

KEY FINDINGS

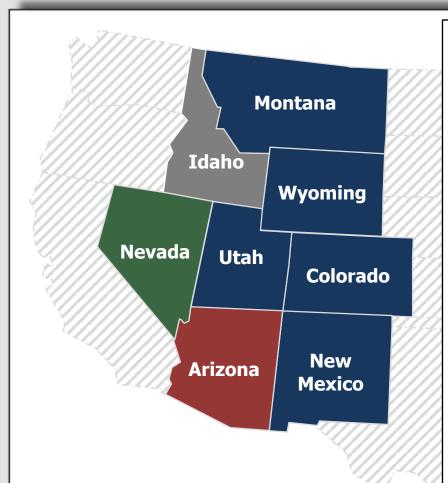
THE 2020 SURVEY OF THE ATTITUDES OF VOTERS IN EIGHT WESTERN STATES



CONDUCTED BY: LORI WEIGEL / NEW BRIDGE STRATEGY DAVE METZ / FAIRBANK, MASLIN, MAULLIN, METZ & ASSOCIATES

Methodology

- **❖** 3,200 telephone (cell and landline) interviews with 400 registered voters in eight states: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.
- **❖** Interviews conducted January 11-19, 2020, in Spanish and English.
- **❖** The margin of overall sampling error is <u>+</u> 2.65% at the 95% confidence interval for the total sample; and <u>+</u> 4.9% for each state.
- ❖ The total numbers have been statistically weighted to reflect the true geographic distribution of voters throughout the region. Interviews within each state were distributed proportionally by region and each sample is demographically representative of their electorate.
- **Comparisons made to similarly conducted surveys annually from 2011 to 2019.**
- **❖** Bi-partisan research team of New Bridge Strategy (R) and Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D).



Over 10 Years, the Number of States Included in the Conservation of the West Survey Increased.

In order to provide accurate comparisons over time, we compare data based on only the states interviewed in that year as follows:

2011 5 States: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

2012-2015 6 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, UT

& WY

2016-2017 7 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV,

UT & WY

2018-2020 8 States: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM,

NV, UT & WY





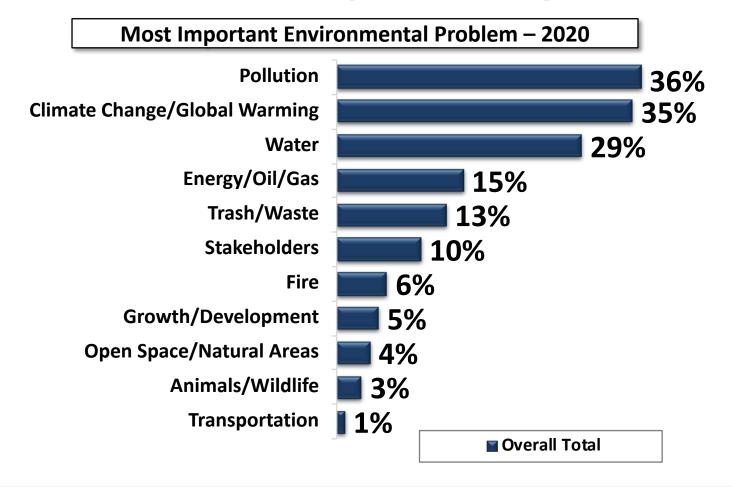




Climate Change



Pollution and climate change are deemed the most important environmental problems today.



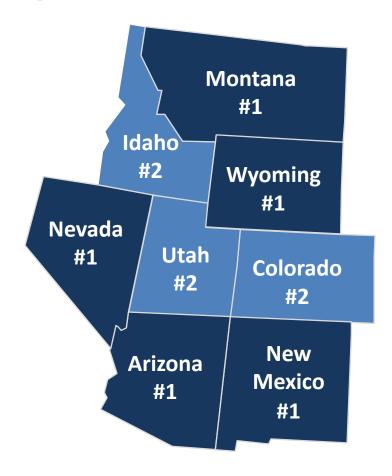
What would you say are the top two or three most important environmental problems or issues today? (OPEN END RESPONSE)







Climate change is the first or second most important environmental problem for each of the Western states.



What would you say are the top two or three most important environmental problems or issues today? (OPEN END RESPONSE)







Voters from each political party even see climate change as one of their top three environmental issues.

Most Important Environmental Problem

Republican	Independent	Democrat
Pollution	Pollution	Climate Change
33%	39%	54%
Water	Climate Change	Pollution
27%	39%	37%
Climate Change 16%	Water 29 %	Water 30%

What would you say are the top two or three most important environmental problems or issues today? (OPEN END RESPONSE)

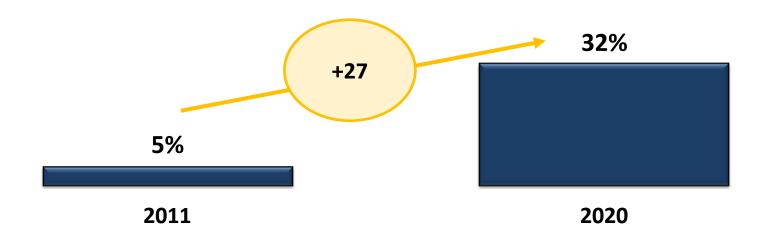






Since 2011, climate change has dramatically risen as a concern.

"Climate Change" As Most Important Environmental Problem



What would you say are the top two or three most important environmental problems or issues today? (OPEN END RESPONSE)

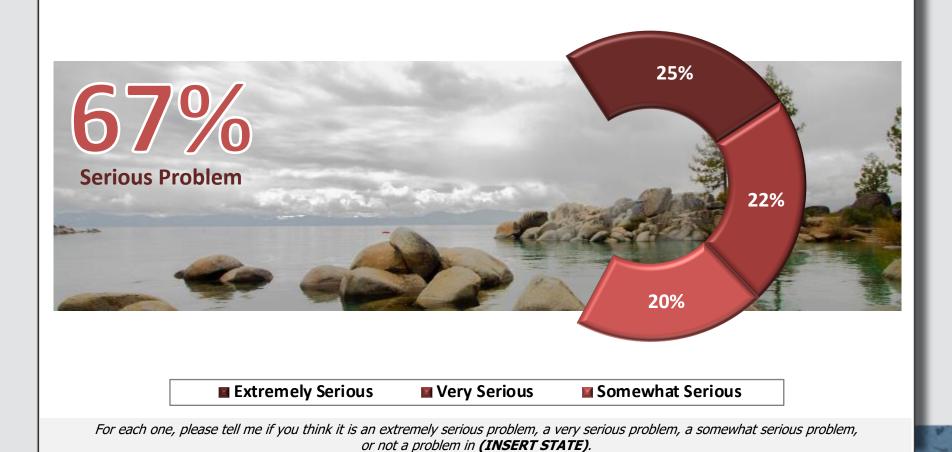
Showing 2020 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY







When asked to consider whether climate change is a problem, two-thirds indicate it is a serious problem.



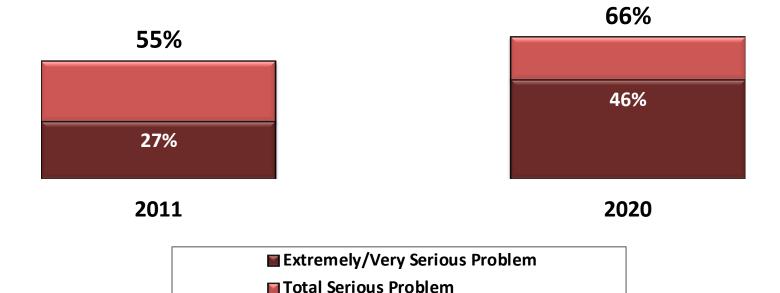






Compared to 2011, voters indicate a growing view that climate change is a serious problem.





For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in **(INSERT STATE)**.

