



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vermont Wilderness Poll was conducted by the University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies under contract with the Vermont Wilderness Association. Data were collected in February, 2002. The purpose of the study was to identify residents' attitudes toward uses of public land in Vermont, the focus being upon wilderness. The poll included a statewide sample as well as a sample of residents who live in or near the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF). Proximity to the GMNF had little impact on responses. Critical findings include:

- 89% of those sampled approved of the public ownership and management of land; less than 7% disapproved.
- 73% of respondents in the statewide sample agreed that "more wilderness areas should be established on the GMNF." (Slightly fewer, 69% of residents in or near the GMNF towns sample, agreed.)
- Almost 82% respondents agreed with the statement, "National Wildlife Refuges and state-owned lands in Vermont should be considered for wilderness designation."
- Other findings: Eight in ten respondents supported an expansion of wilderness land. Responses to a similar question indicated a preference for about 6% more state land into wilderness. Two thirds of respondents favored less vehicular access to the existing forest and support limiting infrastructure. Respondents were given a series of questions to rank on a ten point scale, 10 being highest. Protection of wildlife habitat, watersheds and natural processes ranked very high (9.3), with recreational opportunities (8.5), economic development based on tourism, recreation and enhanced life quality (5.2), opportunities for snowmobiles and ATVs (4) and for traditional development activities such as logging, grazing or mining (3.5) in descending order of support.

The poll was conducted by telephone, calling a statewide sample taken of registered voters randomly selected within participating households. This sample was selected of sufficient size to guarantee a 95% confidence interval and a 5% margin of error (472 completed interviews). A separate sample of registered voters in households in or adjacent to the GMNF towns was also taken, with a 95% confidence interval and a 10% margin of error (112 completed interviews). There were few differences between the results of the statewide and GMNF town samples. Demographic features of these samples approximated that of the general population Vermont accessible by phone in gender. Typical of household surveys in the state, age and educational level of participants was slightly higher than the average.

Related Studies

Responsive Management. 2000. Vermont residents' attitudes toward program priorities and alternative funding mechanisms for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Manning, Robert, Minter, Ben, and William Valliere. 1996. Social values, environmental ethics, and national forest management: Study completion report submitted to the North Central Forest Experimentation Station. School of Natural Resources, University of Vermont.

APPENDIX B. CLUSTERED RESULTS: Q 1 – 6, Q 13 – 15

For questions 1 – 6 and 13 – 15, the answers were recoded and clustered. For each of these questions the *agree* and *strongly agree* frequencies were combined into one *agree* frequency, and the *disagree* and *strongly disagree* frequencies were combined into one *disagree* frequency. The result is a summarized version of the answers to these questions.

Q 1.

I approve of the public ownership and management of land.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Agree | 409 | 89.1 ¹ | 96 | 88.1 |
| Disagree | 31 | 6.8 | 7 | 6.3 |
| Neither | 19 | 4.1 | 6 | 5.4 |
| Missing | 13 | 2.8 | 3 | 2.7 |

Q 2.

More wilderness areas should be established on the Green Mountain National Forest.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Agree | 333 | 72.7 | 77 | 68.8 |
| Disagree | 91 | 19.9 | 21 | 18.8 |
| Neither | 34 | 7.4 | 14 | 12.5 |
| Missing | 14 | 3.0 | 0 | 0.0 |

Q 3.

More areas on the Green Mountain National Forest should be made available for use by snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Agree | 127 | 27.3 | 30 | 27.0 |
| Disagree | 294 | 63.1 | 72 | 64.9 |
| Neither | 45 | 9.7 | 9 | 8.1 |
| Missing | 6 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.9 |

¹ Due to rounding issues, these percentages may not necessarily equal the sums of the percentages from the corresponding unclustered responses. However, there should only be an occasional difference of $\pm 0.1\%$.



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Q 4.

Some existing wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest should be reopened to logging.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Agree | 123 | 27.3 | 28 | 25.7 |
| Disagree | 272 | 60.4 | 65 | 59.6 |
| Neither | 55 | 12.2 | 16 | 14.7 |
| Missing | 22 | 4.7 | 3 | 2.7 |

Q 5.

Areas within the Green Mountain National Forest that are currently without roads should be off limits to future road-building and logging.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Agree | 323 | 70.2 | 76 | 69.7 |
| Disagree | 90 | 19.6 | 22 | 20.2 |
| Neither | 47 | 10.2 | 11 | 10.1 |
| Missing | 12 | 2.5 | 3 | 2.7 |

Q 6.

National Wildlife Refuges and state-owned lands in Vermont should be considered for wilderness designation.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Agree | 374 | 81.7 | 87 | 80.6 |
| Disagree | 57 | 12.4 | 12 | 11.1 |
| Neither | 27 | 5.9 | 9 | 8.3 |
| Missing | 14 | 3.0 | 4 | 3.6 |



Q 13.

