

Winter Recreation Impact Survey
February 2019
Conducted by Sandra Howard, PhD

Summary:

This online survey was distributed electronically and participants responded during a 4-week period between January 18-February 18, 2019. The prompt to participants read as follows: “We are collecting data about the winter recreation experience in western Maine. These data will be used in response to a proposed 145-mile transmission line through Maine, which would include crossing many mountains, wetlands, and waterways in an undeveloped region of western Maine.”

- 163 Participants

- State of Residence
 - Connecticut (8.0%)
 - Maine (65.6%)
 - Massachusetts (17.8%)
 - New Hampshire (4.3%)
 - Other – Maryland, New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania (4.3%)

- Year of most recent trip to Maine
 - 2019 (84.6%)
 - 2018 (13.5%)
 - 2017 (1.9%)

- Duration of most recent trip to western Maine
 - 1-2 days (14.1%)
 - 3-4 days (40.4%)
 - 5 or more days (30%)
 - Seasonal Resident (3.9%)
 - Year-Round Resident (11.6%)

- Number of times traveled to area to participate in winter rec. activities
 - 1-5 times (8.6%)
 - 6-10 times (11.6%)
 - 11-15 times (7.4%)
 - 16-20 times (7.4%)
 - 20+ times (65%)

- Activities engaged in on most recent trip to area (*select one or more)
 - Purchased Fuel (91.4%)
 - Purchased Meals/Drinks at Local Restaurant (90.8%)
 - Snowmobiling (86.5%)
 - Purchased Grocery Items (81.6%)
 - Viewed scenery (75.5%)
 - Purchased Retail Items (68.1%)
 - Stayed at Area-Owned Home (55.2%)

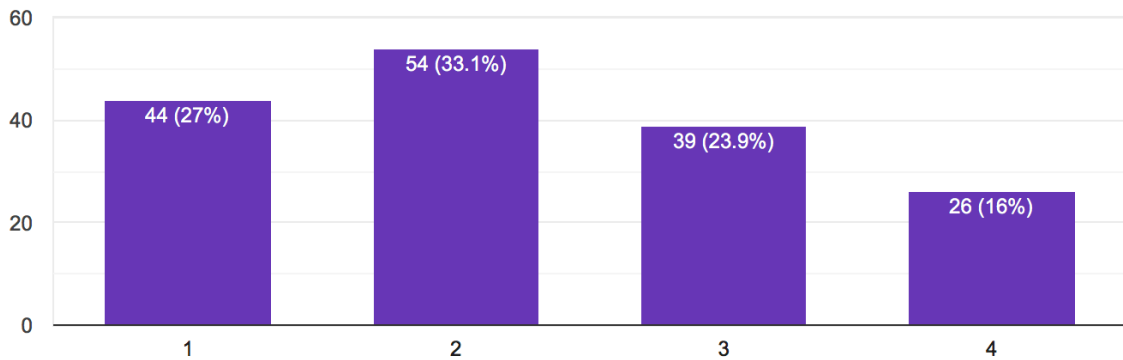
- Stayed at Area-Lodging Accommodations (50.3%)
- Snowshoeing/Winter hiking (39.9%)
- Ice Fishing (39.3%)
- Cross-country skiing (19%)
- Rented Snowmobile (6.7%)
- Other (6.6%)
- Hired Snowmobile Guide (1.8%)

• RATE EACH FACTOR FOR SELECTING A SNOWMOBILE DESTINATION:

Driving distance from home



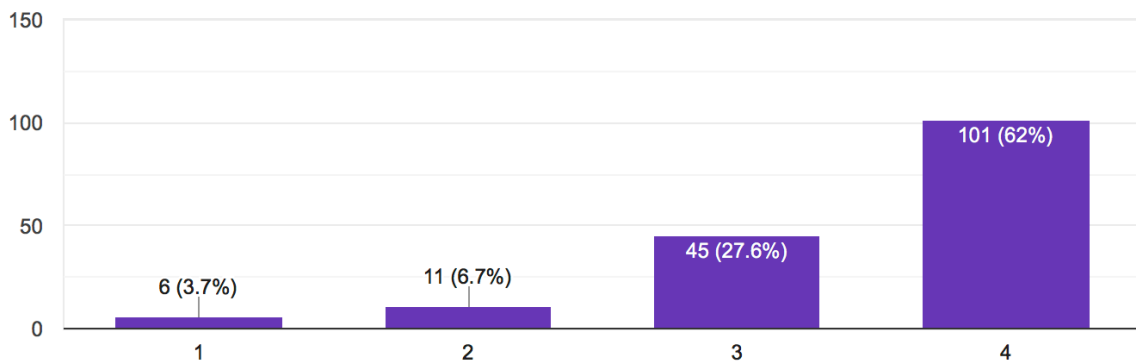
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