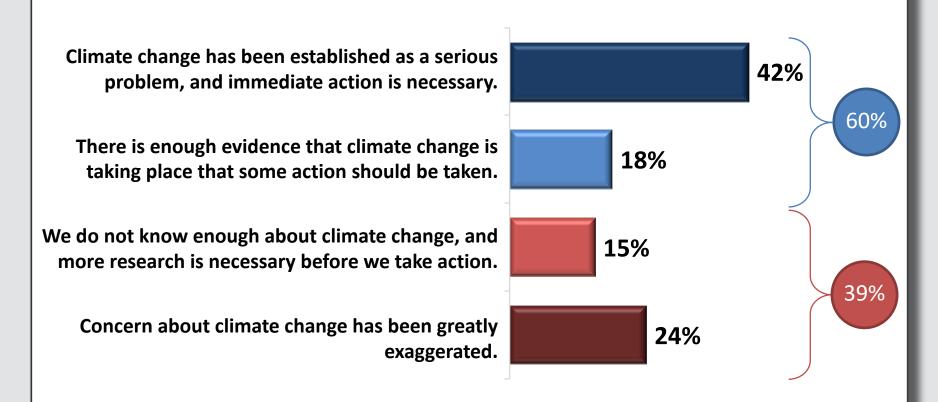
Showing 2020 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY







Three-in-five voters believe there is enough evidence to indicate climate change is a problem and say action should be taken.



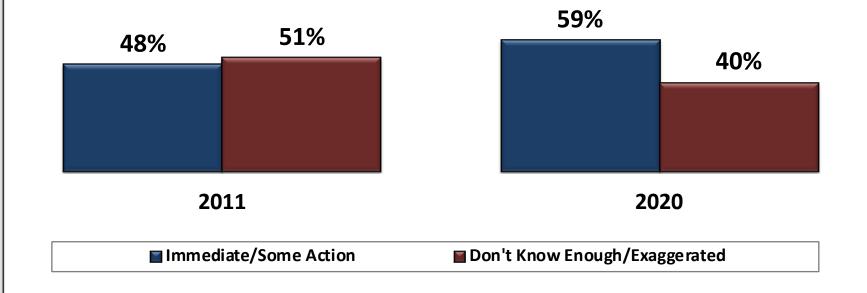
From what you know about climate change, sometimes referred to as global warming, which of the following four statements is closest to your opinion?







A majority of voters now say that climate change is a problem requiring action, compared to division in 2011.



From what you know about climate change, sometimes referred to as global warming, which of the following four statements is closest to your opinion?

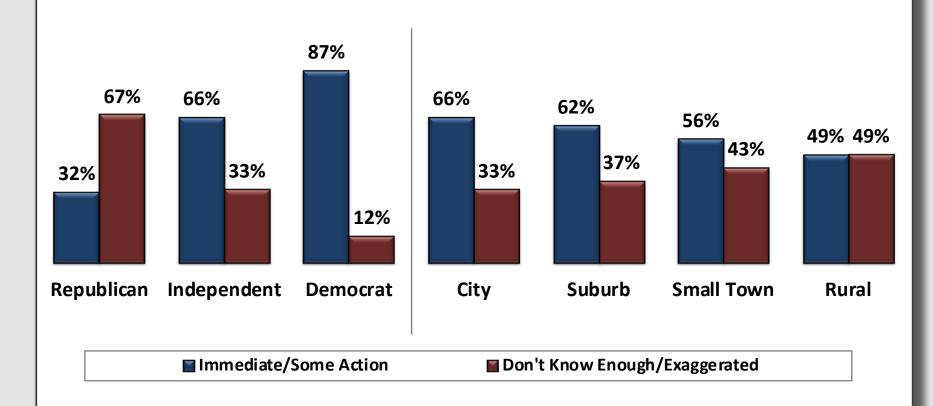
Showing 2020 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY







Climate change belief is rooted in political partisanship. Rural voters are split over whether action is needed.



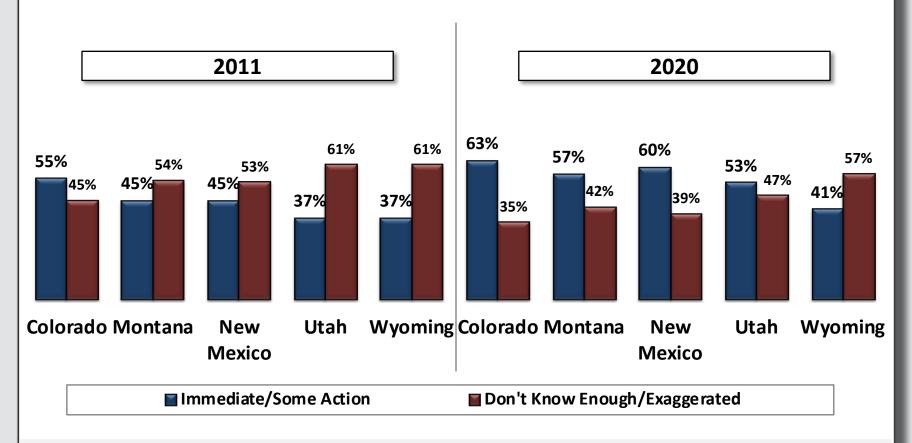
From what you know about climate change, sometimes referred to as global warming, which of the following four statements is closest to your opinion?







Compared to 2011, more voters say that climate change is an immediate problem, even in Wyoming where a majority resist action.



From what you know about climate change, sometimes referred to as global warming, which of the following four statements is closest to your opinion?

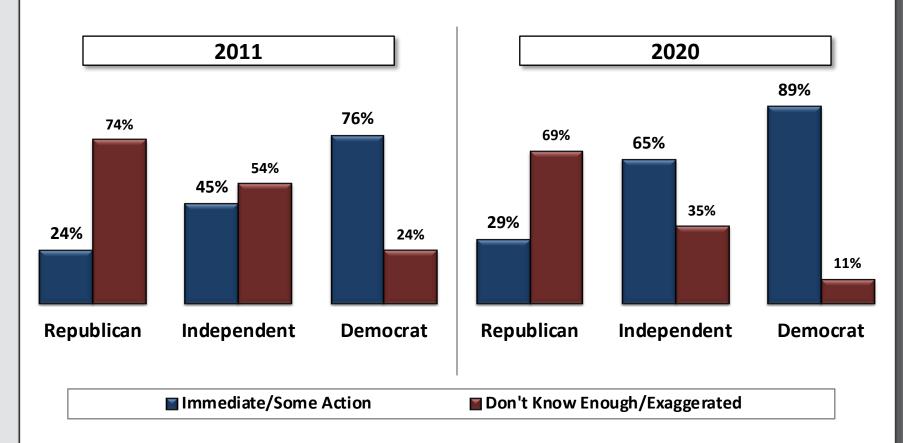
Showing 2020 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY







Across the political spectrum, there is an increased sense that climate change is a serious problem.



From what you know about climate change, sometimes referred to as global warming, which of the following four statements is closest to your opinion?

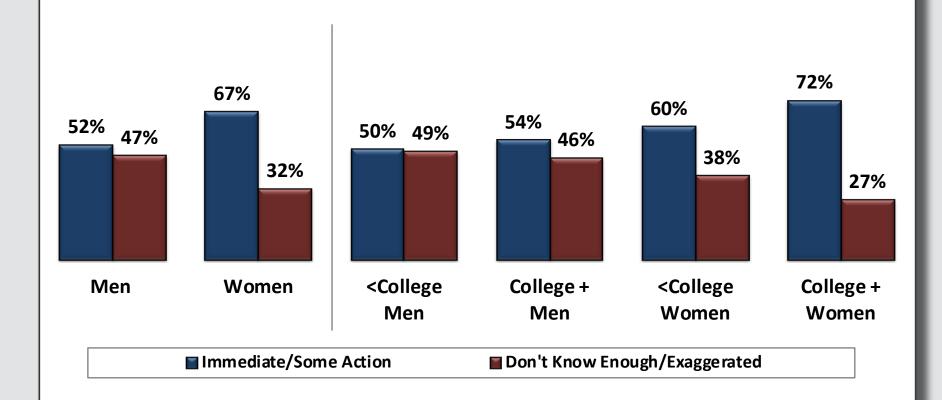
Showing 2020 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY







Women are strong proponents of taking action to address climate change.