I would support the establishment of additional wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest even if it required the removal or re-routing of snowmobile trails.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Agree | 301 | 65.2 | 75 | 68.2 |
| Disagree | 124 | 26.8 | 29 | 26.4 |
| Neither | 37 | 8.0 | 6 | 5.5 |
| Missing | 10 | 2.1 | 2 | 1.8 |

Q 14.

I would support establishment of additional wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest if it required removal or rerouting of only secondary snowmobile trails and did not affect primary corridor trails.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Agree | 308 | 68.0 | 77 | 72.0 |
| Disagree | 104 | 23.0 | 23 | 21.5 |
| Neither | 41 | 9.1 | 7 | 6.5 |
| Missing | 19 | 4.0 | 5 | 4.5 |

Q 15.

I would support establishment of additional wilderness areas if it affected less than 1% of the total mileage of the state snowmobile trail network.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Agree | 302 | 67.9 | 73 | 70.9 |
| Disagree | 98 | 22.0 | 23 | 22.3 |
| Neither | 45 | 10.1 | 7 | 6.8 |
| Missing | 27 | 5.7 | 9 | 8.0 |



APPENDIX A. POLL QUESTIONS

Hello, my name is _____, and I'm calling from the University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies. We are calling Vermonters to get their opinions on issues important to the use of our public lands. Your household was randomly selected for our study. Do you have ten minutes to answer some questions?

Thank you for agreeing to participate! All of your answers will remain strictly confidential and the survey should take less than 10 minutes. I am going to ask you some questions about the Green Mountain National Forest and how it is used. The Green Mountain National Forest is an area of public land in Vermont. It is about 385,000 acres in size, approximately 6% of Vermont, and is located along the Green Mountains in central and southern Vermont. It is managed by the United States Forest Service.

I am also going to ask you some questions about wilderness. Wilderness is land that is largely free from human disturbance, where natural processes prevail. Designated wilderness areas on federal public lands such as the Green Mountain National Forest are open to recreational uses such as camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, snowshoeing, and skiing. Roads, motorized recreation, logging, and most permanent structures are not allowed in wilderness areas. Currently, about 60,000 acres of land in Vermont are in federally designated Wilderness areas-this is about 1% of all of the land in the state.

I am now going to read some statements to you. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Q 1.

I approve of the public ownership and management of land.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Q 2.

More wilderness areas should be established on the Green Mountain National Forest.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



Q 3.

More areas on the Green Mountain National Forest should be made available for use by snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Q 4.

Some existing wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest should be reopened to logging.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Q 5.

Areas within the Green Mountain National Forest that are currently without roads should be off limits to future road-building and logging.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Q 6.

National Wildlife Refuges and state-owned lands in Vermont should be considered for wilderness designation.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



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I am now going to read you some values of the Green Mountain National Forest, and I am going to ask you to rate the importance of them on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being not important and 10 being extremely important.

Q 7.

How important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest to provide opportunities for camping, hunting, hiking, and other non-motorized recreational activities?

[number, 1 – 10]

Q 8.

How important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest to provide opportunities for riding snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles?

[number, 1 – 10]

Q 9.

How important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest to protect wildlife habitat, watersheds, and natural processes?

[number, 1 – 10]

Q 10.

How important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest to provide opportunities for logging, grazing, or mining?

[number, 1 – 10]

Q 11.

How important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest to provide for economic development based on tourism, recreation, and enhanced quality of life that attracts new businesses?

[number, 1 – 10]

Q 12.

In the Northeast, Vermont and Maine have about 1% of their land in wilderness areas. New Hampshire has 2%, and New York has 7%.

What percent of land in the state of Vermont do you think SHOULD be in wilderness areas?

[number, 0 – 100]



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I am now going to read you a few statements specifically about snow-mobiling. Please indicate whether you: strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, or neither agree nor disagree.

Q 13.

I would support the establishment of additional wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest even if it required the removal or re-routing of snowmobile trails.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Q 14.

I would support establishment of additional wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest if it required removal or rerouting of only secondary snowmobile trails and did not affect primary corridor trails.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

[*Definitions:* Primary snowmobile trails: main trails, similar to the Long Trail or a major road like Rt 4 or Rt 100. Secondary trails: trails leading to major trails, spur trails, similar to back roads.]

Q 15.

I would support establishment of additional wilderness areas if it affected less than 1% of the total mileage of the state snowmobile trail network.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



And now, we just have a few demographic questions for you.

Q 16a-j.

Do you take part in any of the following activities?