Trail conditions

163 responses

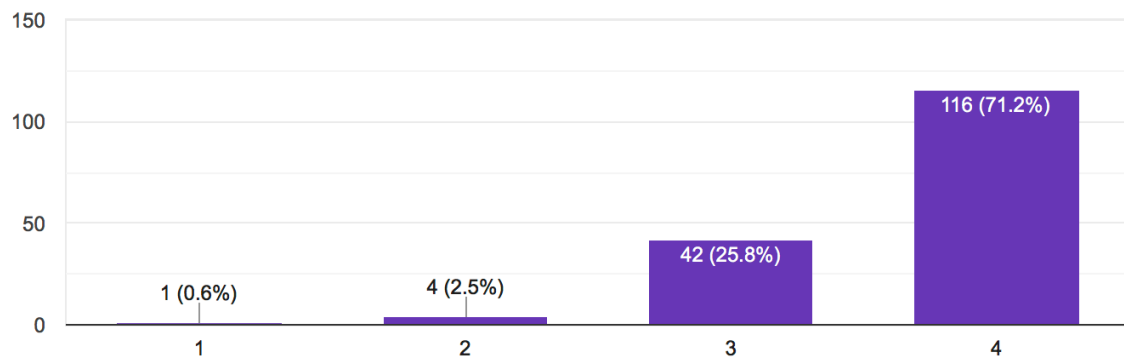


SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

Scenic beauty along snowmobile trails



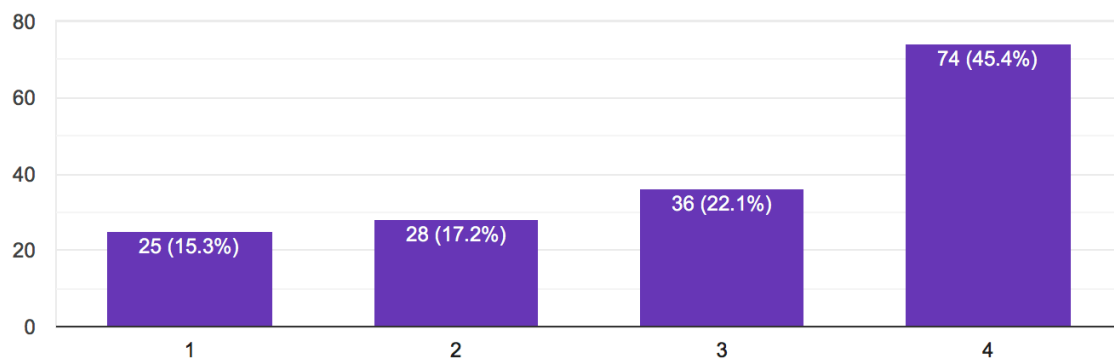
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

Ability to participate in other recreation activities (i.e. ice fishing, snowshoeing, x-country skiing, etc.)

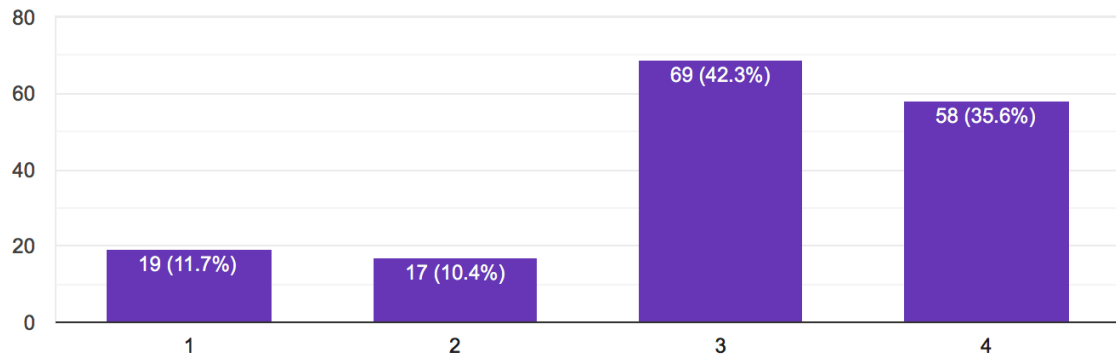
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