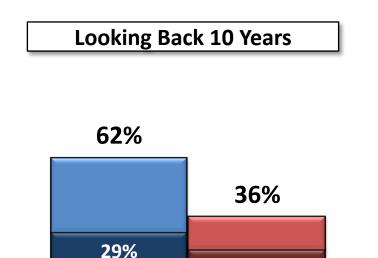
From what you know about climate change, sometimes referred to as global warming, which of the following four statements is closest to your opinion?



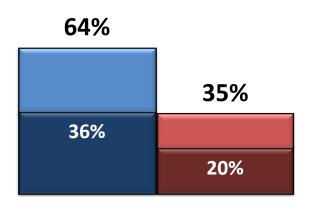




More than three-in-five voters believe the effects of climate change have been significant in the past decade and will be significant looking ahead.











21%

■ Not Significant At All

■ Total Not Significant

Looking back over the last ten years, how significant do you think the effects of climate change have been in your state? (Asked N=1,600 Respondents) Looking ahead over the next ten years, how significant do you think the effects of climate change will be in your state?

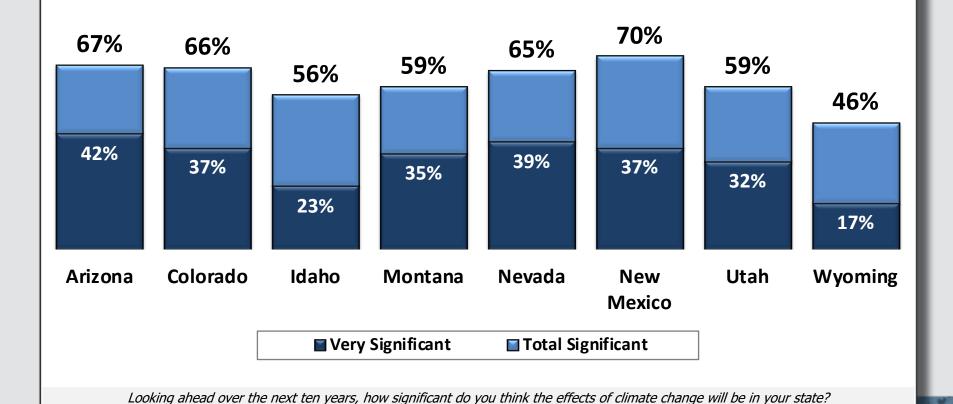
(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







A majority in these Western states, except for Wyoming, believe climate change effects over the next ten years will be significant in their state.



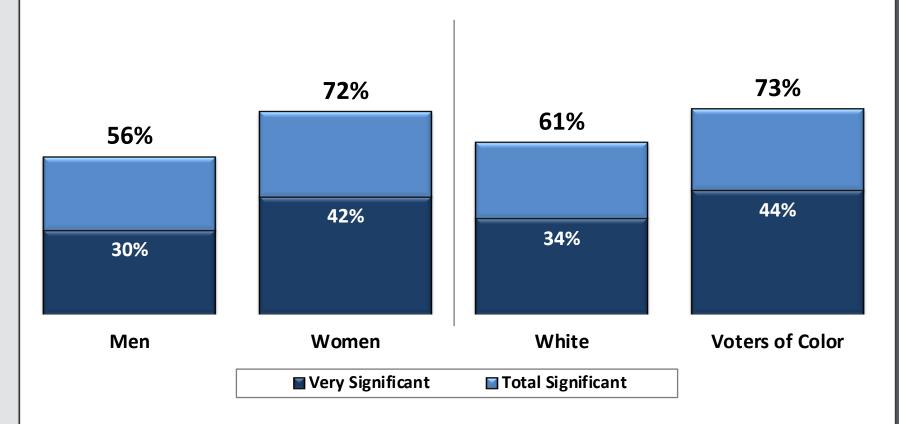
(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







Women and voters of color are more apt to say there will be effects of climate change in their state than their counterparts.



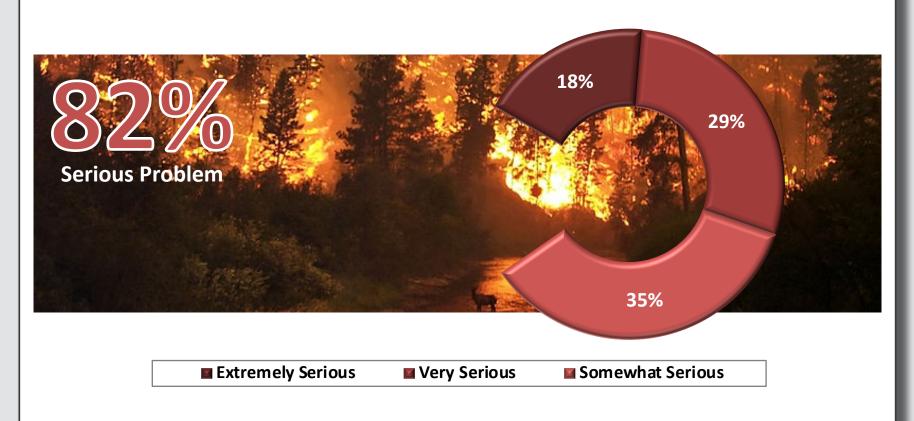
Looking ahead over the next ten years, how significant do you think the effects of climate change will be in your state? (Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







Uncontrollable wildfires, one impact of climate change, are considered a serious problem by four-in-five Westerners.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (INSERT STATE).

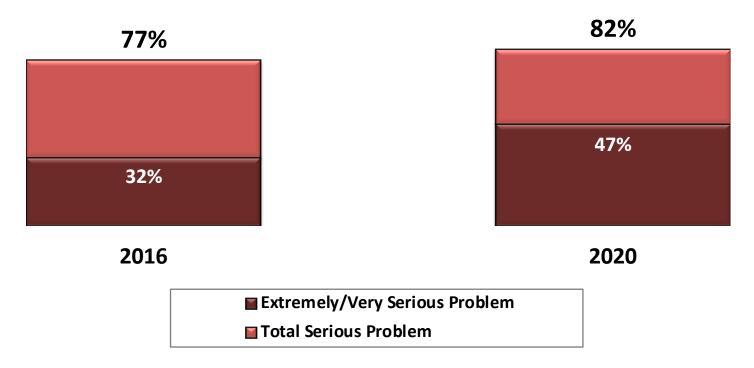
(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)

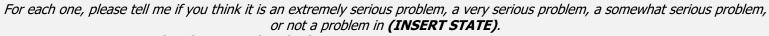






Wildfires are also far more apt to be viewed as a very serious problem today than just four years ago.





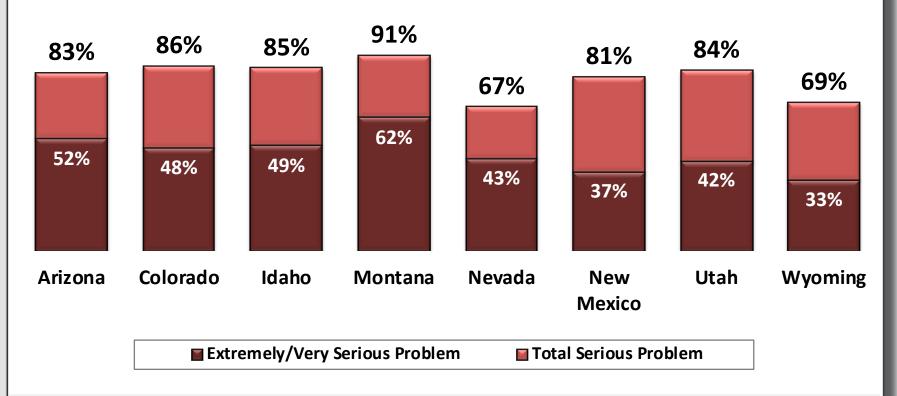
Showing 2020 data by just 2016 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY







Nevada and Wyoming are not quite as concerned about wildfires as other Western states.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (INSERT STATE).