1. Logging
2. Farming
3. Hunting
4. Fishing
5. Snowmobiling
6. Mountain Biking
7. Cross Country Skiing
8. Snowshoeing
9. Hiking
10. Birdwatching

[since the respondent may give more than one answer, this question represents questions 16a – 16j in the raw data]

Q 17a-g.

Do you belong to any of the following organizations?

1. The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (V.A.S.T.)
2. The National Rifle Association (N.R.A.)
3. A hunting or fishing club
4. The Green Mountain Club
5. The Sierra Club
6. The Wilderness Society
7. The Vermont Public Interest Research Group (V.P.I.R.G.)

[since the respondent may give more than one answer, this question represents questions 17a – 17g in the raw data]

Q 18.

Are there any other similar organizations to which you belong?



Q 19.

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

1. <9th grade
2. 9-12 grade (no diploma)
3. High School graduate (incl. GED)
4. Some college (no degree)
5. Associates/technical
6. Bachelor
7. Post graduate/professional

Q 20.

In what town or city do you live?

Q 21.

And in what county is that?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Addison County | 9. Orange County |
| 2. Bennington County | 10. Orleans County |
| 3. Caledonia County | 11. Rutland County |
| 4. Chittenden County | 12. Washington County |
| 5. Essex County | 13. Windham County |
| 6. Franklin County | 14. Windsor County |
| 7. Grand Isle County | 15. Lamoille County |

Q 22.

In what year were you born?

[4-number year]

Q 23.

And finally, for our data records, would you please state your gender?

1. Male
2. Female



FREQUENCIES

Tables in this section display the frequencies for questions within both samples of the 2002 VT Wilderness Poll. Other data included are:

1. Percent: The proportion of respondents who actually answered the question in a particular way (does not factor in missing values).
2. Missing: A frequency and percent given to represent the proportion of times respondents either could not or refused to answer the particular question. The Missing percentage is compared to the entire number of respondents. **Hence the sum of the frequency and missing percentages will not equal 100%.** They are proportions of two different numbers.
3. Means (averages) and Modes (most frequent answers) are also given when relevant to the question at hand.

The first 6 questions asked respondents to rate each statement with the choices of *strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree.* For a recode of these answers, which gives a more summarized version of the results, please see Appendix B.

Q 1.

I approve of the public ownership and management of land.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Strongly Agree | 126 | 27.5 ¹ | 23 | 21.1 |
| Agree | 283 | 61.7 | 73 | 67.0 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 19 | 4.1 | 6 | 5.5 |
| Disagree | 27 | 5.9 | 6 | 5.5 |
| Strongly Disagree | 4 | 0.9 | 1 | 0.9 |
| Missing | 13 | 2.8 | 3 | 2.7 ² |

¹ Due to rounding issues, sums of these percentages may not necessarily add up to 100%. However, there should only be an occasional difference of $\pm 0.1\%$.

² Adding the Missing percent to the Frequency percents will result in a number higher than 100%. This is because they are proportions of different numbers. See the explanation at the beginning of the FREQUENCIES section.



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Q 2.

More wilderness areas should be established on the Green Mountain National Forest.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Strongly Agree | 124 | 27.1 | 30 | 26.8 |
| Agree | 209 | 45.6 | 47 | 42.0 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 34 | 7.4 | 14 | 12.5 |
| Disagree | 77 | 16.8 | 14 | 12.5 |
| Strongly Disagree | 14 | 3.1 | 7 | 6.3 |
| Missing | 14 | 3.0 | 0 | 0.0 |

Q 3.

More areas on the Green Mountain National Forest should be made available for use by snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Strongly Agree | 26 | 5.6 | 5 | 4.5 |
| Agree | 101 | 21.7 | 25 | 22.5 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 45 | 9.7 | 9 | 8.1 |
| Disagree | 180 | 38.6 | 42 | 37.8 |
| Strongly Disagree | 114 | 24.5 | 30 | 27.0 |
| Missing | 6 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.9 |

Q 4.

Some existing wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest should be reopened to logging.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Strongly Agree | 14 | 3.1 | 6 | 5.5 |
| Agree | 109 | 24.2 | 22 | 20.2 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 55 | 12.2 | 16 | 14.7 |
| Disagree | 191 | 42.4 | 46 | 42.2 |
| Strongly Disagree | 81 | 18.0 | 19 | 17.4 |
| Missing | 22 | 4.7 | 3 | 2.7 |



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Q 5.

Areas within the Green Mountain National Forest that are currently without roads should be off limits to future road-building and logging.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Strongly Agree | 95 | 20.7 | 18 | 16.5 |
| Agree | 228 | 49.6 | 58 | 53.2 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 47 | 10.2 | 11 | 10.1 |
| Disagree | 76 | 16.5 | 20 | 18.3 |
| Strongly Disagree | 14 | 3.0 | 2 | 1.8 |
| Missing | 12 | 2.5 | 3 | 2.7 |

Q 6.