Area Accommodations

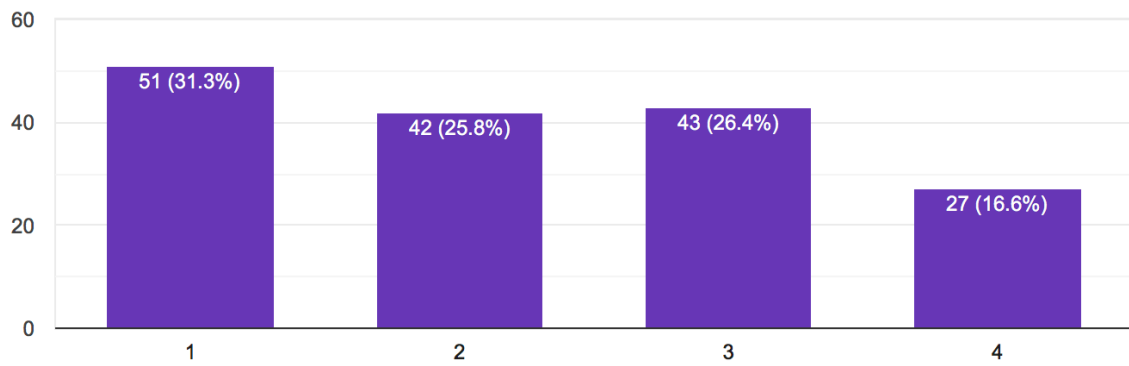
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

Internet Access

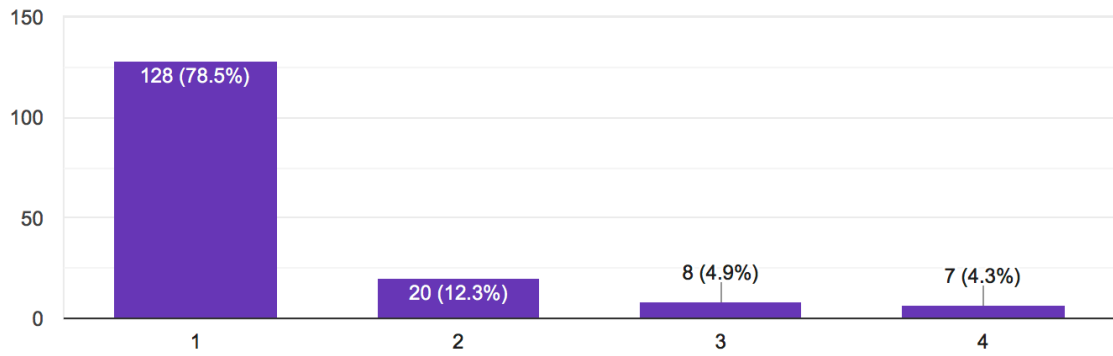
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

Opportunity to view large-scale utility infrastructure in the area

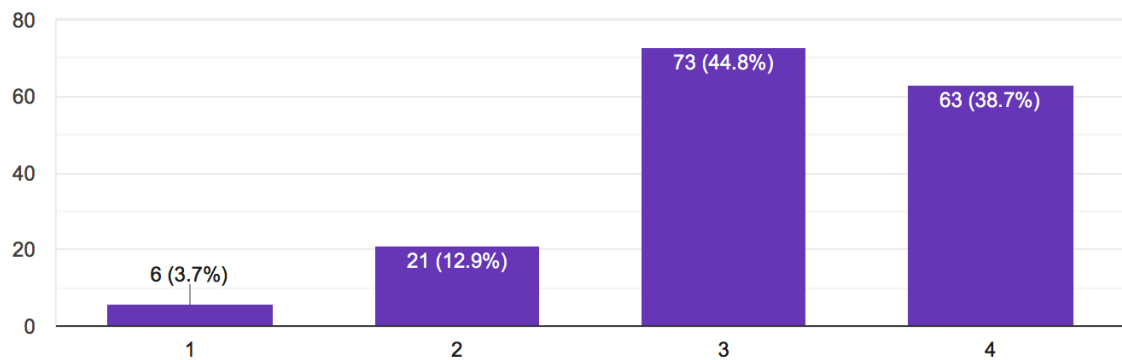
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

Area Restaurants

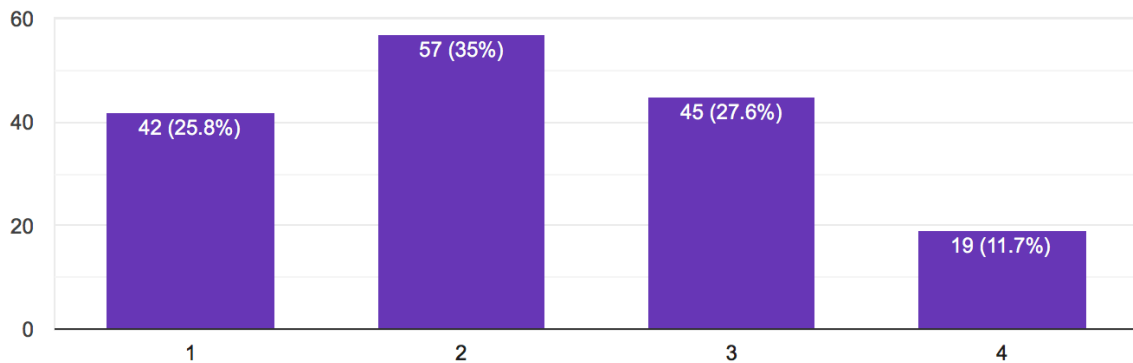
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

