

# Castle Special Management Area

## Lethbridge Public Opinion Study – Winter 2011







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# Methodology

-  **Population** The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 86,659 residents (2010 municipal census) approximately 80% of which are 18 years of age or older (69,327). A total of 42,373 Lethbridge residents are male (48.9%) while 44,286 are female (51.1%). South Lethbridge is home to 30,144 residents (34.8%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 31,399 residents (36.2%). There are 25,116 north Lethbridge residents (29.0%). Coaldale has a total population of 6,943 residents (2009 Census).
-  **Sample Data** were collected by Lethbridge College and Athabasca University students enrolled in STS270 – Social Science Research Methods in the winter of 2011. Students interviewed 771 randomly selected, adult Lethbridge and Coaldale residents by telephone on February 12–13, 2011 under the supervision of School of Liberal Arts faculty members Faron Ellis, PhD and Marda Schindeler, MA. Telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoCanada directories. We sincerely appreciate and thank all those who took time to respond to our survey. Full methodological notes for samples from previous Lethbridge and Alberta Public Opinion Studies can be obtained by visiting the CSRL web pages at: [www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/go/csrl](http://www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/go/csrl)
-  **Representativeness** Analysis of the demographic data indicates that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the adult population within the city of Lethbridge. The sample has been statistically weighted where necessary to even better reflect the demographic distribution of the population (gender, age and area of the city of Lethbridge).
-  **Confidence** The weighted sample yields a margin of error of  $\pm 3.51$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data. For example, the Lethbridge subsample margin of error is  $\pm 3.77$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, while the Coaldale subsample has a margin of error of  $\pm 9.52$  percentage points 19 times out of 20.
-  **IB Commons Call Centre** Students conducted interviews using the facilities of the Lethbridge College IB Commons Call Centre and applications developed by the Open Source Learning Lab. We thank Dr. James Manis and the OSLL for their efforts in working with us to establish and maintain the IB Commons Call Centre.
-  **Sponsorship** These data are part of a larger study of the opinions and attitudes of Lethbridge residents conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at Lethbridge College. This particular set of question was sponsored by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Southern Alberta Chapter. We thank CPAWS for their support of our research endeavors.

## Castle Special Management Area

This battery of questions was introduced to respondents by way of a description of the Castle Special Management Area as located on public land within the Alberta Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve and including the areas north of Waterton Lakes National Park to about 10 km south of the Crowsnest Pass, and from the Alberta-BC border to the eastern boundary of the Forest Reserve in the foothills.

Interview agents were also provided with maps of the area, campground and other recreation areas, important sites and recognizable landmarks within the area in order to ensure that respondents' understood the area we were asking for their opinions about.

Analysis of the data collection process indicates that, for the most part, the introductory description was all the information most respondents required and the limited amount of added clarification some respondents required took little time or effort to accomplish.

As the analysis that follows indicates, for the most part, Lethbridge and Coaldale residents overwhelmingly support conservation and preservation efforts over resource extraction and recreation activities within the Castle Special Management Area.

## Visits by Lethbridge and Coaldale Residents to the Castle Special Management Area

It is clear that Lethbridge and Coaldale residents make considerable use of the Castle. Only slightly more than one-quarter (27.8%) stated that they had never used the Castle while a clear majority consider themselves to be relatively frequent users with 21.4% stating they use the Castle at least once per year and fully one-third (33.8%) stating they make even more frequent use.

Few significant use differences were measured within demographic groups. Detailed tables are available upon requests.

Visits to Castle (%)

	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents		Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Never	27.6	24.5	<b>27.3</b>	Never	28.1	24.7	<b>27.8</b>
Less than 1/yr.	16.7	16.8	<b>16.7</b>	Less than 1/yr.	17.0	17.0	<b>17.0</b>
At least 1/yr.	21.2	19.2	<b>21.0</b>	At least 1/yr.	21.6	19.4	<b>21.4</b>
2-3/yr.	16.8	17.9	<b>16.9</b>	2 or more/yr.	33.4	38.9	<b>33.8</b>
4 plus/yr.	16.0	20.6	<b>16.4</b>				
Don't know	1.8	1.0	<b>1.8</b>				

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## No New Oil or Gas Developments in the Castle Special Management Area

- A clear and substantial majority of residents who expressed an opinion (78.1%) support the provincial government placing a moratorium on all new oil and gas developments in the Castle. Only 21.9% are opposed.

