

To: Central Oregon Landwatch

From: Public Policy Polling

Date: February 28, 2022



# Skyline Forest Survey Findings

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Recently a poll conducted by the research firm Public Policy Polling surveyed residents of Bend and Sisters about their awareness and concerns about Skyline Forest: 33,000 acres of critically important forest to the West of Bend and Sisters. These are key findings from the statistically significant survey, which was conducted February 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## Key Findings

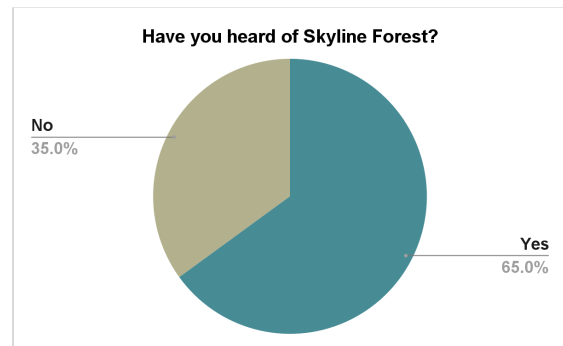
**Bend/Sisters residents have a high awareness of Skyline Forest. Two-thirds of respondents have heard of it, with nearly half saying they had visited it.**

Have you heard of the 33,000 acres of forest to the West of Bend and Sisters, known as Skyline Forest, or not?

- Yes: 65%
- No: 35%

Have you ever visited Skyline Forest?

- Yes: 48%
- No: 52%



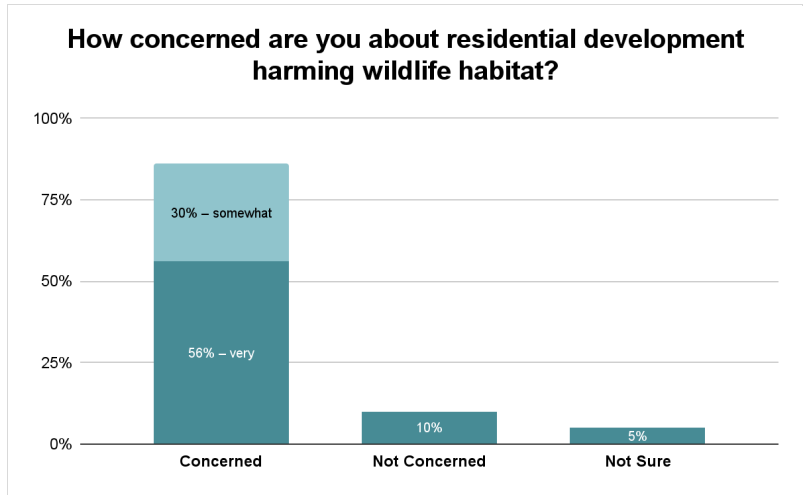
**Over two-thirds of respondents are aware of Skyline Forest's importance as wildlife habitat. Fully 86% are concerned about the impact of potential development on wildlife habitat.**

Did you know Skyline Forest is an important place for wildlife habitat, including seasonal migration routes for mule deer?

- Yes: 67%
- No: 33%

How concerned are you about residential development in Skyline Forest harming wildlife habitat?

- Very concerned: 56%
- Somewhat concerned: 30%
- Not at all concerned: 10%
- Not sure: 5%



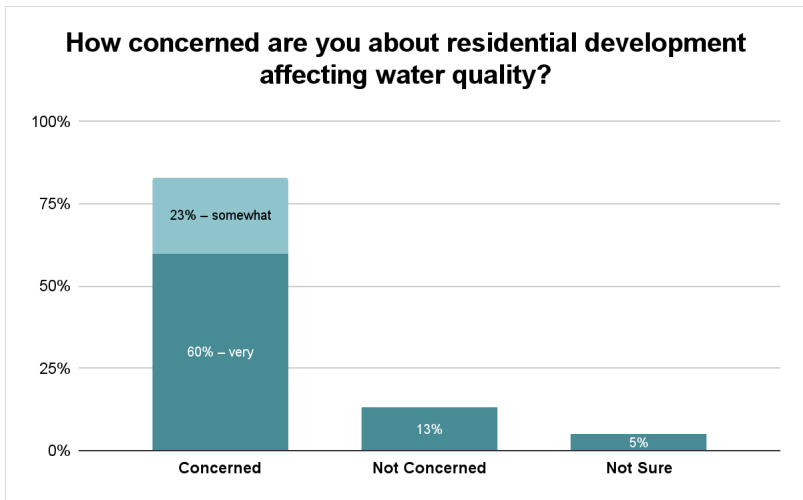
**Skyline Forest’s importance to preserving water quality is also of significant awareness, with 83% concerned about the impact of development.**