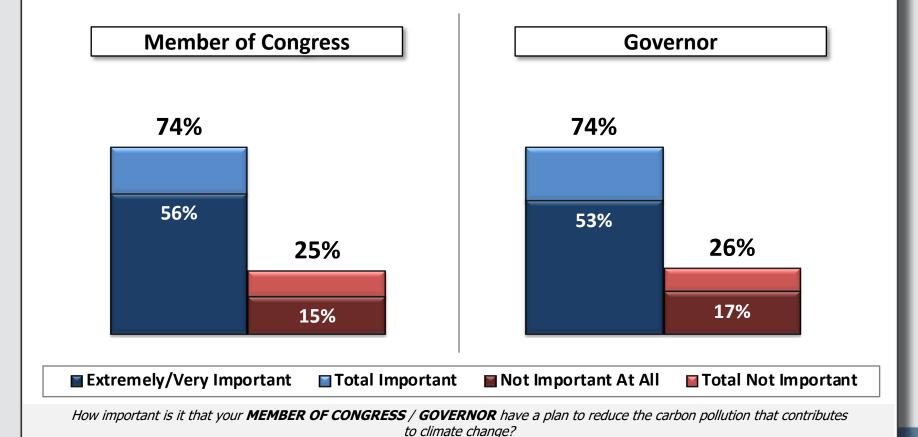
(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







Three-quarters want their Member of Congress and Governor to have a plan to reduce carbon pollution that contributes to climate change.



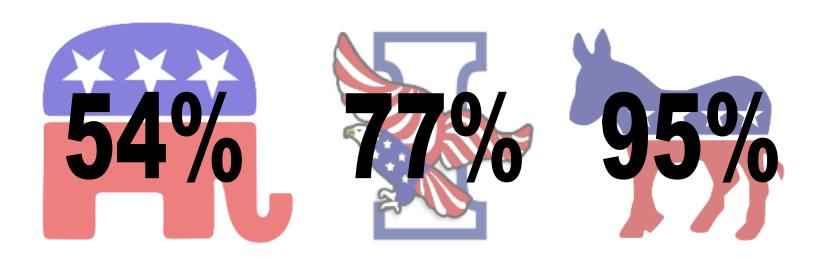
(Each politician asked to N=1,600 respondents)







Voters from across the political spectrum say it is important that their member of Congress or Governor have a plan to reduce carbon pollution.



How important is it that your **MEMBER OF CONGRESS** / **GOVERNOR** have a plan to reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change?

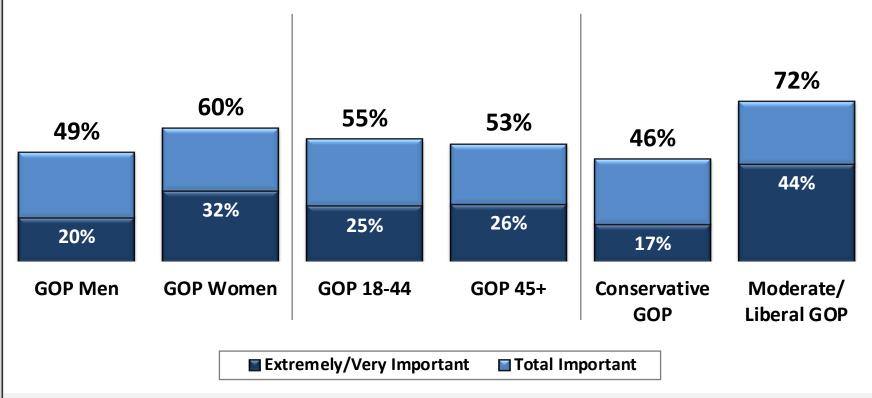
(Each politician asked to N=1,600 respondents – combined responses shown)







Republican women and moderate/liberal Republicans drive GOP support for a plan to reduce carbon pollution.



How important is it that your **MEMBER OF CONGRESS** / **GOVERNOR** have a plan to reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change?

(Each politician asked to N=1,600 respondents – combined responses shown)









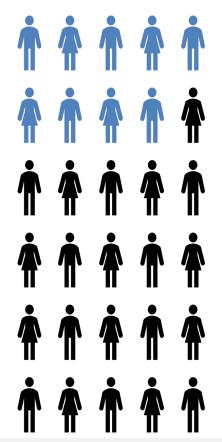
Water



Three-in-ten mention water issues when asked about the top environmental problems in their state today.

29%

Of voters volunteer water as an important environmental problem



Top Groups To Mention Water		
Suburban Women	36%	
Arizona Voters	35%	
Moderate/Liberal GOP	34%	
Age 55+	33%	
Hispanics	33%	
Democrat Age 45+	33%	
Moderate/Liberal IND	33%	
Very Likely Presidential	32%	
Primary Voters		
Democrat Women	32%	
Independent Age 45+	32%	
Moderate	32%	
Liberal	32%	
College +	32%	

What would you say are the top two or three most important environmental problems or issues today?







Seven-in-ten Western voters believe removing the Clean Water Act protections was a bad decision.





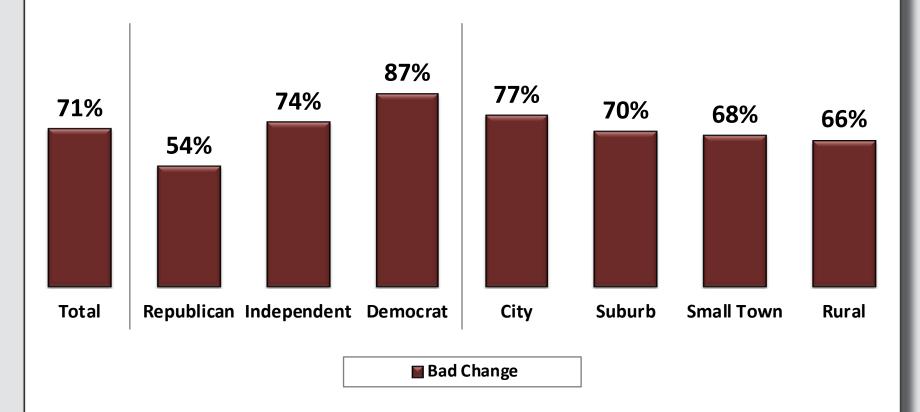
There have been some recent changes in the federal rules and standards affecting natural areas, water and wildlife recently. For each of the following, please indicate if that sounds like more of a good change or more of a bad change.







Voters across the political spectrum and types of community – including rural voters- regard removing these protections as a "bad change."



There have been some recent changes in the federal rules and standards affecting natural areas, water and wildlife recently. For each of the following, please indicate if that sounds like more of a good change or more of a bad change.







Western voters believe that water supplies are becoming more unpredictable every year.

The amount of rain and snow in the West is pretty predictable over time.