Area Shopping

163 responses

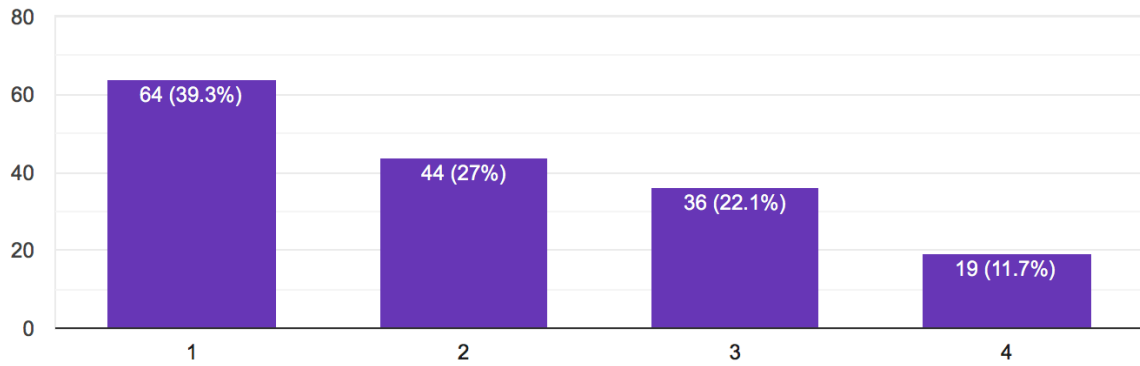


SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

Area Rentals



163 responses

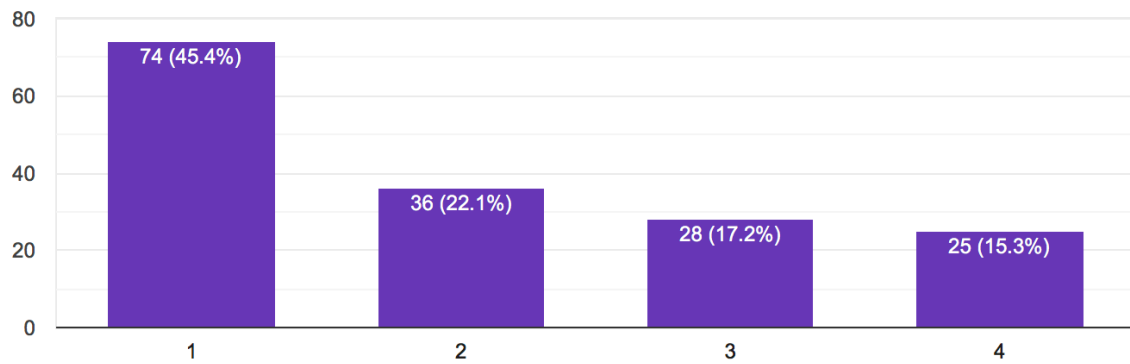


SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

Area Guides



163 responses

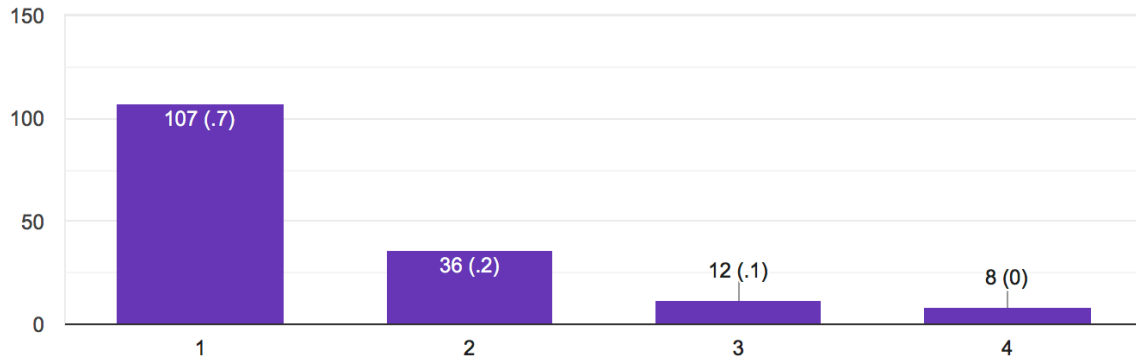


SCALE (1 = Less Important; 4 = Very Important)

- RATE YOUR PREFERENCE FOR EACH TYPE OF SNOWMOBILING EXPERIENCE BELOW:

