

WYOMING



Wyoming voters are registering a strong affinity for outdoor recreation and increasing concern about rivers and water.

On Water:

- Voters in Wyoming are concerned about the state's water supply, with 66% saying inadequate water supplies are a serious problem.
- These concerns about water extend to the state's rivers, as 83% of Wyoming voters say the low levels of water in the state are a serious problem.
- Voters are also worried about water levels at the state's higher elevation, with 87% saying a low level of snowpack in the mountains is a serious problem. This number includes the significant majority (63%) of voters who say it is an extremely serious or very serious problem.

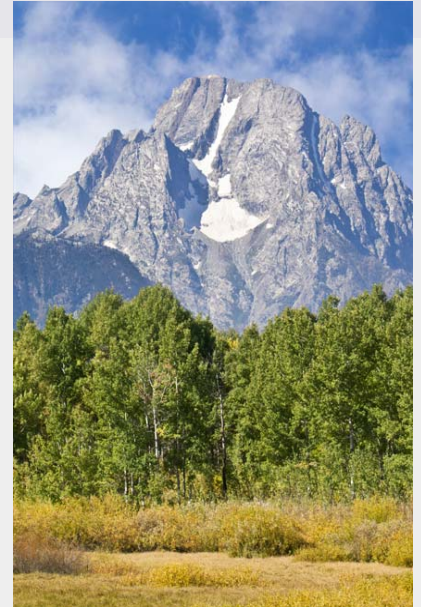
Connection to Conservation:

- The vast majority (73%) of Wyoming voters say they are conservationists.
- Wyomingites spend a great deal of time outdoors. Sixty-seven percent (67%) are regular campers and 58% say they hike regularly. Close to half (47%) spend time bird watching or viewing other wildlife.
- Fully 69% of voters in Wyoming plan to visit a national park in 2013.
- More than three-quarters (77%) of Wyoming voters say children not spending enough time outdoors is a serious problem.



On the Politics of Conservation:

- A plurality (40%) of Wyoming voters say they are not sure what position their Representative has taken on protecting land, air, and water in the state.
- Support for public lands is a winning political issue in the state, as 45% of Wyoming voters say they would view a Republican elected official more favorably if they spoke in support of public lands. A Democratic elected official would enjoy a similar amount of good will, as 41% say they would have a more favorable impression if they spoke in support of public lands.



On Public Lands:

- Support for public lands is close to unanimous among Wyoming voters, as 94% agree that they are an essential part of the state's economy.
- Fully 78% of Wyomingites believe public lands in the state support the economy, provide recreation opportunities, and enhance quality of life, rather than being a fiscal burden and preventing creation of jobs in traditional industries.
- Voters in Wyoming view public lands as a job creator, with 74% of voters agreeing that national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas help attract high quality employers and good jobs to the state.
- Wyoming voters strongly oppose selling off public lands as a way to reduce the deficit, with only 28% supporting selling off the land, compared to 66% who oppose it. More than half (53%) of voters in the state say they are strongly opposed to selling public lands for that purpose.

On Energy Development:

- Wind power (44%) and natural gas (42%) top the list of power sources that the Wyoming voters would encourage use of in the state.
- Interestingly, a majority (52%) of voters in Wyoming believe oil and gas drilling is taking place in national forests, but a much smaller percentage (29%) believe it is happening in national parks.
- Two-thirds (66%) of Wyoming voters say that oil and gas drilling is booming in the state.