27%

Water supplies in the West are becoming more <u>unpredictable</u> every year

69%

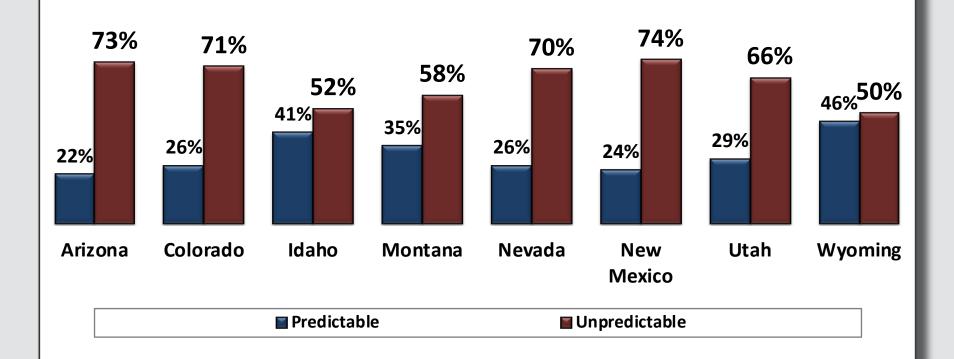
Switching now to thinking about water in the West - which of the following statements comes closest to what you think?







Water is viewed as unpredictable across all eight Western states.



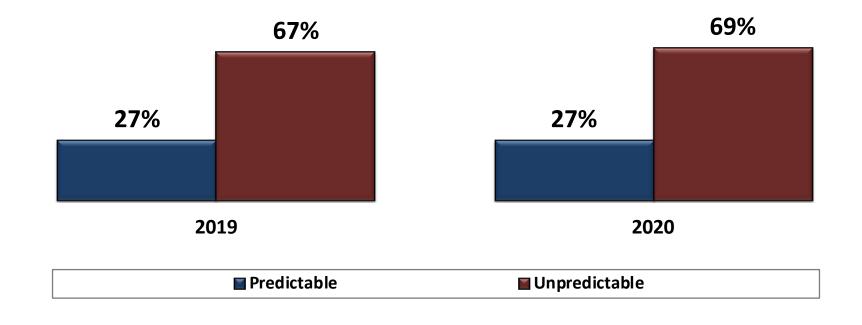
Switching now to thinking about water in the West - which of the following statements comes closest to what you think?







Consistent with last year, the vast majority of voters say water supplies in the West are unpredictable.



Switching now to thinking about water in the West - which of the following statements comes closest to what you think?

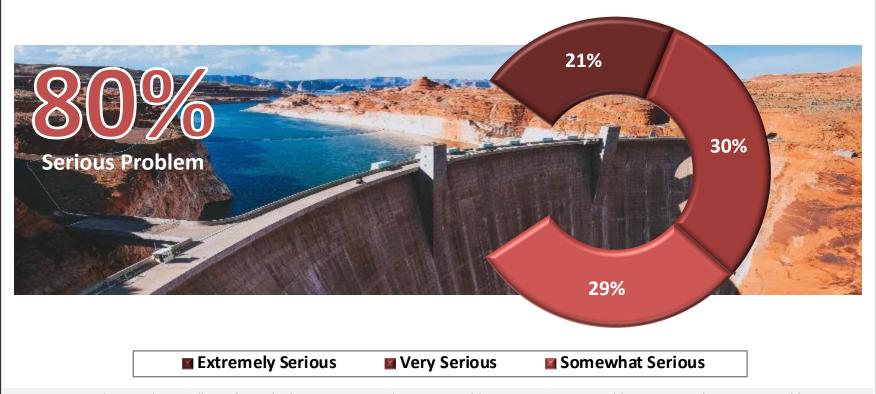
2019 and 2020 surveyed the same states: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY







Four-in-five voters also indicate that inadequate water supplies are a serious problem for their state.



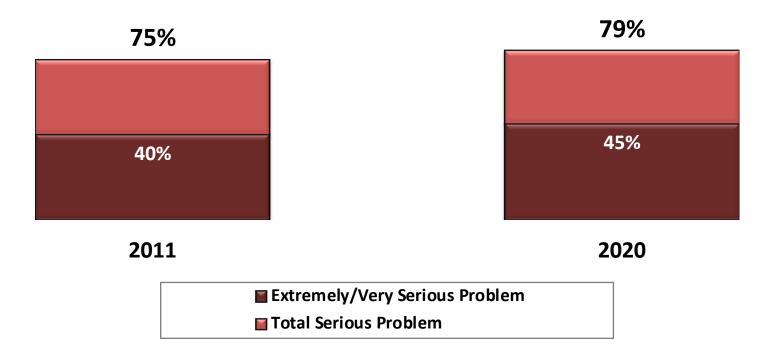








There is a small bump up in perceived seriousness of this problem since 2011.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (INSERT STATE).

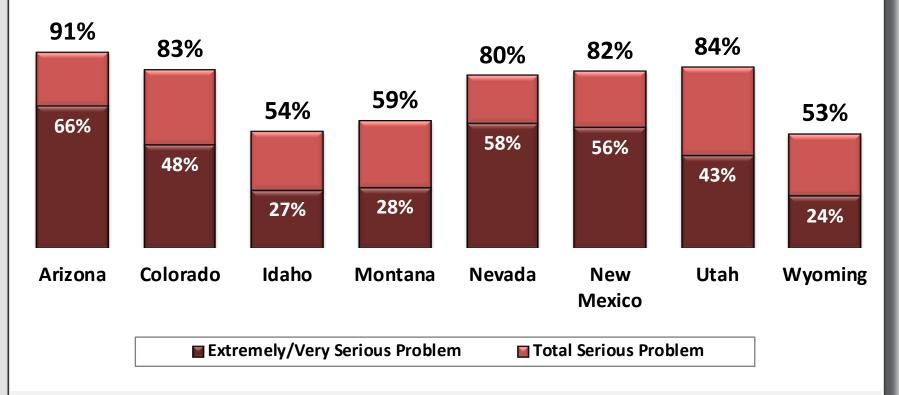
Showing 2020 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY (Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







Predictably, how seriously Western voters perceive this issue varies by state.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (INSERT STATE).

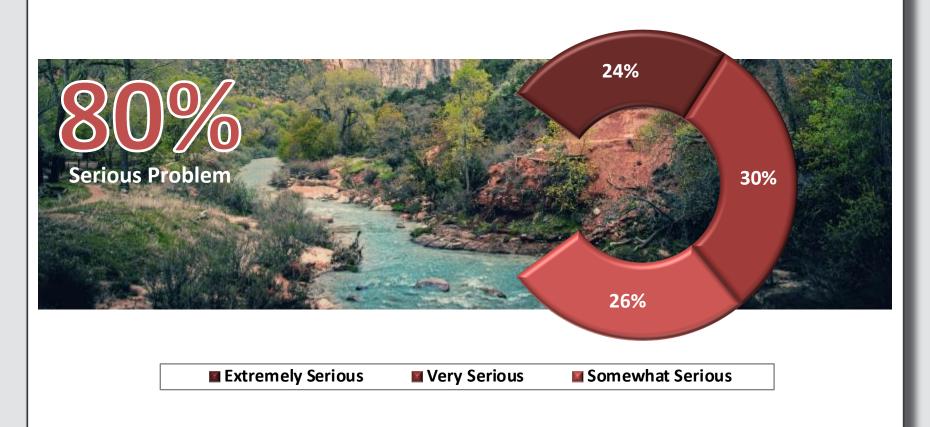
(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







Voters are also concerned about low water levels in rivers.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in **(INSERT STATE)**.

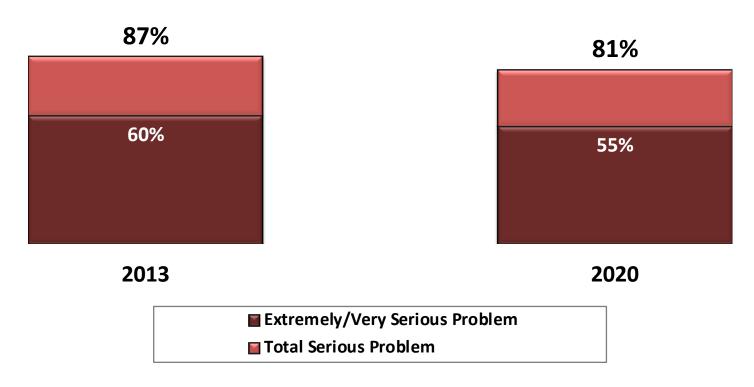
(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







However, concern about low water levels in rivers has actually decreased over the past few years.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (INSERT STATE).

