11 percent state they are not sure (Figure 9).

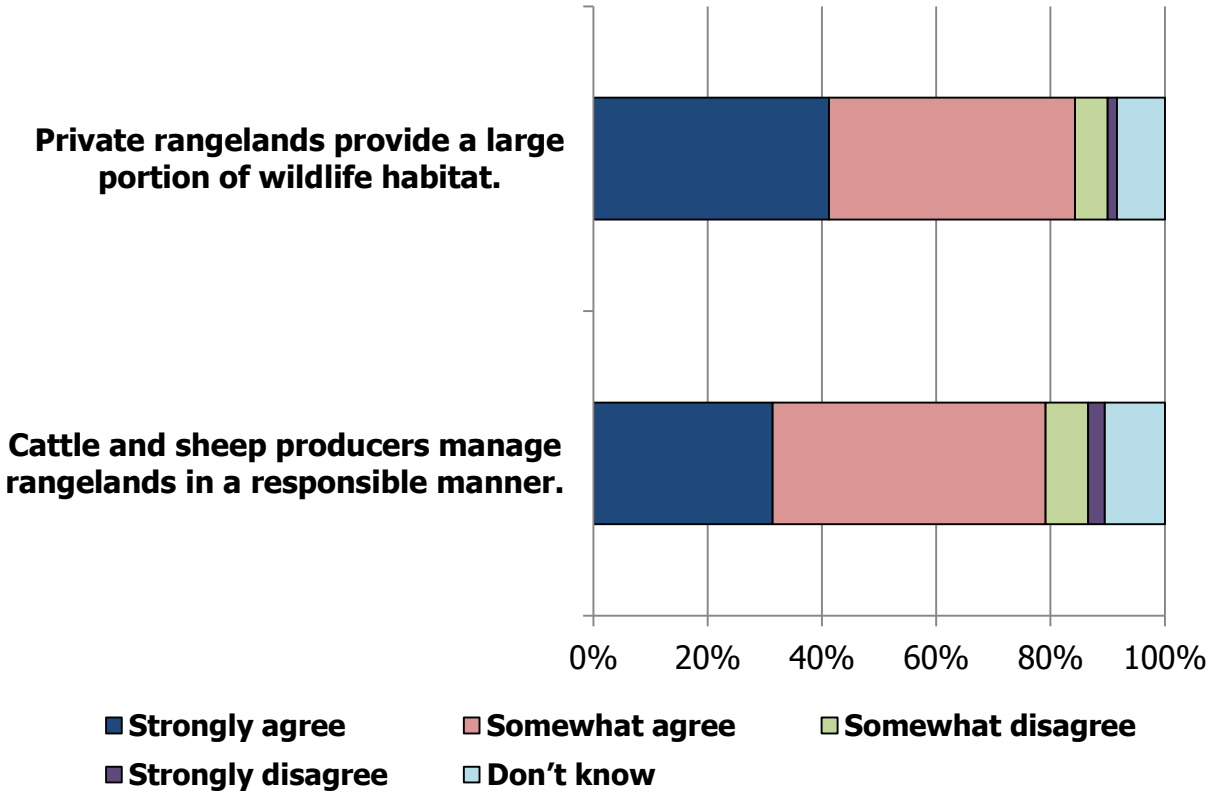


Figure 9. Level of Agreement with Statements Regarding Rangelands

Agreement that cattle and sheep producers manage rangelands in a responsible manner is similar across all four years of the study (Table 7).

Table 7: Agreement with Cattle and Sheep Producers Manage Rangelands in a Responsible Manner

Agreement	1997	2001	2010	2014
Strongly agree	22%	29%	30%	31%
Somewhat agree	40%	39%	42%	48%
Somewhat disagree	19%	13%	10%	7%
Strongly disagree	11%	8%	5%	3%
Don't know	8%	11%	14%	11%

When comparing results across studies where asked, agreement with the statement 'Private rangelands provide a large portion of wildlife habitat' remained high with a decrease in those who "strongly agree", and increase in those who only "somewhat agree" (Table 8).

Table 8: Agreement with Private Rangelands Provide a Large Portion of Wildlife Habitat

Agreement	2010	2014
Strongly agree	53%	41%
Somewhat agree	31%	43%
Somewhat disagree	6%	6%
Strongly disagree	2%	2%
Don't know	8%	8%

Respondents were also asked to agree or disagree with the statement "Livestock grazing should be kept as part of the management of public rangelands. Eighty-two percent of respondents "strongly" or "somewhat agree" (Figure 10). In 2014 the wording for this question was changed making the results from previous years not directly comparable. However, 2014 results follow a similar trend identified in 2010 where most residents supported livestock grazing as a part of the management of public lands (86 percent).

