

# UTAH



*Utah voters place the healthy, outdoor lifestyle, the ability to live near public lands, and the low cost of living at the top of reasons they live in the West. Public lands ties economic opportunities as the greatest draw, but they worry about the state's rivers and water supply.*

A majority of Utahans say that the state's healthy, outdoor lifestyle and the ability to live near and enjoy public lands are significant factors in their decision to live and stay in the West. Voters in the Beehive State are also more likely than voters in any other Western State to say the cost of living is a major reason they choose to live in the West.

“ I had a lot of family here and the economy is good, housing cheaper, gas cheaper. ”

“ Because I like Utah. I like the national parks. I like the outdoors, the recreation possibilities. ”

<i>Top Reasons for Living in the West Ranked By Significant Factor</i>	<i>Significant Factor</i>	<i>A Factor</i>
<b>Healthy, outdoor lifestyle</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>Ability to live near, recreate on and enjoy public lands like national parks and forests</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Cost of living</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>86%</b>



*When it comes to enjoying the healthy, outdoor lifestyle in the state, Utahans are more than just talk. A whopping 96% say that they visited national public lands, like national parks or national monuments, at least once in 2014, and three-in-five visited six or more times.*

Despite being at the epicenter of a national debate over state takeover of federally-managed public lands, Utah voters say they view these public lands as belonging to ALL Americans, rather than belonging more to the people of Utah.

**American Places**

**60%**

**State Places**

**30%**



*In addition, Utah voters place a major emphasis on protecting and conserving wildlife habitat and protecting public lands for future generations.*

**Top Priorities for Public Lands**

**Very Important**

**Total Important**

**Protecting and conserving natural areas for future generations**

**78%**

**96%**

**Protecting and conserving wildlife habitat**

**71%**

**95%**



*Utahans' passion for protecting wildlife habitats is also likely a reason for the state's strong support for the Bureau of Land Management establishing strong protections in sage grouse habitat, including limiting some energy development, grazing and off-road vehicle use (67% support, 28% oppose).*



Voters in the state are also concerned that there are not enough resources available to properly maintain and take care of national parks, forests, and other public land, with 67% of voters saying this is a serious problem.

In a similar vein, the vast majority (69%) of Utah voters say making sure that rangers have the resources they need to take care of public lands is a very important priority for public lands.

Very  
Important

Total  
Important

69%

95%

**Making sure that rangers have the resources they need to take care of public lands and provide services to visitors**

**Two-thirds (67%) say lack of resources to properly maintain and care for these U.S. lands is a serious problem.**

Water is another issue that weighs on the minds of Utah voters, with 82% citing inadequate water supplies as a serious problem. Voters also worry about the low levels of water in rivers and the continued pollution of rivers, lakes and streams. When it comes to addressing water in their state, Utah voters strongly prefer conservation of the current water supply, rather than diverting more water from rivers in less populated areas.

**Using our current water supply more wisely, by encouraging more water conservation, reducing use, and increasing recycling of water**

**79%**

**Diverting more water from rivers in less populated areas of the state to communities where more people live**

**14%**









**Lastly, Utah voters clearly set the conservation agenda for this new congress:**

**Congressional Actions Ranked By Support**

	Support	Oppose
Continue to use some of the money from fees charged to oil and gas companies that drill offshore for conservation of natural areas and clean water, and to ensure access to outdoor recreation	75%	9%
Future Presidents continuing to protect existing public lands as national monuments	70%	21%
Continue taxpayer support for solar and wind energy production	69%	22%
Sell significant holdings of public lands like national forests to reduce the budget deficit	20%	67%

**What's Unique About Utah?**

	88%	Highest of any state – view air pollution and smog as a serious problem, driven by continued concerns in the Salt Lake region
	72%	Highest of any state – say our dependence on oil is a serious problem
		Utah voters are some of the least likely to say commercial activities like grazing, mining and energy development on public lands are important
		Utah has the youngest voting population of any of the states in this region