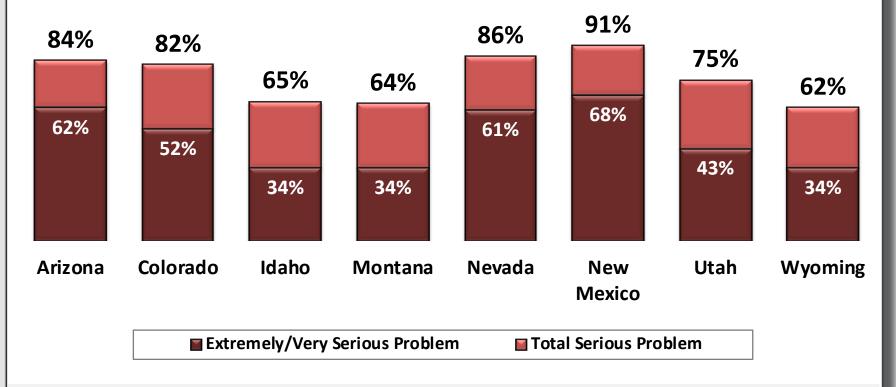
Showing 2020 data by just 2013 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, UT & WY (Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







And most of the concern is in downriver states.









Pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams is a top concern for these Western voters.

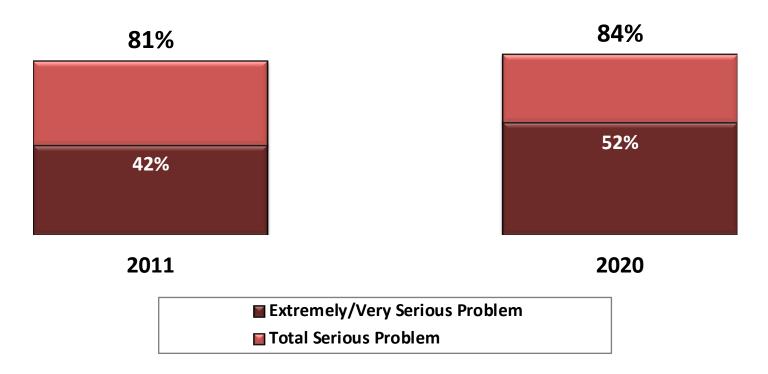








Since 2011, the intensity of this concern has climbed, so that now a majority say it is an extremely or very serious problem.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (INSERT STATE).

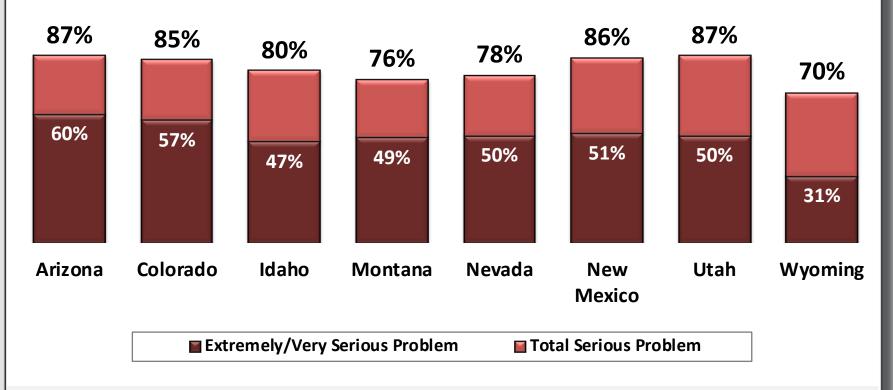
Showing 2020 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY (Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







Concern about this problem tends to be consistent across most states.

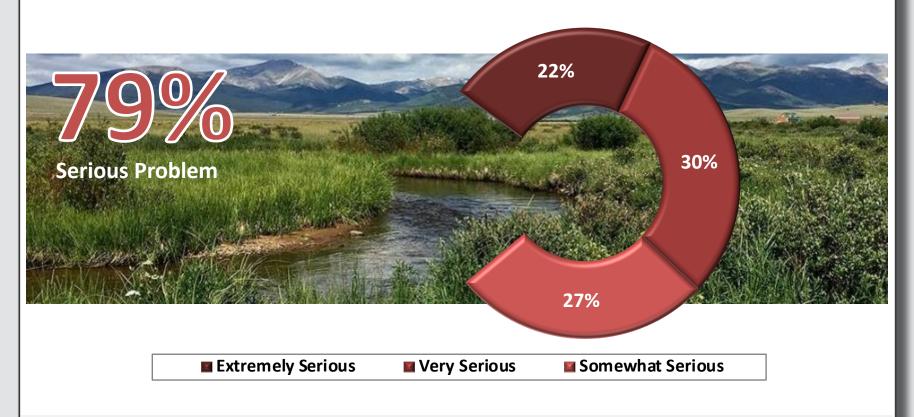








Today, Westerners also worry about the presence of microplastics in rivers, streams, and drinking water supplies.

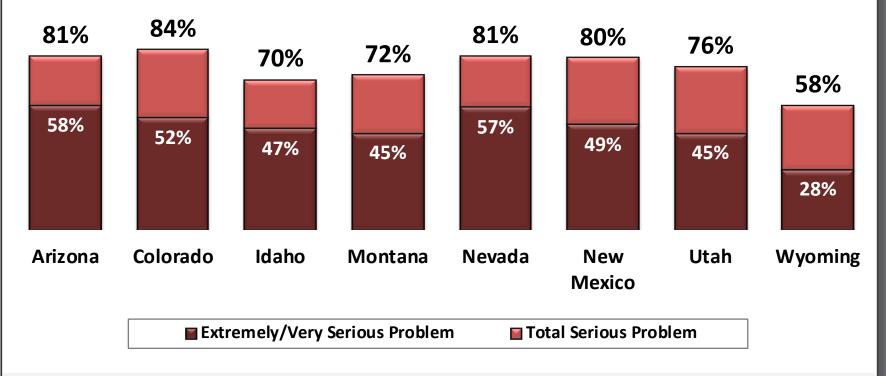








Majorities express concern in every state with mostly consistent views in the region.







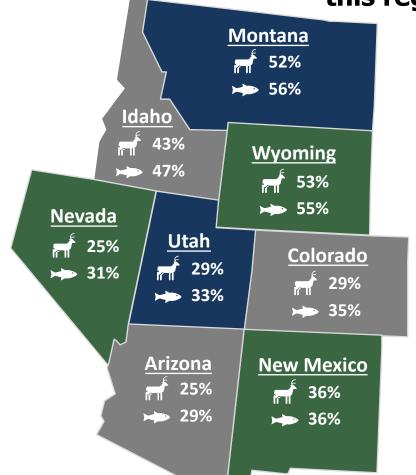




Wildlife



It is worth noting the significant sportsmen representation in this region.