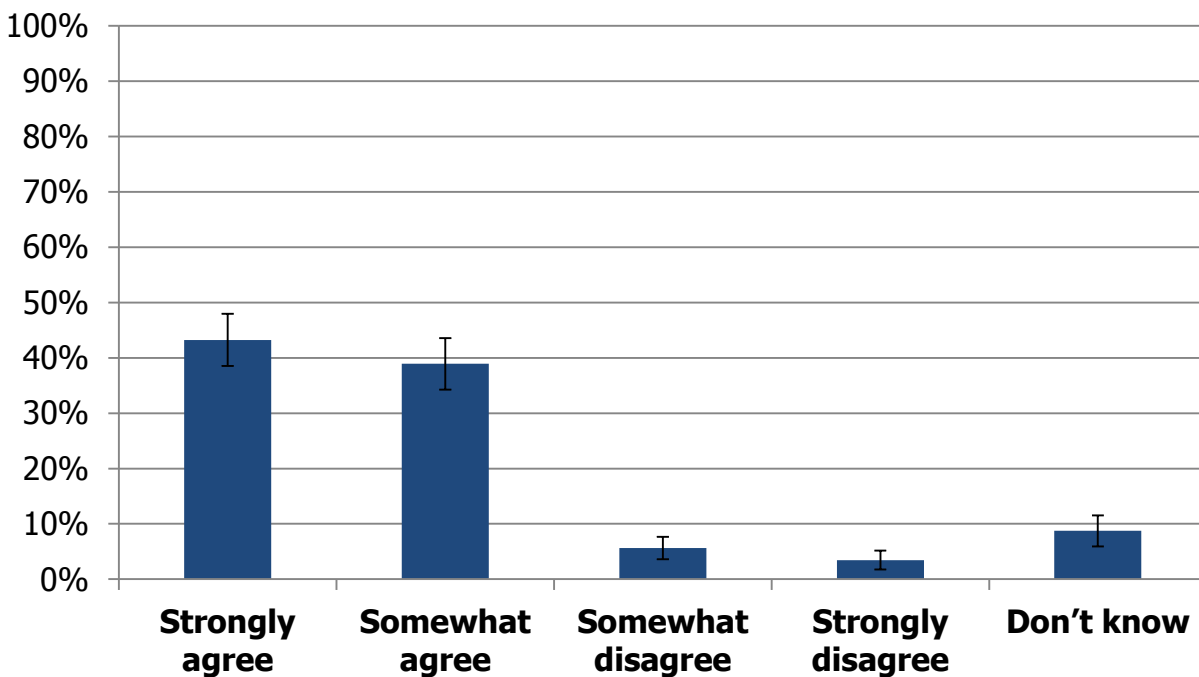


Figure 10. Level of Agreement with Livestock Grazing Should Be Part of Management of Public Land

When asked to assess the level of importance of ranches and farms in preserving wildlife habitat on a scale of one to seven, with one indicating “not at all important” and seven indicating “very important,” a majority of respondents (68 percent) rated the importance of farms and ranches in preserving wildlife habitat as a “five” or higher (indicating higher levels of importance, Figure 11). This is similar to results in 2010 where 71 percent of respondents rated the importance of farms and ranches in preserving wildlife habitat as a “five” or higher (Table 9).