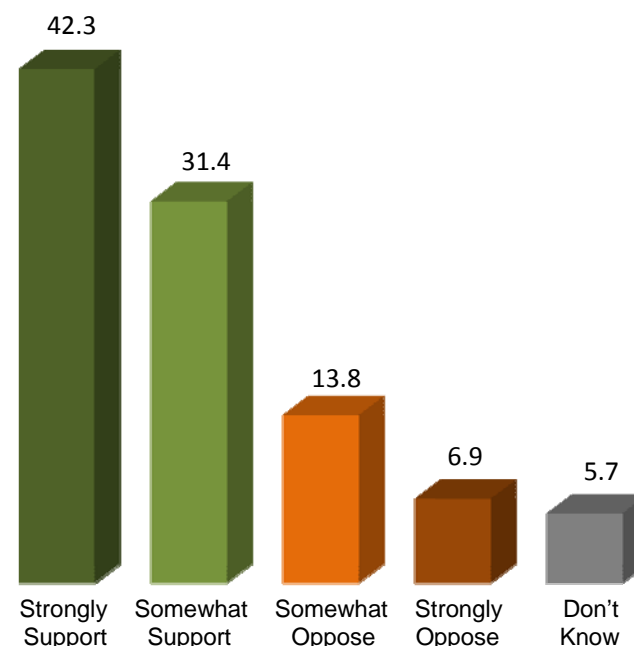
Fully 42.3% of all respondents strongly support a moratorium while a further 31.4% are somewhat supportive. Only 13.8% are somewhat opposed and fewer still (6.9%) are strongly opposed. Slightly more than one in twenty (5.7%) remain undecided.

- More frequent users of the Castle are only slightly more likely to support a moratorium than are less frequent and non-users. However, all user groups are substantially supportive and any differences between user groups are not statistically significant.

Lethbridge residents (78.9%) are slightly more supportive of an oil and gas moratorium than are Coaldale residents (69.4%).

Women (83.9%), baby boomers (84.5%), and provincial Liberal (86.1%) and NDP supporters (81.9%) are among the most supportive.

- It is evident from these data that a very substantial majority of Lethbridge and Coaldale residents support the provincial government not issuing any new oil or gas leases in the Castle Special Management Area.



### No New Oil or Gas Developments in Castle (%)

	All Respondents			Decided Respondents		
	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Strong support	42.5	39.4	<b>42.3</b>	Support	78.9	69.4
Some support	31.9	25.7	<b>31.4</b>			
Some opposed	13.1	20.7	<b>13.8</b>	Opposed	21.1	30.6
Strong oppose	6.8	8.0	<b>6.9</b>			
Don't know	5.6	6.2	<b>5.7</b>			
						<b>78.1</b>
						<b>21.9</b>

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Approved 2011 Commercial Logging in the Castle Special Management Area

- A clear and substantial majority of residents who expressed an opinion (85.4%) are opposed to the approved 2011 commercial license and planned logging in the Castle. Only 14.6% are supportive.

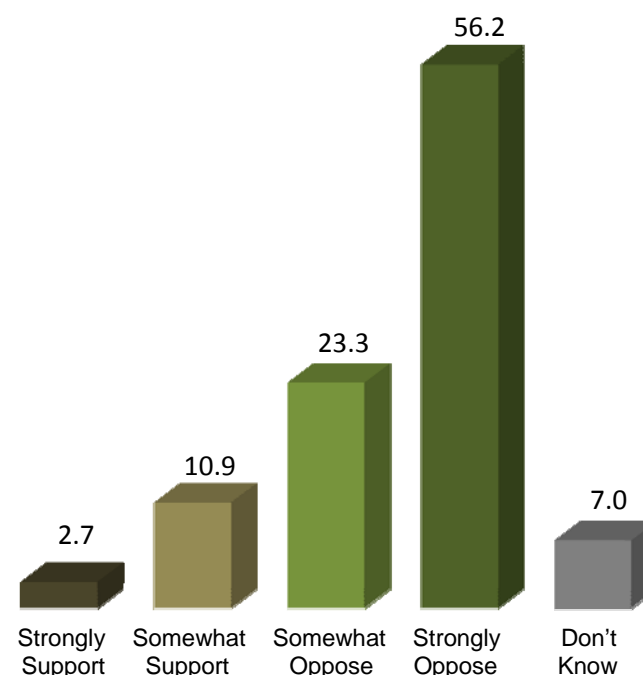
A full majority (56.2%) of all respondents are strongly opposed with a further 23.3% are somewhat opposed. Only 10.9% are somewhat supportive while very few (2.7%) are strongly supportive. Slightly more than one in twenty (7.0%) remain undecided.