Riding along a power line trail

163 responses

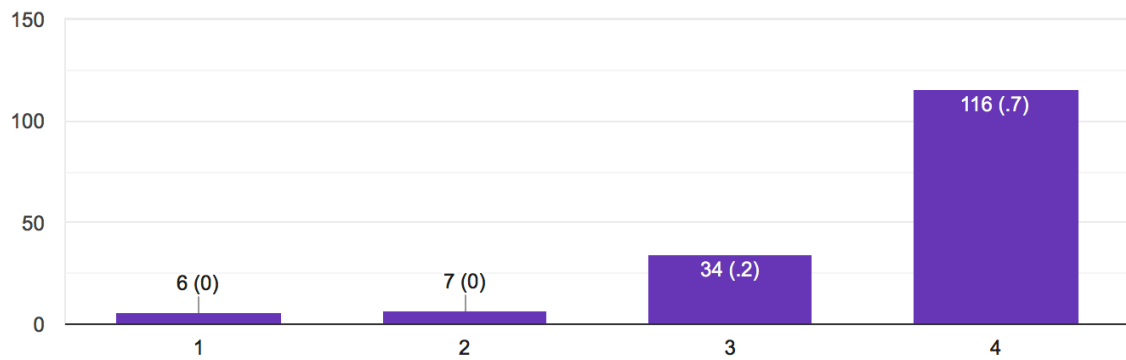


SCALE (1 = Least Preferred; 4 = Most Preferred)

Groomed trail riding in forested areas



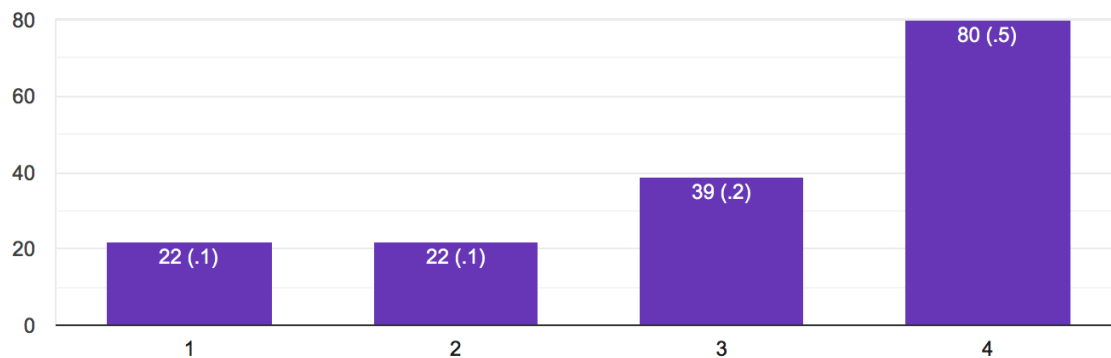
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Least Preferred; 4 = Most Preferred)

Riding with few road or power line crossings

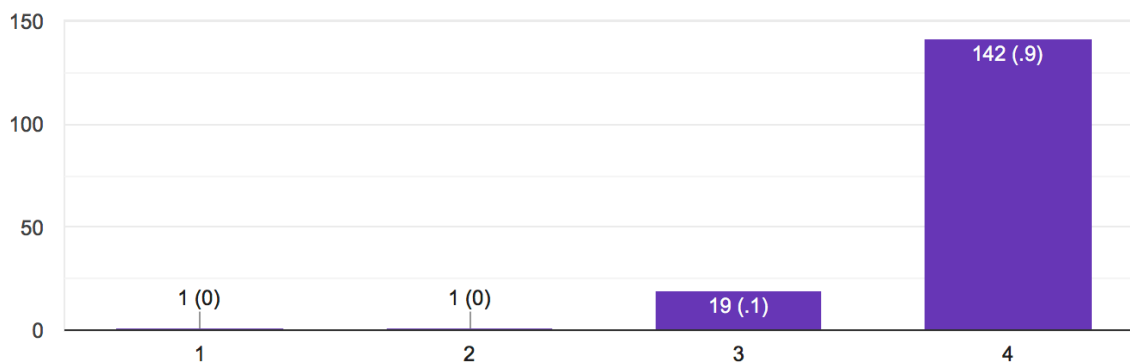
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Least Preferred; 4 = Most Preferred)