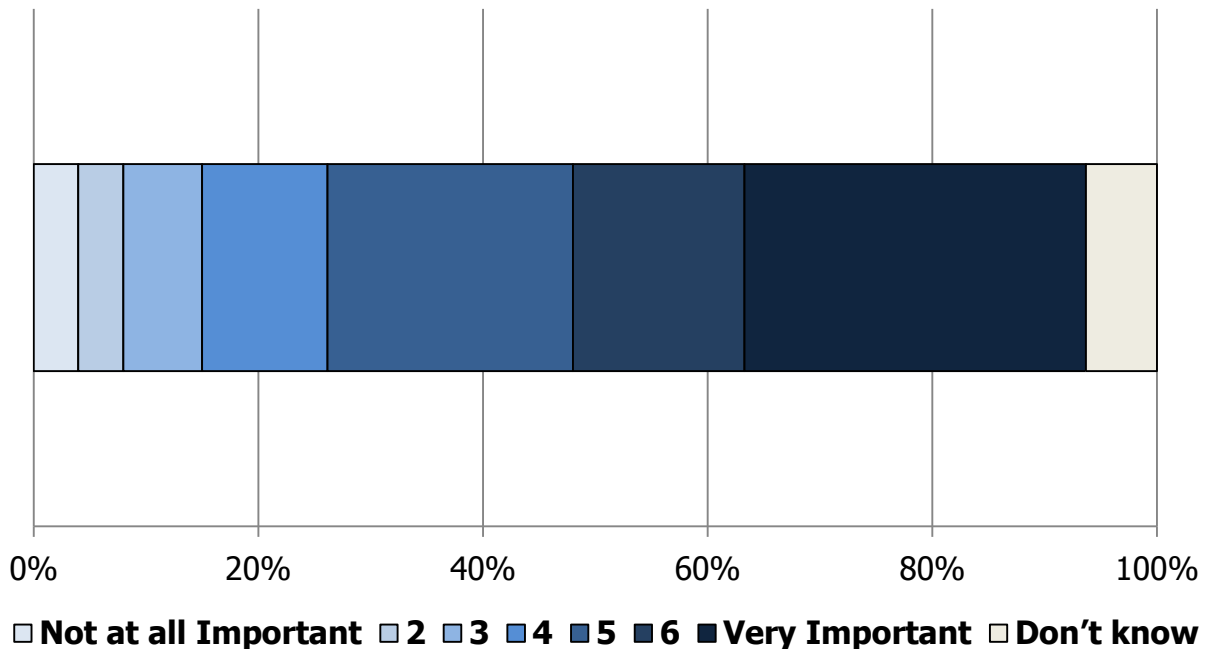


Figure 11. Level of Importance of Farms and Ranches in Preserving Wildlife Habitat

Table 9: Level of Importance of Farms and Ranches in Preserving Wildlife Habitat by Year

Importance	2010	2014
1- Not at all Important	4%	4%
2	3%	4%
3	6%	7%
4	13%	11%
5	24%	22%
6	16%	15%
7- Very Important	31%	30%
Don't know	3%	6%

The last series of questions in the rangeland section of the survey assessed respondents' perceptions of the reliability of each of four sources of information regarding rangelands; environmental groups, ranchers, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and scientists. The sources rated as the most reliable (by respondents stating they were either "very" or "somewhat" reliable) were ranches and scientists (84 percent and 83 percent, respectively). This was followed closely by BLM, with 80 percent of respondents identifying the BLM as "very" or "somewhat" reliable (Figure 12). The source rated less highly was environmental groups (55 percent). Levels of reliability have not significantly changed since 2010 (Table 10).