Did you know that Skyline Forest is located between Tumalo Creek and Whychus Creek, two important sources of cold, clean water for the Deschutes River system?

- Yes: 60%
- No: 40%

How concerned are you about residential development in Skyline Forest affecting water quality?

- Very concerned: 60%
- Somewhat concerned: 23%
- Not at all concerned: 13%
- Not sure: 5%



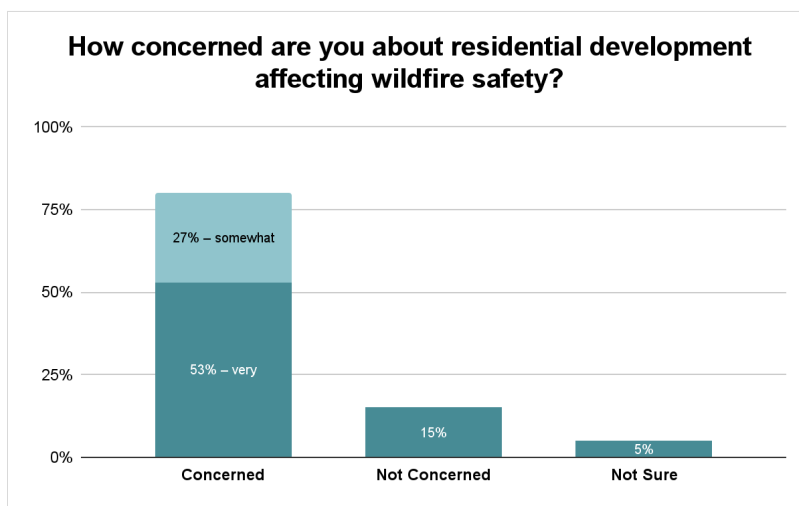
**Wildfire safety is also an element of high awareness and concern.**

Are you aware that since 2010, multiple wildfires have burned nearly 13,000 acres of Skyline Forest?

- Yes: 61%
- No 39%

How concerned are you about residential development in Skyline Forest affecting wildfire safety?

- Very concerned: 53%
- Somewhat concerned: 27%
- Not at all concerned: 15%
- Not sure: 5%