Riding along mountain view trails with overlooks

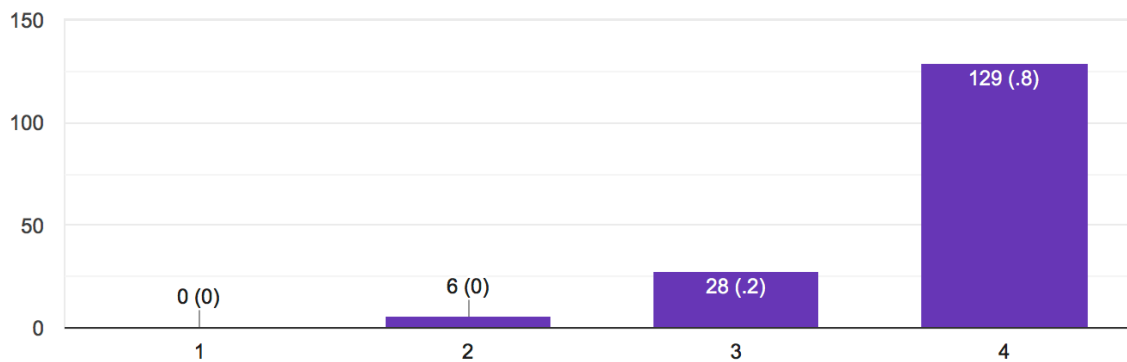
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Least Preferred; 4 = Most Preferred)

Seeing wildlife in their natural setting

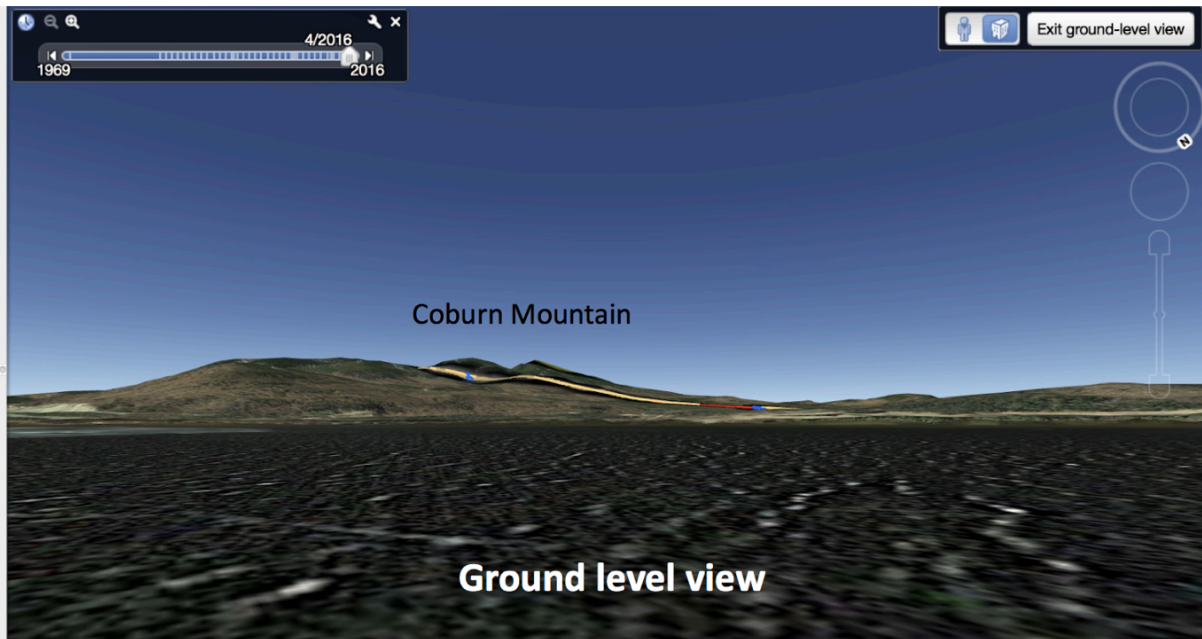
163 responses



SCALE (1 = Least Preferred; 4 = Most Preferred)

- Participants were asked to “look at the scenic photos and GIS simulation photos that show a 150-foot wide cleared corridor with 100-foot transmission towers.”