Overall for West Region

41% Total Hunter/Angler



31% Hunter



35% Angler

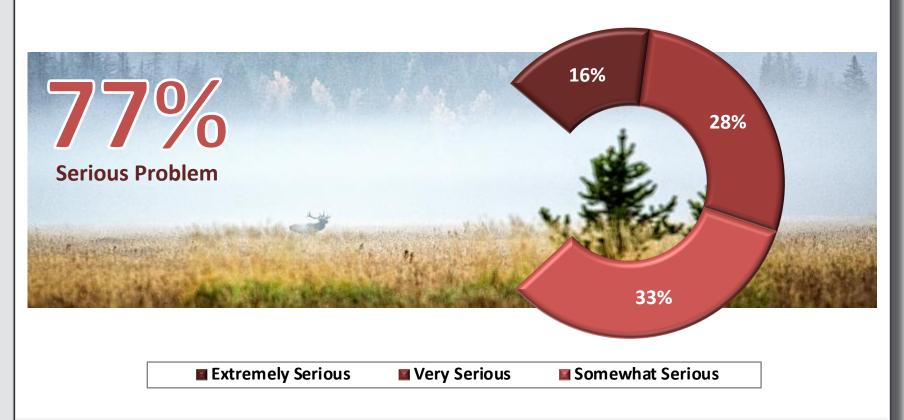
Do you consider yourself a hunter, an angler or both?







More than three-quarters of voters consider the loss of habitat for fish and wildlife to be a serious problem.

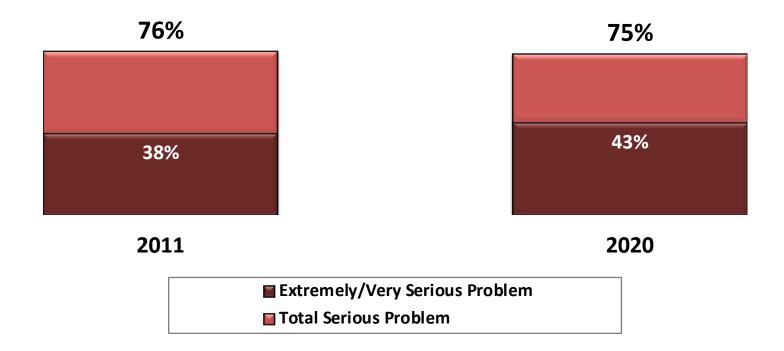








Concern about wildlife has stayed consistent since 2011.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (INSERT STATE).

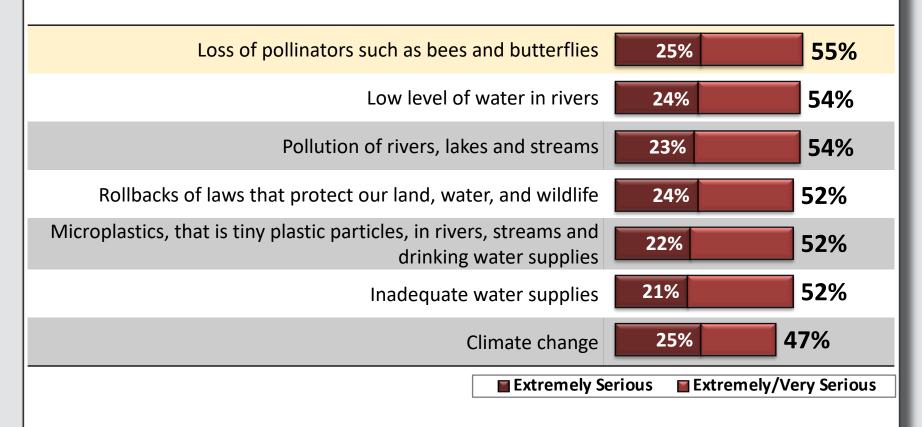
Showing 2020 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY (Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







Voters are just as concerned about the lost of pollinators as they are about the health of water sources and climate change.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (INSERT STATE).

(Each statement asked to N=1,600 respondents, except "climate change" which was asked to all respondents)







Two-thirds of voters believe it was a "bad change" to allow for more drilling instead of protecting sage grouse habitat.



"Allowing more drilling for oil and gas on most of the habitat that has been set aside to protect sage grouse, a bird species which is at-risk"

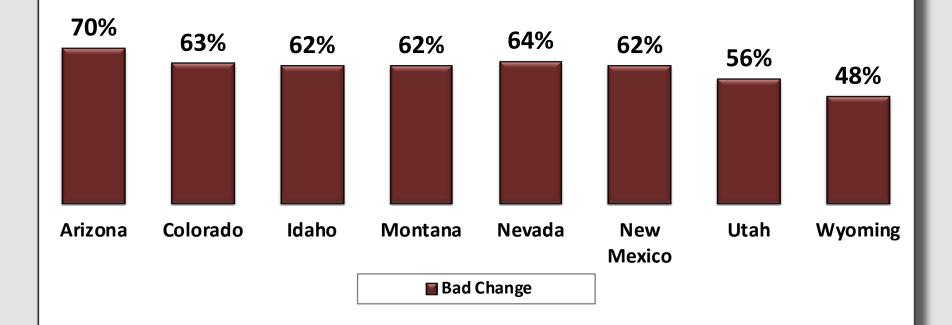








Regardless of state, voters are more likely to view this policy as a "bad change."

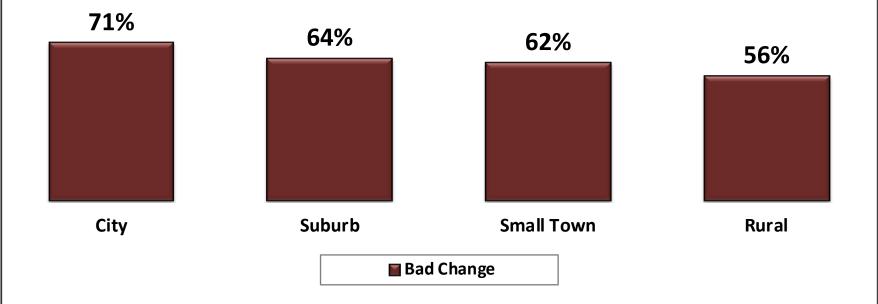








Majorities in every type of community — including rural areas — say the new policy is a "bad change."









Similarly, two-thirds of voters believe reducing the protections for threatened species under the Endangered Species Act was a "bad change."



"reducing the protections for threatened species under the Endangered Species Act"

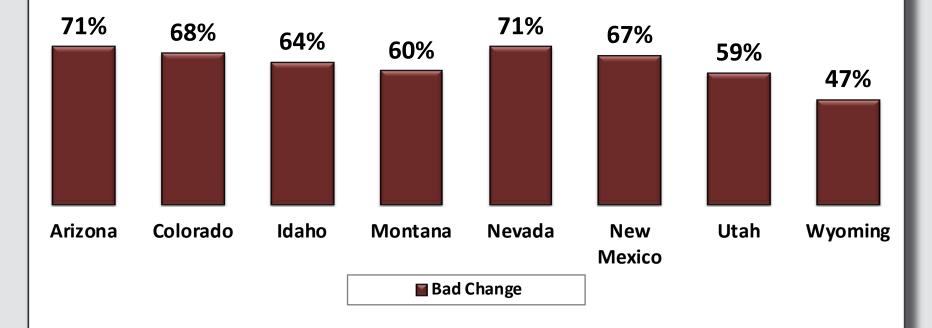


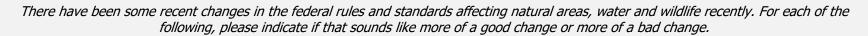






Wyoming is the only state without a majority saying this was a "bad change."



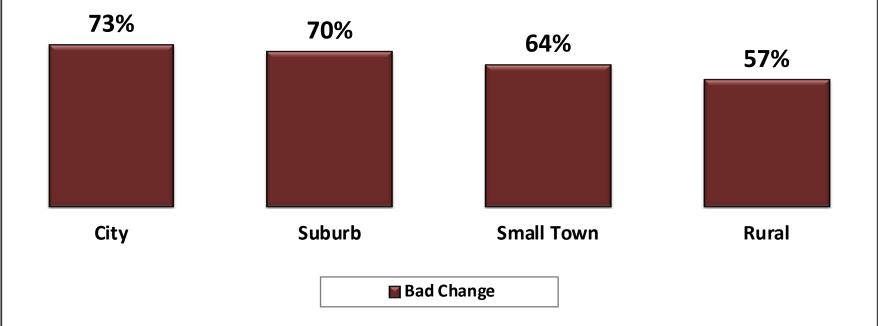


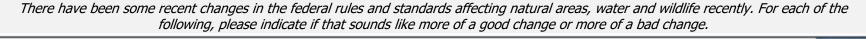






Majorities in every type of community — including rural areas — say this is a "bad change."