National Wildlife Refuges and state-owned lands in Vermont should be considered for wilderness designation.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Strongly Agree | 83 | 18.1 | 15 | 13.9 |
| Agree | 291 | 63.5 | 72 | 66.7 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 27 | 5.9 | 9 | 8.3 |
| Disagree | 49 | 10.7 | 11 | 10.2 |
| Strongly Disagree | 8 | 1.7 | 1 | 0.9 |
| Missing | 14 | 3.0 | 4 | 3.6 |



The next 5 questions asked respondents to rate the importance of certain values of the Green Mountain National Forest using a scale of 1-10, with 1 being not important and 10 being extremely important. The means and modes of the ratings are also supplied in these tables.

Q 7.

How important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest to provide opportunities for camping, hunting, hiking, and other non-motorized recreational activities?

| Rate | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| 1 | 6 | 1.3 | 2 | 1.8 |
| 2 | 3 | 0.6 | 2 | 1.8 |
| 3 | 4 | 0.9 | 2 | 1.8 |
| 4 | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.9 |
| 5 | 31 | 6.7 | 5 | 4.5 |
| 6 | 20 | 4.3 | 8 | 7.1 |
| 7 | 36 | 7.7 | 14 | 12.5 |
| 8 | 109 | 23.4 | 21 | 18.8 |
| 9 | 48 | 10.3 | 16 | 14.3 |
| 10 | 208 | 44.6 | 41 | 36.6 |
| Mode | 10 | --- | 10 | --- |
| Mean | 8.5 | --- | 8.1 | --- |
| Missing | 6 | 1.3 | 0 | 0.0 |



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Q 8.

How important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest to provide opportunities for riding snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles?

| Rate | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| 1 | 148 | 31.6 | 37 | 33.6 |
| 2 | 54 | 11.5 | 14 | 12.7 |
| 3 | 48 | 10.2 | 9 | 8.2 |
| 4 | 41 | 8.7 | 10 | 9.1 |
| 5 | 67 | 14.3 | 16 | 14.5 |
| 6 | 18 | 3.8 | 5 | 4.5 |
| 7 | 22 | 4.7 | 7 | 6.4 |
| 8 | 30 | 6.4 | 4 | 3.6 |
| 9 | 5 | 1.1 | 1 | 0.9 |
| 10 | 36 | 7.7 | 7 | 6.4 |
| Mode | 1 | --- | 1 | --- |
| Mean | 3.9 | --- | 3.7 | --- |
| Missing | 3 | 0.6 | 2 | 1.8 |



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Q 9.

How important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest to protect wildlife habitat, watersheds, and natural processes?

| Rate | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| 1 | 2 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.0 |
| 2 | 1 | 0.2 | 0 | 0.0 |
| 3 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.9 |
| 4 | 3 | 0.6 | 2 | 1.8 |
| 5 | 15 | 3.2 | 6 | 5.4 |
| 6 | 10 | 2.1 | 1 | 0.9 |
| 7 | 16 | 3.4 | 1 | 0.9 |
| 8 | 36 | 7.7 | 8 | 7.1 |
| 9 | 49 | 10.4 | 8 | 7.1 |
| 10 | 338 | 71.9 | 85 | 75.9 |
| Mode | 10 | --- | 10 | --- |
| Mean | 9.3 | --- | 9.3 | --- |
| Missing | 2 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.0 |



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Q 10.

How important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest to provide opportunities for logging, grazing, or mining?

| Rate | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| 1 | 152 | 32.6 | 32 | 29.1 |
| 2 | 61 | 13.1 | 18 | 16.4 |
| 3 | 43 | 9.2 | 13 | 11.8 |
| 4 | 51 | 10.9 | 8 | 7.3 |
| 5 | 74 | 15.9 | 22 | 20.0 |
| 6 | 19 | 4.1 | 3 | 2.7 |
| 7 | 20 | 4.3 | 4 | 3.6 |
| 8 | 21 | 4.5 | 5 | 4.5 |
| 9 | 4 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 |
| 10 | 21 | 4.5 | 5 | 4.5 |
| Mode | 1 | --- | 1 | --- |
| Mean | 3.5 | --- | 3.5 | --- |
| Missing | 6 | 1.3 | 2 | 1.8 |



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Q 11.

How important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest to provide for economic development based on tourism, recreation, and enhanced quality of life that attracts new businesses?