- More frequent users of the Castle are only slightly more opposed to the planned logging than are non-users. However, all user groups are overwhelmingly opposed and any differences between groups are not statistically significant.

Lethbridge residents (86.4%) are slightly more opposed than are Coaldale residents (74.4%).

The youth (91.7%), most frequent users (88.0%) and provincial NDP supporters (92.5%) are among the most opposed.

- It is evident from these data that a very substantial majority of Lethbridge and Coaldale residents are opposed to this particular logging project in Castle Special Management Area.



### Approved 2011 Commercial Logging in Castle (%)

	All Residents				Decided Residents		
	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents		Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Strong support	2.6	3.5	<b>2.7</b>	Support	13.6	25.6	<b>14.6</b>
Some support	10.0	20.9	<b>10.9</b>	Opposed	86.4	74.4	<b>85.4</b>
Some opposed	23.4	22.1	<b>23.3</b>				
Strong oppose	56.9	48.8	<b>56.2</b>				
Don't know	7.2	4.7	<b>7.0</b>				

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly

## Declare the Castle Special Management Area a Wildland Park

- A clear and substantial majority of residents who expressed an opinion (86.9%) support the provincial government declaring the Castle a wildland park. Only 13.1% are opposed

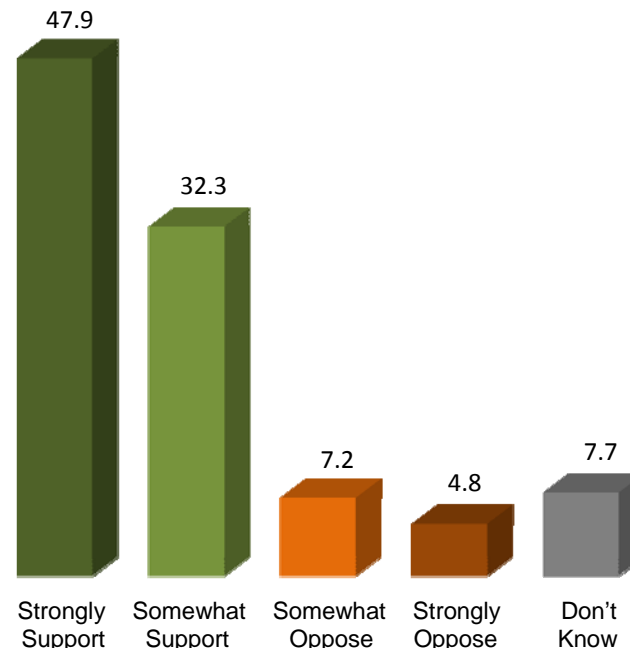
Fully 47.9% of all respondents strongly support making the Castle area a wildland park. A further 32.3% are somewhat supportive. Only 7.2% are somewhat opposed while fewer still (4.8%) are strongly opposed. A further 7.7% remain undecided.

- More frequent users of the Castle are only slightly more supportive than are non-users. However, all user groups are overwhelmingly supportive of declaring the Castle a wildland park and any differences between groups are not statistically significant.

Lethbridge residents (87.2%) are slightly more supportive than are Coaldale residents (83.9%).

Women (91.9%), baby boomers (89.9%), and provincial Liberal (92.7%) and NDP supporters (94.4%) are the most supportive.

- It is evident from these data that an overwhelming majority of Lethbridge and Coaldale residents support declaring the Castle Special Management Area a wildland park.



### Declare Castle a Wildland Park (%)

	All Residents				Decided Residents		
	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents		Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Strong support	48.5	41.5	<b>47.9</b>	Support Opposed	87.2 12.8	83.9 16.1	<b>86.9</b> <b>13.1</b>
Some support	31.9	37.4	<b>32.3</b>				
Some opposed	7.1	8.4	<b>7.2</b>				
Strong oppose	4.7	6.8	<b>4.8</b>				
Don't know	7.9	5.9	<b>7.7</b>				