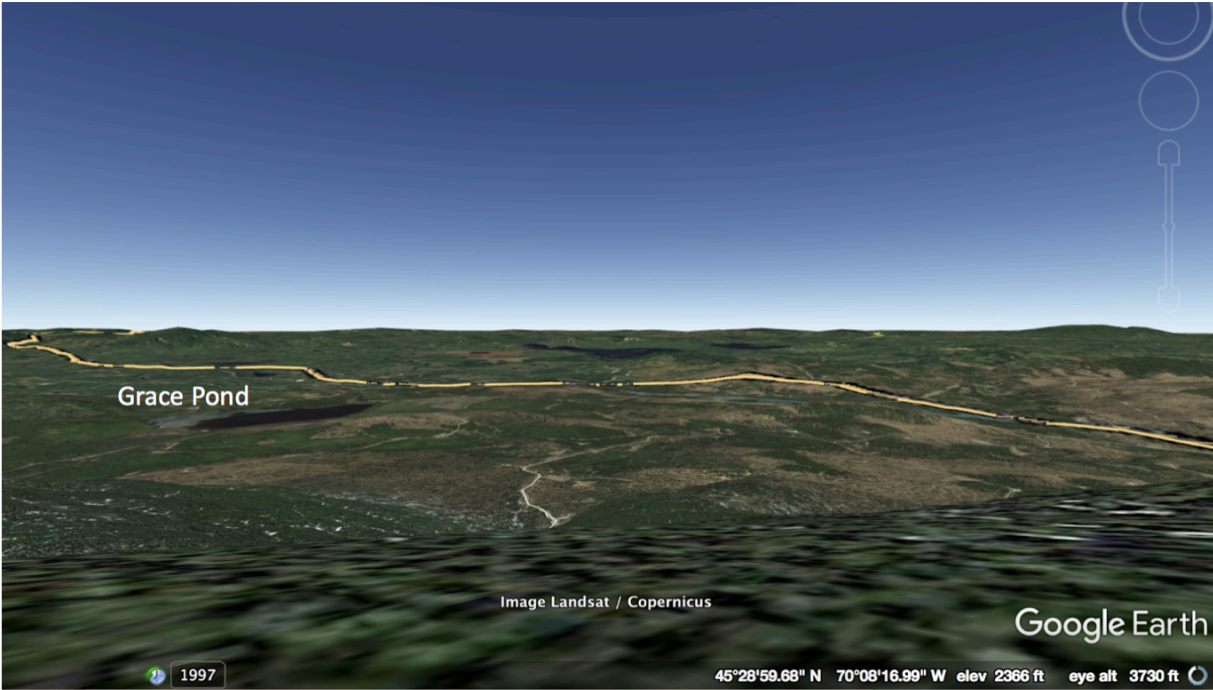
GIS simulation of proposed transmission corridor at Coburn Mountain



Snowmobilers at the top of Coburn Mountain



View of Grace Pond from the top of Coburn Mountain - GIS simulation of transmission corridor



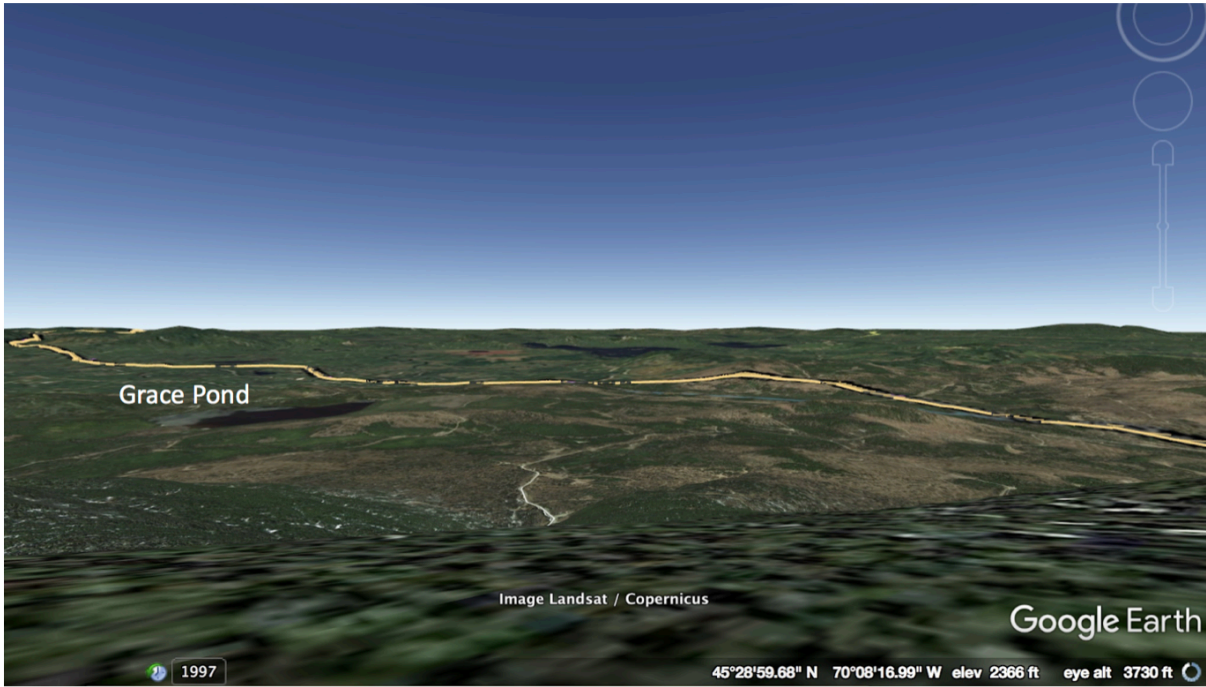
View of Grace Pond from the top of Coburn Mountain



View of Johnson Mountain from the top of Coburn Mountain - GIS simulation of transmission corridor