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Rate | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| 1 | | 64 | 13.8 | 16 | 14.3 |
| 2 | | 31 | 6.7 | 14 | 12.5 |
| 3 | | 46 | 9.9 | 8 | 7.1 |
| 4 | | 35 | 7.5 | 7 | 6.3 |
| 5 | | 98 | 21.1 | 23 | 20.5 |
| 6 | | 36 | 7.8 | 7 | 6.3 |
| 7 | | 49 | 10.6 | 8 | 7.1 |
| 8 | | 46 | 9.9 | 15 | 13.4 |
| 9 | | 11 | 2.4 | 3 | 2.7 |
| 10 | | 48 | 10.3 | 11 | 9.8 |
| Mode | | 5 | --- | 5 | --- |
| Mean | | 5.2 | --- | 5.1 | --- |
| Missing | | 8 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.0 |

Q 12.

In the Northeast, Vermont and Maine have about 1% of their land in wilderness areas. New Hampshire has 2%, and New York has 7%.

What percent of land in the state of Vermont do you think SHOULD be in wilderness areas?

Many answers were given to this open-ended question. They are summarized by the table below.

| <i>Sample</i> | <i>Primary</i> | <i>GMNF</i> |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| Minimum | 0 | 0 |
| Median | 4 | 5 |
| Maximum | 100 | 65 |
| Mode | 5 (18.2%) | 5 (29%) |
| Mean | 6.5 | 7.5 |
| Missing | 66 (14%) | 8 (7.1%) |



The next 3 questions asked respondents to rate each statement with the choices of *strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree*. For a recode of these answers, which gives a more summarized version of the results, please see Appendix B.

Q 13.

I would support the establishment of additional wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest, even if it required the removal or re-routing of snowmobile trails.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Strongly Agree | 93 | 20.1 | 26 | 23.6 |
| Agree | 208 | 45.0 | 49 | 44.5 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 37 | 8.0 | 6 | 5.5 |
| Disagree | 99 | 21.4 | 22 | 20.0 |
| Strongly Disagree | 25 | 5.4 | 7 | 6.4 |
| Missing | 10 | 2.1 | 2 | 1.8 |

Q 14.

I would support establishment of additional wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest if it required removal or rerouting of only secondary snowmobile trails and did not affect primary corridor trails.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Strongly Agree | 69 | 15.2 | 20 | 18.7 |
| Agree | 239 | 52.8 | 57 | 53.3 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 41 | 9.1 | 7 | 6.5 |
| Disagree | 79 | 17.4 | 21 | 19.6 |
| Strongly Disagree | 25 | 5.5 | 2 | 1.9 |
| Missing | 19 | 4.0 | 5 | 4.5 |



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Q 15.

I would support establishment of additional wilderness areas if it affected less than 1% of the total mileage of the state snowmobile trail network.

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| Strongly Agree | 65 | 14.6 | 20 | 19.4 |
| Agree | 237 | 53.3 | 53 | 51.5 |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 45 | 10.1 | 7 | 6.8 |
| Disagree | 80 | 18.0 | 19 | 18.4 |
| Strongly Disagree | 18 | 4.0 | 4 | 3.9 |
| Missing | 27 | 5.7 | 9 | 8.0 |

Respondents had the option of giving more than one answer to the following 3 questions, thus the sum of the frequencies in these tables may exceed the number of respondents. The activities and organizations in Q16a-j and Q17a-g are listed in the order they were given on the poll.

Q 16a-j.

Do you take part in any of the following activities?

| <i>Activity</i> | <i>Primary Sample</i> | <i>GMNF Sample</i> |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Logging | 44 | 10 |
| Farming | 78 | 15 |
| Hunting | 140 | 32 |
| Fishing | 235 | 64 |
| Snowmobiling | 73 | 29 |
| Mountain Biking | 129 | 38 |
| X-Country Skiing | 233 | 53 |
| Snowshoeing | 245 | 58 |
| Hiking | 356 | 68 |
| Birdwatching | 233 | 62 |



Q 17a-g.

Do you belong to any of the following organizations?

| <i>Organization</i> | <i>Primary Sample</i> | <i>GMNF Sample</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| V.A.S.T. | 38 | 8 |
| N.R.A. | 56 | 13 |
| A Hunting/Fishing Club | 54 | 4 |
| Green Mountain Club | 25 | 5 |
| Sierra Club | 38 | 8 |
| The Wilderness Society | 11 | 3 |
| V.P.I.R.G. | 34 | 10 |

Q 18.

Are there any other similar organizations to which you belong?

Two tables are included for Q 18: one for the Primary Sample and one for the GMNF Sample. Some organizations are rather obscure and are listed in the manner the respondent(s) worded them. For the Primary Sample table, only answers with a frequency greater than 1 are shown.