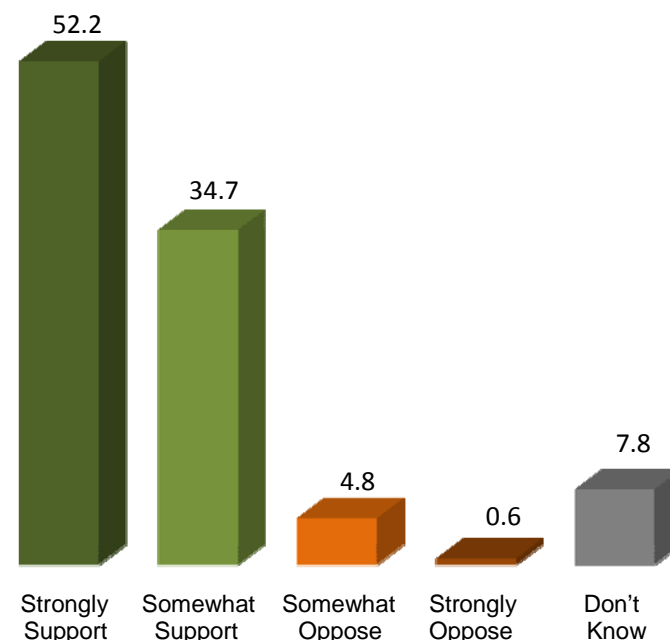
Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Watershed Protection Versus Recreational Opportunities in the Castle

- An overwhelming majority of residents who expressed an opinion (94.2%) support protecting the Castle watershed over providing recreational opportunities in the area. Only 5.8% are more inclined to support recreational opportunities.

A clear majority (52.2%) of all respondents believe protecting the watershed is much more important than providing recreational opportunities. A further 34.7% believe protecting the watershed is somewhat more important. Less than one in twenty (4.8%) are somewhat inclined to favor recreation while a meager 0.6% are strongly disposed to favoring recreational opportunities. A further 7.8% remain undecided.

- Over 90% of virtually all demographic groups are in favor of protecting the watershed rather than providing recreational opportunities.
- It is evident from these data that the vast majority of Lethbridge and Coaldale residents are clearly in favor of protecting the Castle Special Management Area's watershed, even at the risk of potentially limiting recreational opportunities.



### Watershed vs. Recreation in Castle (%)

	All Residents			Decided Residents		
	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Watershed much	53.7	36.1	<b>52.2</b>			
Watershed some	33.6	46.8	<b>34.7</b>	Watershed	94.4	92.4
Recreation some	4.7	5.3	<b>4.8</b>	Recreation	5.6	7.6
Recreation much	0.5	1.5	<b>0.6</b>			
Don't know	7.5	10.3	<b>7.8</b>			

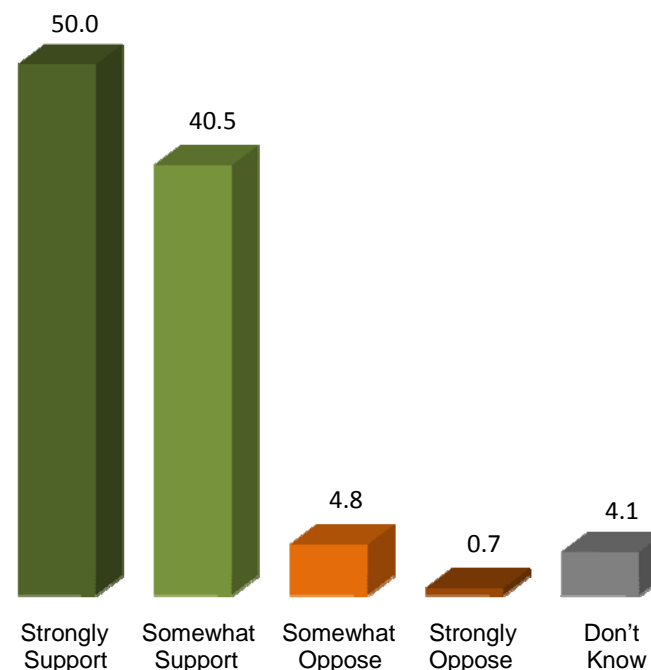
Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Wildlife Habitat Protection Versus Recreational Opportunities in the Castle

- An overwhelming majority of residents who expressed an opinion (94.3%) support protecting the Castle wildlife habitat over providing recreational opportunities in the area. Only 5.7% are more inclined to support recreational opportunities.

A majority (50.0%) of all respondents believe protecting wildlife habitat is much more important than providing recreational opportunities. A further 40.5% believe protecting wildlife habitat is somewhat more important. Less than one in twenty (4.8%) are somewhat inclined to favor recreation while a meager 0.7% are strongly disposed to favoring recreational opportunities. A further 4.1% remain undecided.