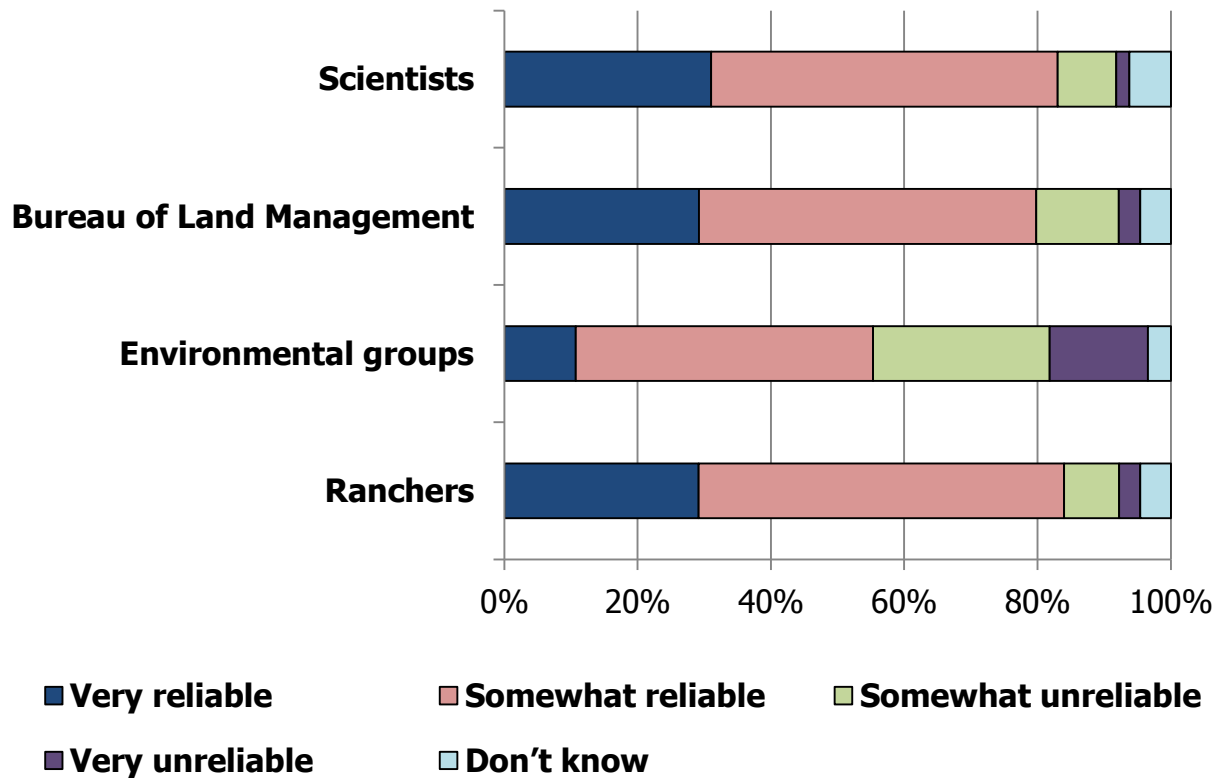


Figure 12. Reliability of Sources Regarding Information about Rangelands

Table 10: Reliability of Sources Regarding Information about Rangelands by Year

Sources	Reliability	2010	2014
Scientists	Very reliable	31%	31%
	Somewhat reliable	48%	52%
	Somewhat unreliable	9%	9%
	Very unreliable	4%	2%
	Don't know	9%	6%
Bureau of Land Management	Very reliable	32%	29%
	Somewhat reliable	50%	51%
	Somewhat unreliable	9%	12%
	Very unreliable	4%	3%
	Don't know	5%	5%
Environmental Groups	Very reliable	9%	11%
	Somewhat reliable	43%	45%
	Somewhat unreliable	25%	27%
	Very unreliable	19%	15%
	Don't know	4%	3%
Ranchers	Very reliable	21%	29%
	Somewhat reliable	59%	55%
	Somewhat unreliable	15%	8%
	Very unreliable	1%	3%
	Don't know	4%	5%

Predicting Support of Ranching on Public Lands

An important goal for this study is to understand which groups of Idaho residents might be more or less supportive of livestock grazing and the shared use of Idaho's public lands. While individual demographic categories can be crossed with individual questions, a more efficient method of examining demographic differences in opinion is by using multivariate analyses. With this technique, many demographic variables can be explored at one time and the independent effect of each can be examined. The specific type of analysis we ran is an ordinal logistic regression.

We ran ordinal logistic regression to predict responses to two survey questions: 1) level of agreement with the statement "Producers manage rangelands responsibly," and 2) level of agreement with the statement "Grazing should be a part of public land management." For both models, the dependent variables were defined as: 1- "strongly agree", 2- "somewhat agree" and 3- "somewhat and strongly disagree". The categories of somewhat disagree and strongly disagree were combined due to low response in each category. The independent (predictor) variables used were the same in each of the two models and included: whether someone in the household recreates on ATVs/motorized vehicles, hunts, grazes livestock, goes horseback riding hikes on public lands, their age, region, sex, political preference, and proportion of lifetime lived in Idaho (see Appendix D for additional methodological details about the ordinal logistic regression).

Political preference was associated with agreement with the statement "producers manage rangelands responsibly", indicating that more conservative individuals have a higher probability of being in more positive agreement with "producers manage rangelands responsibly", compared to more liberal individuals (Table 11). ATV use was strongly positively associated with agreement with the statement "grazing should be kept as part of the management of public lands", indicating that individuals who engage in ATV use are more likely to support grazing on public lands and more likely to see grazing as part of the management of public lands. Proportion of lifetime in Idaho was also associated with agreement with the statement "grazing should be kept as a part of the management of public lands", indicating that the more years an individual spends in Idaho, the more likely they are to support grazing as part of the management of public lands (see Appendix D for additional result details).

Table 11: Comparison of Multivariate Models Predicting Support of Grazing

Condition	Producers Manage Rangelands Responsibly	Grazing Should Be Part of Public Land Management
ATV Use	ns	***
Hunting	ns	ns
Grazing	ns	ns
Horseback riding	ns	ns
Hiking	ns	ns
Age	ns	ns
Region	ns	ns
Political preference	**	ns
Sex	ns	*
Proportion of life in Idaho	ns	**

* Trends toward significance ($p < 0.10$)

** Significant at $p < 0.05$

*** Significant at $p < 0.01$

ns = Not statistically significant

Note: p-values used in this table are Type 3 Analysis of Effect, otherwise interpreted as overall effect of each variable in the model after all other variables have been added to the model.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This survey of a representative sample of Idahoans provides valuable insight into the perspectives of residents regarding rangelands uses, rangeland management, and livestock grazing. The most important findings from this study are that generally, multiple uses of rangelands persist, support for livestock grazing on public lands remains high, and respondents continue to feel that ranchers are a reliable source of information regarding rangelands.

A majority of respondents believe that cattle and sheep producers manage rangelands in a responsible manner. More importantly, 82 percent of respondents “strongly” or “somewhat” agree that livestock grazing should remain part of the management of public lands. When it comes to the reliability of sources of information regarding rangelands, respondents ranked scientists, ranchers, and the BLM as reliable sources of information.

Statistical analyses examining the relationship between respondent demographics and opinions regarding rangeland use reveal that individuals on the more conservative end of the political spectrum, are more likely to agree cattle and sheep producer manage rangelands in a responsible manner, while ATV riders and those who have spent a higher proportion of their life in Idaho tend to be more in agreement that livestock grazing should be kept as a part of the management of public lands.