Q 18. Primary Sample

| <i>Organization</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Audubon Society (National and VT) | 10 |
| Nature Conservancy | 7 |
| National Wildlife Federation | 6 |
| Appalachian Mtn. Club | 5 |
| Ducks Unlimited | 5 |
| Catamount Trail Association | 4 |
| P.E.T.A. | 4 |
| Humane Society | 3 |
| Natural Resources Defense Council | 3 |
| Trout Unlimited | 3 |
| Arbor Day Foundation | 2 |
| V.I.N.S. | 2 |
| Vermont Land Trust | 2 |
| World Wildlife Fund | 2 |



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Q 18. GMNF Sample

| <i>Organization</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Arbor Day Foundation | 3 |
| Audubon Society | 2 |
| Nature Conservancy | 2 |
| VT Land Trust | 2 |
| Appalachian Mountain Club | 1 |
| Girl Scouts | 1 |
| Killington/Pico Cycling Club | 1 |
| Merke Forest and Farmlands | 1 |
| New England Master's Skiing, Inc. | 1 |
| Snow Busters | 1 |
| V.I.N.S. | 1 |
| VT Fish & Wildlife Dept. | 1 |



METHODOLOGY

The 2002 VT Wilderness Poll was conducted by the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont and sponsored by The Wilderness Society, Boston. The purpose of this survey was to obtain Vermonters' opinions on issues relevant to the use of the State's public lands, particularly the issue of federal wilderness designation in the Green Mountain National Forest. Design of the questionnaire was overseen by the Vermont Wilderness Association with consultation from the Center for Rural Studies.

This survey was conducted on weekdays from February 5th to the 16th, 2002, during the evening hours of 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Vermont households were contacted at random and survey respondents were selected randomly within participating households. Two samples were taken: a full statewide sample (Primary Sample) and a smaller sample of 43 towns in, adjacent to, and/or impacted by the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF Sample). This report contains the frequencies for both samples.

1. Sampling

The standard sample frame for telephone surveys at the Center for Rural Studies is Vermont households with registered voters and access to a telephone during the evening hours of 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. The 2002 VT Wilderness Poll operated within this frame. Telephone numbers were created randomly corresponding to the phone exchanges¹ used in Vermont for the Primary Sample. The GMNF Sample used known phone exchanges specific to the relevant towns. The sample target for the Primary Sample was a minimum of 400 completed surveys, corresponding to a confidence and margin of error of 95.0% \pm 5%. The sample target for the GMNF Sample was a minimum of 100 completed surveys, corresponding to a confidence and margin of error of 95.0% \pm 10%.

2. Margin of Error

A conservative estimate of the margin of error associated with the Primary Sample is \pm 5% with a confidence interval of 95.0%. This means that if the survey were to be redone, 95 percent of the time the resulting means would be the same within 5.0 percentage points for each particular question. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the number of households in Vermont is 240,634. A representative sample size for households in Vermont at a confidence rate of 95.0% \pm 5% is 385 to 400.

The GMNF sample's margin of error is 10%, and the confidence interval is the same at 95%. The higher margin of error was deemed acceptable due to time and cost constraints. A minimum representative sample size for households within the GMNF towns at that confidence rate is 100.

¹ The telephone exchange number is the first three digits after the area code. For this survey, any existing exchange within the 802 (Vermont) area code was used.



Thus, the target minimum samples of 400 and 100 were determined for the Primary and GMNF Samples, respectively. The margin of error associated with any given item in the survey increases as the sample sizes for individual questions are examined in greater detail, such as in the case of cross-tabulations.

3. Response

A preliminary sample of 3,192 telephone numbers was randomly selected for the Primary Sample. 798 numbers were selected for the smaller GMNF Sample. Table 1 below illustrates the results of the preliminary samples as calls were initially made, and Table 2 shows the outcomes of calls to eligible households.

Table 1 Outcomes of preliminary sample calls

| <i>Outcome</i> | <i>Primary Sample</i> | <i>GMNF Sample</i> |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Not in Service/Disconnected | 750 | 180 |
| No Answer/Answering Machine/Line Busy | 665 | 179 |
| FAX/Cell Phone Number | 129 | 34 |
| Business Number | 279 | 59 |
| Ineligible Household (no registered voters) | 38 | 15 |
| Eligible Household (see Table 1.2) | 1,331 | 331 |
| Total Sample Selected | 3,192 | 798 |

Table 2 Outcomes of Eligible Households

| <i>Outcome</i> | <i>Primary Sample</i> | <i>GMNF Sample</i> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Refused/Terminated | 733 | 197 |
| Call Back at Another Time | 126 | 17 |
| Completed | 472 | 117 |

As Table 2 shows, 472 surveys were completed for the Primary Sample. This is well within the confidence interval and margin of error of 95.0% ± 5%.