- Over 90% of all demographic groups are in favor of protecting wildlife habitat rather than providing recreational opportunities.
- It is evident from these data that the vast majority of Lethbridge and Coaldale residents are clearly in favor of protecting the Castle Special Management Area's wildlife habitat, even at the risk of potentially limiting recreational opportunities.



### Habitat vs. Recreation in Castle (%)

	All Residents			Decided Residents		
	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Habitat much	51.6	31.6	<b>50.0</b>			
Habitat some	38.8	58.5	<b>40.5</b>	Habitat	94.2	95.0
Recreation some	4.9	3.0	<b>4.8</b>	Recreation	5.8	5.0
Recreation much	0.6	1.8	<b>0.7</b>			
Don't know	4.0	5.2	<b>4.1</b>			

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%



## No new oil or gas developments should be allowed in Castle (%)

Region	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Support	78.9	69.4	78.1
Oppose	21.1	30.6	21.9

Visits to Castle	Never (last 10 years)	Less than once per year	At least once per year	Two or more times per year
Support	73.1	72.5	85.5	78.5
Oppose	26.9	27.5	14.5	21.5

Gender*	Male	Female
Support	72.4	83.9
Oppose	27.6	16.1

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40-\$80,000	Over \$80,000
Support	76.8	77.5	78.2
Oppose	23.2	22.5	21.8

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Support	70.6	77.2	84.5	77.7
Oppose	29.4	22.8	15.5	22.3

Provincial Vote Intention	PC	Wildrose	Liberal	NDP	Undecided
Support	75.7	72.1	86.1	81.9	77.7
Oppose	24.3	27.9	13.9	18.1	22.3

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100; \* sig < 0.05

## Scheduled Licensed Logging of Castle in 2011 (%)

Region	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Support	13.6	25.6	14.6
Oppose	86.4	74.4	85.4

Visits to Castle	Never (last 10 years)	Less than once per year.	At least once per year	Two or more times per year
Support	18.8	14.4	14.0	12.0
Oppose	81.3	85.6	86.0	88.0

Gender	Male	Female
Support	15.9	13.0
Oppose	84.1	87.0

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40-\$80,000	Over \$80,000
Support	14.4	12.1	18.9
Oppose	85.6	87.9	81.1

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Support	8.3	20.9	15.3	13.1
Oppose	91.7	79.1	84.7	86.9

Provincial Vote Intention	PC	Wildrose	Liberal	NDP	Undecided
Support	19.6	14.1	10.2	7.5	15.9
Oppose	80.4	85.9	89.8	92.5	84.1

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100; \* sig < 0.05

## Declare Castle a Wildland Park (%)

Region	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Support	87.2	83.9	86.9
Oppose	12.8	16.1	13.1

Visits to Castle	Never (last 10 years)	Less than once per year.	At least once per year	Two or more times per year
Support	83.2	85.7	90.5	88.0
Oppose	16.8	14.3	9.5	12.0

Gender*	Male	Female
Support	81.9	91.9
Oppose	18.1	8.1

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40-\$80,000	Over \$80,000
Support	88.8	81.6	89.2
Oppose	11.2	18.4	10.8

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Support	87.7	87.0	89.9	83.0
Oppose	12.3	13.0	10.1	17.0

Provincial Vote Intention*	PC	Wildrose	Liberal	NDP	Undecided
Support	81.9	81.5	92.7	94.4	92.6
Oppose	18.1	18.5	7.3	5.6	7.4

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100; \* sig < 0.05

## Protect Watershed or Provide for Recreation in Castle (%)

Region	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Watershed	94.4	92.4	94.2
Recreation	5.6	7.6	5.8

Visits to Castle	Never (last 10 years)	Less than once per year.	At least once per year	Two or more times per year
Watershed	93.8	95.0	94.6	93.2
Recreation	6.3	5.0	5.4	6.8

Gender	Male	Female
Watershed	93.1	95.2
Recreation	6.9	4.8

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40-\$80,000	Over \$80,000
Watershed	91.0	95.1	94.9
Recreation	9.0	4.9	5.1

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Watershed	91.1	94.0	94.6	96.7
Recreation	8.9	6.0	5.4	3.3

Provincial Vote Intention	PC	Wildrose	Liberal	NDP	Undecided
Watershed	92.6	96.8	98.2	97.3	88.0
Recreation	7.4	3.2	1.8	2.7	12.0