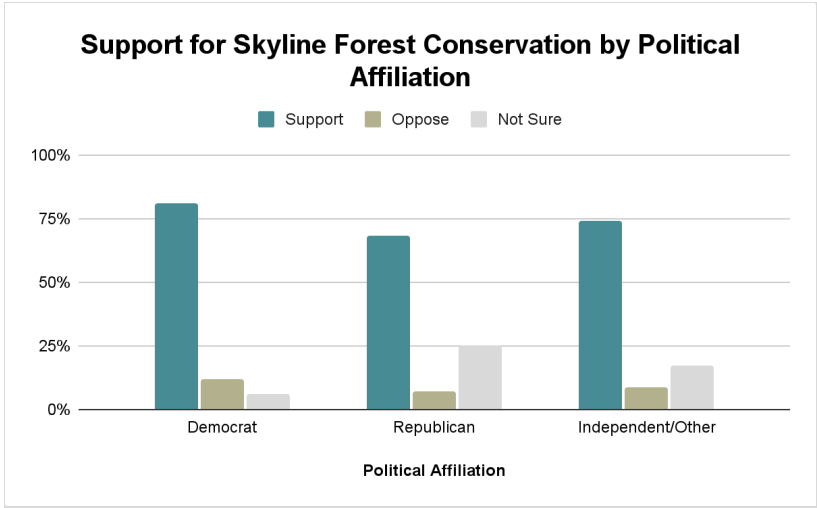
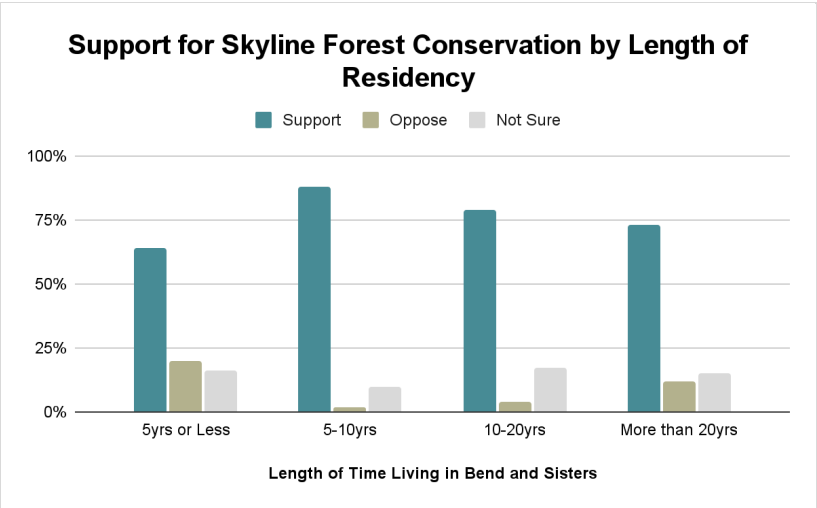
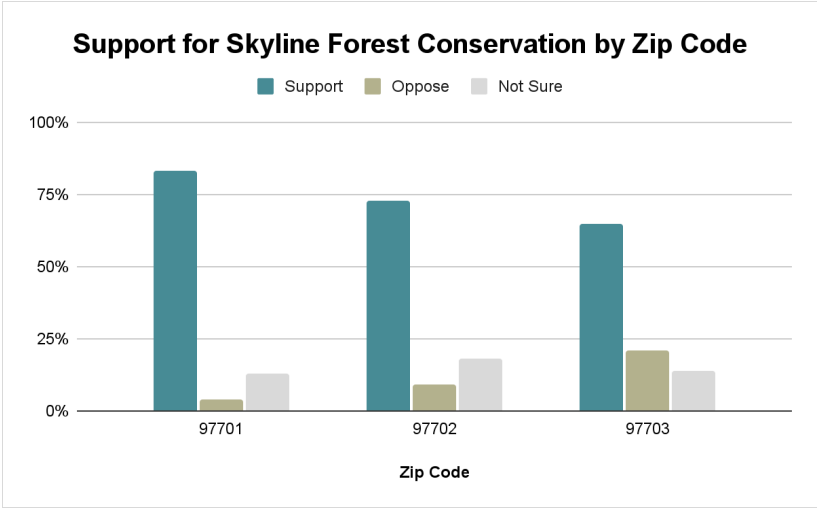
**Finally, residents oppose development and support conservation of the Skyline Forest by wide margins. The opposition to development and support of conservation cuts across age, zip code, length of time living in Bend and Sisters, and political affiliation by wide margins.**

Currently the owners of this 33,000 acre property are considering selling this land for residential development. Would you support or oppose significant residential development in Skyline Forest?

- Support: 12%
- Oppose: 70%
- Not sure: 18%

Would you support or oppose an effort to conserve Skyline Forest, with a focus on maintaining wildlife habitat, water quality, wildfire safety, and recreation?

- Support: 75%
- Oppose: 10%
- Not sure: 15%



## **Survey Methodology**

PPP conducted this survey on behalf of Central Oregon Landwatch, February 24-25, 2022. Respondents were reached by landline, cell phone, and SMS-text message.

- 529 Bend & Sisters voters, weighted proportional to population for:
  - Age
  - Zip code
  - Length of time living in Bend/Sisters (5yrs or less; 5-10yrs; 10-20yrs; more than 20yrs)
  - Political Affiliation
- Sampling error for the total sample of 529 registered voters: +/- 4.3%