117 surveys were completed for the GMNF Sample. However, 5 surveys were removed because it was known that the respondents lived in towns that were not in close enough proximity to the towns identified for the GMNF Sample. In Vermont, many towns share phone exchanges, and a few of the GMNF towns share exchanges with other towns that are not in close proximity to the Green Mountain National Forest. In the interests of time and maintaining an acceptable margin



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of error, respondents from towns that are directly adjacent to any of the GMNF towns were kept in the sample. Respondents in other towns were dropped out. The resulting number of completed surveys for the GMNF Sample is 112. This is well within the confidence and margin of error of 95.0% \pm 10%.

4. Frequency Analysis

For the purposes of this frequency report, the raw numerical data from both samples were uploaded into the SPSS statistical software package format for analysis. Open-ended text answers were uploaded into Microsoft Word and Excel to be coded. The operations performed on each particular piece of data are elaborated upon in the DEMOGRAPHICS and FREQUENCIES sections.



DEMOGRAPHICS

The purpose of this section is to compare the demographics of the two samples and to provide a brief commentary on their utility as representative samples of Vermont households. The frequencies of the demographic questions (Q 19 through Q 23) from the Wilderness Poll are included in this section. A few particular pieces of data are compared to Census data for Vermont.

Education

Q 19.

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | <i>Frequency</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Frequency</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Less than 9th Grade | 8 | 1.7 | 2 | 1.8 |
| 9-12th Grade (no diploma) | 49 | 10.5 | 8 | 7.2 |
| High School Grad/GED | 75 | 16.0 | 17 | 15.3 |
| Some College (no degree) | 77 | 16.5 | 26 | 23.4 |
| Associates/Technical Degree | 45 | 9.6 | 15 | 13.5 |
| Bachelor's Degree | 120 | 25.6 | 28 | 25.2 |
| Post-Graduate/Professional Degree | 94 | 20.1 | 15 | 13.5 |
| Missing | 4 | 0.8 | 1 | 0.9 |

Q 19 shows that the majority of respondents for both samples have attained a bachelor’s degree – roughly 25% for each. Respondents with post-graduate/professional degrees are the next highest group in the Primary Sample (20%), while those with some college experience but no degree comprise 23% of the GMNF Towns. The higher number of post-graduate/professional degrees in the Primary Sample may have to do with the fact that Burlington is not included in the GMNF Sample. It can be assumed that the close proximity of the many colleges and universities in the Greater Burlington area attracts a larger number of employees and students with higher education status.

Town Frequencies

Q 20.

In what town or city do you live?

The town data tables are too large for this section and can be accessed by opening Open-Ended.xls and clicking on the “Towns” tab on the lower left hand corner. See the RESPONSE section of METHODOLOGY above for commentary on the towns within the GMNF Sample.



County Frequencies

Q 21.

And in what county is that?

| County | <i>% of VT Households</i> | <i>Primary Completed</i> | | <i>GMNF Completed</i> | |
|------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Rate | Rate | Freq. | Rate | Freq. |
| Addison | 5.4% | 8.0% | 37 | 22.2% | 24 |
| Bennington | 6.2% | 5.0% | 23 | 37.0% | 40 |
| Caledonia | 4.8% | 3.9% | 18 | | |
| Chittenden | 23.5% | 28.5% | 132 | | |
| Essex | 1.1% | 1.7% | 8 | | |
| Franklin | 7.0% | 6.5% | 30 | | |
| Grand Isle | 1.1% | 1.1% | 5 | | |
| Lamoille | 3.8% | 3.5% | 16 | | |
| Orange | 4.5% | 3.7% | 17 | | |
| Orleans | 4.3% | 5.4% | 25 | | |
| Rutland | 10.7% | 8.2% | 38 | 26.9% | 29 |
| Washington | 9.8% | 6.9% | 32 | 1.9% | 2 |
| Windham | 7.6% | 7.3% | 34 | 7.4% | 8 |
| Windsor | 10.0% | 10.4% | 48 | 4.6% | 5 |
| Missing | --- | 1.9% | 9 | 3.6% | 4 |

Table 2.1 comments on sampling between the counties. The numbers in the *% of VT Households* category are the percents of actual households for each county for the state, based on 2000 U.S. Census data. The data illustrates how representative of each county the Primary Sample is. The *Completed* rates and frequencies are to the right. The table shows that the most significant case of under-sampling in the Primary Sample is a difference of almost 3.0% for Washington County. The most significant case of over-sampling is by 5% for Chittenden County. This under and over-sampling is not crucial to the Primary Sample's utility as a representative sample of Vermont households. The primary purpose of this table is to inform the user.

The *% of VT Households* category is not a target for the GMNF Sample, but these numbers do show that only counties that contain GMNF towns were polled.



Age

Q 22.