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100; \* sig < 0.05

## Protect Wildlife Habitat or Provide for Recreation in Castle (%)

Region	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Habitat	94.2	95.0	94.3
Recreation	5.8	5.0	5.7

Visits to Castle	Never (last 10 years)	Less than once per year.	At least once per year	Two or more times per year
Habitat	94.1	94.4	93.1	95.0
Recreation	5.9	5.6	6.9	5.0

Gender*	Male	Female
Habitat	91.7	96.7
Recreation	8.3	3.3

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40-\$80,000	Over \$80,000
Habitat	93.4	92.6	95.6
Recreation	6.6	7.4	4.4

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Habitat	95.5	95.5	95.6	90.7
Recreation	4.5	4.5	4.4	9.3

Provincial Vote Intention	PC	Wildrose	Liberal	NDP	Undecided
Habitat	93.8	95.5	94.7	98.6	91.7
Recreation	6.3	4.5	5.3	1.4	8.3

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100; \* sig < 0.05

# Demographics

Gender (%)		Area of City (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
Male	49.1	South	33.3	Under \$40,000	35.7	H-School/less	22.9	18-29	21.6
Female	50.9	North	30.1	\$40-\$80,000	34.6	Some P-Sec.	21.3	30-44	20.6
		West	36.6	Over \$80,000	29.6	Col-Tech-Grad	25.7	45-64	30.8
						University Grad	30.1	65 or older	27.0

Provincial Vote Intention (%)	
Progressive Conservative	27.7
Wildrose Alliance	19.4
Liberal	15.7
NDP	10.4
Alberta Party	4.0
Other parties & independents	6.1
Undecided	16.7

## Questions

The next few questions are about the Castle Special Management Area which is located on public land within the Alberta Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve. The Castle includes the areas north of Waterton Lakes National Park to about 10 km south of the Crowsnest Pass, and from the Alberta-BC border to the eastern boundary of the Forest Reserve in the foothills.

On average, how often do you visit or use the Castle Special Management Area? (for any purpose)

- Never (not in last 10 years)
- Less than once per year
- At least once per year
- Two or three times per year
- More than three times per year
- (don't know) (unprompted)
- (refused) (unprompted)

To help protect its natural state, the province of Alberta should not allow any new oil or gas development projects in the Castle SMA.

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know (unprompted)
- Refused (unprompted)

The Alberta government has approved a commercial logging license that will see new block-cut or clear-cut logging take place later this year in the areas around Castle Falls, Beaver Mines Lake and Lynx Creek. It is not selective logging. Please tell me how much you support or oppose this commercial logging project inside the Castle Special Management Area?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know (unprompted)
- Refused (unprompted)

Selective Logging – selected trees are removed but most of the forest growth remains in tact  
 Bloc-cut Logging – most of the forest growth is removed with seed trees left to initiate new growth  
 Clear-cut logging – most of the forest growth is removed and replanting is required

If the Castle Special Management area was to be declared a Wildland Park, all of the current types of recreation activities, as well as summer grazing of cattle and existing oil and gas developments would be allowed to continue, but no commercial logging, no mining, nor any new oil and gas leases would allowed. Please tell me how much you support or oppose changing the status of the Castle Special Management area to a Wildland Park? (This would not include Castle Mountain Resort AKA West Castle, the ski hill...)

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know (unprompted)
- Refused (unprompted)

Please tell me which of the following best represents your opinion concerning the sometimes competing demands of protecting the watershed and providing recreational opportunities within the Castle Special Management area? Would you say...?

- protecting the watershed is much more important than providing recreational opportunities
- protecting the watershed is somewhat more important than providing recreational opportunities
- providing recreational opportunities is somewhat more important than protecting the watershed
- providing recreational opportunities is much more important than protecting the watershed
- Don't know (unprompted)
- Refused (unprompted)

Please tell me which of the following best represents your opinion concerning the sometimes competing demands of protecting wildlife habitat and providing recreational opportunities within the Castle Special Management area? Would you say...?

- protecting wildlife habitat is much more important than providing recreational opportunities
- protecting wildlife habitat is somewhat more important than providing recreational opportunities
- providing recreational opportunities is somewhat more important than protecting wildlife habitat
- providing recreational opportunities is much more important than protecting wildlife habitat
- Don't know (unprompted)
- Refused (unprompted)