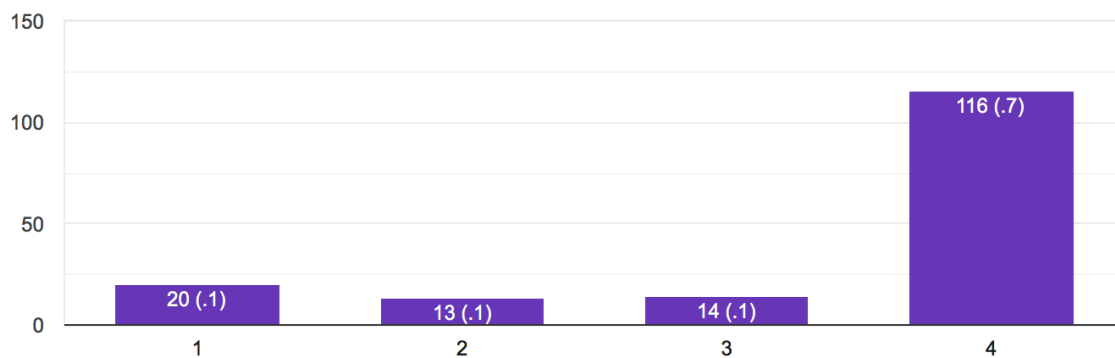


View of Grace Pond from the top of Coburn Mountain - GIS simulation of transmission corridor



What visual impact would a 150-foot wide cleared corridor with 90-foot transmission towers have on your wilderness snowmobiling experience?

163 responses

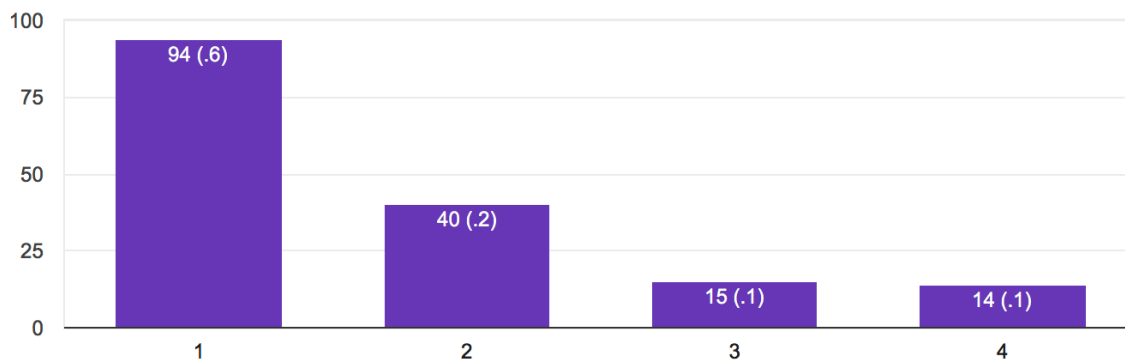


SCALE (1 = Little Negative Impact; 4 = Strong Negative Impact)

Would you be more or less likely to visit a scenic area which contains large-scale developments for a snowmobiling destination?



163 responses

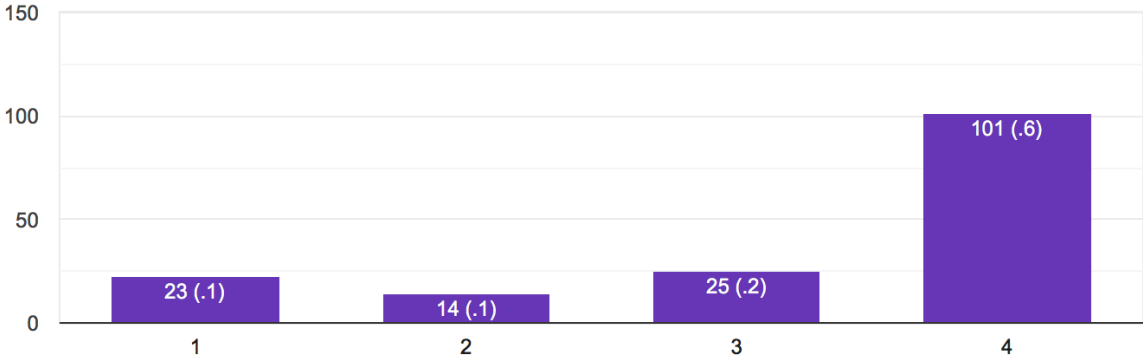


SCALE (1 = Little Negative Impact; 4 = Strong Negative Impact)

What impact would the presence of a 150-foot wide cleared corridor with 90-foot transmission towers have on your decision for a return visit the area in the future?



163 responses



SCALE (1 = Little Negative Impact; 4 = Strong Negative Impact)