In what year were you born?

Age was determined from the years given and then grouped into 5 roughly equal quintiles. Each sample has slightly different quintiles, thus there are two tables. Below the tables is commentary on the median age of the samples.

Q 22. Primary Sample

| <i>Age Groups</i> | <i>Frequency</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 18-38 | 96 | 20.6 |
| 39-46 | 103 | 22.2 |
| 47-53 | 90 | 19.4 |
| 54-62 | 87 | 18.7 |
| 63+ | 89 | 19.1 |
| Missing | 7 | 1.5 |

Q 22. GMNF Sample

| | <i>Frequency</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
|---------|------------------|----------------|
| 18-34 | 20 | 18.5 |
| 35-43 | 22 | 20.4 |
| 44-51 | 23 | 21.3 |
| 52-61 | 21 | 19.4 |
| 62+ | 22 | 20.4 |
| Missing | 4 | 3.6 |

The median age of respondents in both samples is 49 years. This number is much higher than the median age of the State of Vermont at 37 years, according to the 2000 Census. It must be considered that Wilderness Poll respondents will naturally tend to be older than the state at large. The poll’s sampling frame consists of households with registered voters, which implies that no respondents will be under the age of 18, thus skewing the survey’s median age upward. The median age of Vermonters above 18 is 44. This number is much closer to the median age of the survey samples and more appropriate for comparison.

Gender Ratio

Like median age, the gender ratio is another piece of data that can speak to a survey’s ability to be representative of a given population. The table below shows that both samples’ respondents



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are roughly 52% female and 47% male. According to the 2000 Census, the population of Vermont is 51% female and 49% male. This results in a modest discrepancy of 1.3%. The higher ratio of females in the samples can be explained by the poll's survey method: research shows that females of the household are more likely to answer the phone in the evening hours, thus raising the probability that respondents will be female.

Q 23.

And finally, for our data records, would you please state your gender?

| | <i>Primary Sample</i> | | <i>GMNF Sample</i> | |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | <i>Frequency</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Frequency</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Female | 247 | 52.3 | 58 | 51.8 |
| Male | 225 | 47.7 | 52 | 46.4 |
| Missing | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.8 |



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Summary Table of Answers to Questions 1 - 15

| <i>Question</i> | | <i>Primary Sample</i> | <i>GMNF Sample</i> |
|---|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 I approve of the public ownership and management of land. | Agree | 89.1% | 88.1% |
| | Disagree | 6.8% | 6.3% |
| 2 More wilderness areas should be established on the Green Mountain National Forest. | Agree | 72.7% | 68.8% |
| | Disagree | 19.9% | 18.8% |
| 3 More areas on the Green Mountain National Forest should be made available for use by snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles. | Agree | 27.3% | 27.0% |
| | Disagree | 63.1% | 64.9% |
| 4 Some existing wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest should be reopened to logging. | Agree | 27.3% | 25.7% |
| | Disagree | 60.4% | 59.6% |
| 5 Areas within the Green Mountain National Forest that are currently without roads should be off limits to future road-building and logging. | Agree | 70.2% | 69.7% |
| | Disagree | 19.6% | 20.2% |
| 6 National Wildlife Refuges and state-owned lands in Vermont should be considered for wilderness designation. | Agree | 81.7% | 80.6% |
| | Disagree | 12.4% | 11.1% |
| <i>On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 not being important and 10 being extremely important, how important is it for the Green Mountain National Forest:</i> | | | |
| 7 to provide opportunities for camping, hunting, hiking, and other non-motorized recreational activities. | Mean | 8.5 | 8.1 |
| 8 to provide opportunities for riding snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. | Mean | 3.9 | 3.7 |
| 9 to protect wildlife habitat, watersheds, and natural processes. | Mean | 9.3 | 9.3 |
| 10 to provide opportunities for logging, grazing, or mining. | Mean | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| 11 to provide for economic development based on tourism, recreation, and enhanced quality of life that attracts new businesses. | Mean | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| 12 What percent of land in the state of Vermont do you think SHOULD be in wilderness areas? (currently 1%) | Mean | 6.5 | 7.6 |
| 13 I would support the establishment of additional wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest even if it required the removal or re-routing of snowmobile trails. | Agree | 65.2% | 68.2% |
| | Disagree | 26.8% | 26.4% |
| 14 I would support establishment of additional wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest if it required removal or rerouting of only secondary snowmobile trails and did not affect primary corridor trails. | Agree | 68.0% | 72.0% |
| | Disagree | 23.0% | 21.5% |
| 15 I would support establishment of additional wilderness areas if it affected less than 1% of the total mileage of the state snowmobile trail network. | Agree | 67.9% | 70.9% |
| | Disagree | 22.0% | 22.3% |