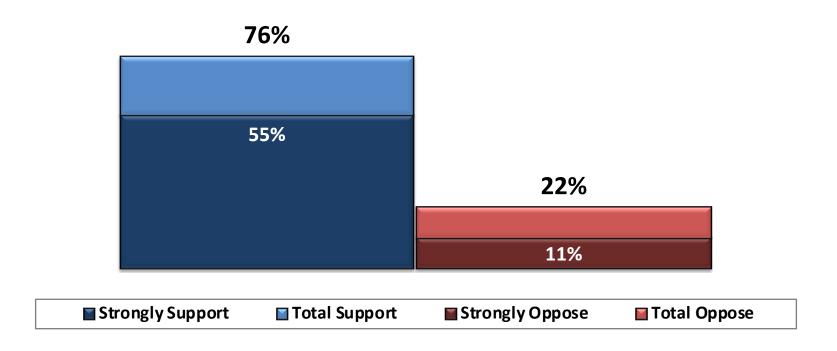








Three-quarters of voters support "designating portions of existing public lands where wildlife migrate each year as areas which should not be open to oil and gas drilling."



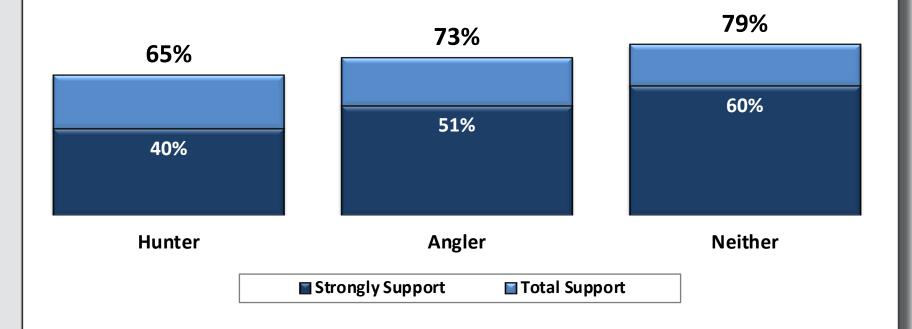
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. (Asked N=2,184 Respondents)







Sportsmen and non-sportsmen alike support conserving migration corridors without drilling.



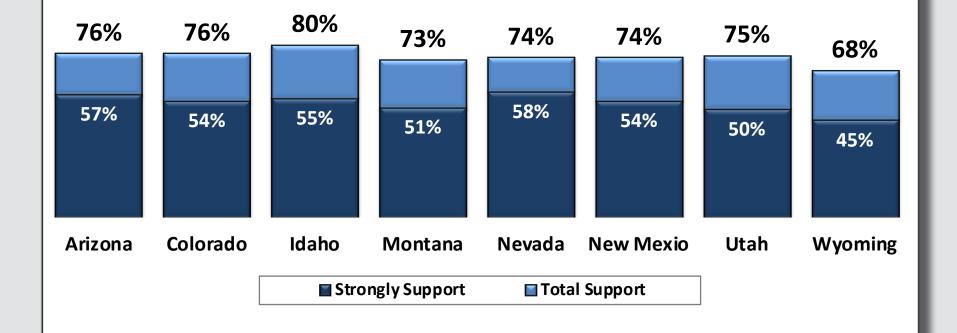
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. (Asked N=2,184 Respondents)







And support is strong regardless of state.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. (Asked N=2,184 Respondents)

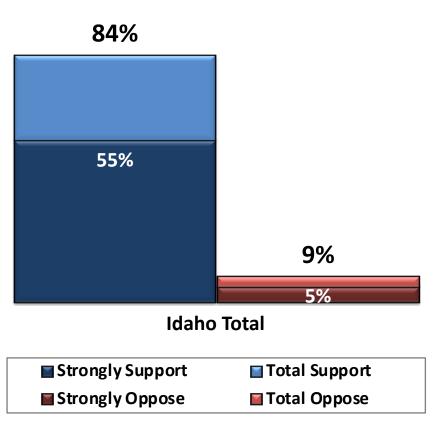






Voters in Idaho are enthusiastic supporters of improving the migration of salmon in Idaho rivers.





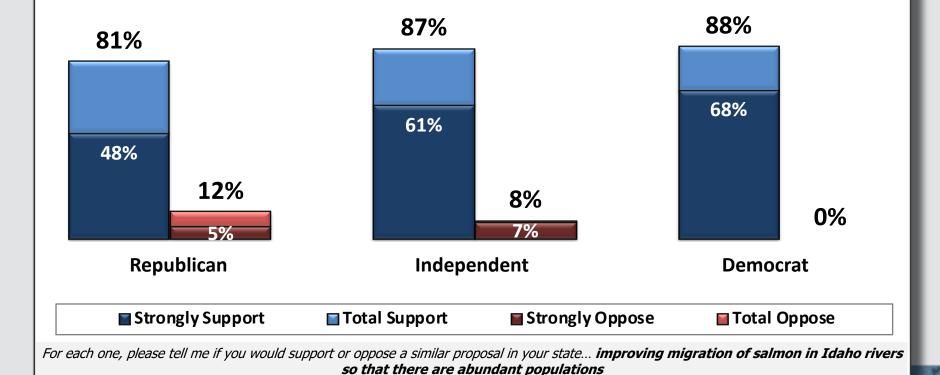
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state... **improving migration of salmon in Idaho rivers so that there are abundant populations**(Only asked of N=400 Idaho voters)







There is strong support across the partisan spectrum for improving salmon migration in Idaho.



(Only asked of N=400 Idaho voters)





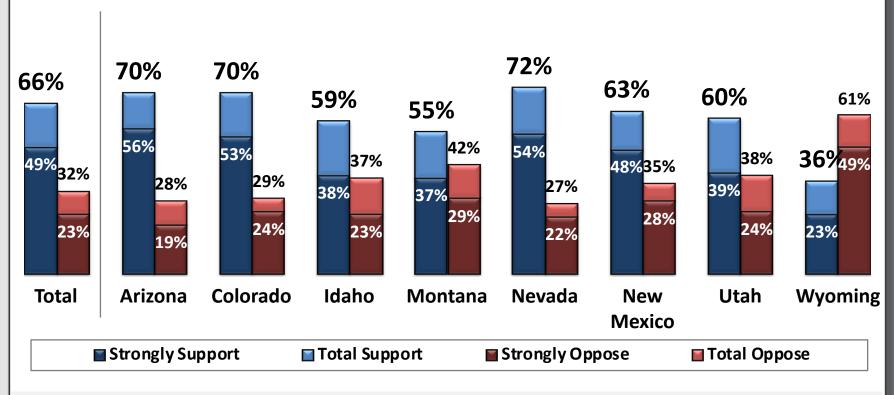




Energy



In every Western state, except Wyoming, a majority of voters support gradually increasing to 100% renewable energy sources.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state... requiring STATE to gradually transition to one hundred percent of our energy being produced from clean, renewable sources like solar and wind power over the next thirty years, that is by 2050"

(Asked of N=2,186 Respondents)







On average, Western voters say that sixty-three percent of electricity should come from renewable sources.

Desired Percent of Electric Coming From Renewable Sources



0%

100%

If it were up to you, what percentage of **STATE'S** electricity needs would come from renewable sources like wind and solar power?







Perceptions of past climate change effects are a strong indicator of how much voters believe a state's electricity needs should come from renewable sources.

Among those who believe climate change has had significant effects over the past 10 years



0% 100%



Among those who believe climate change has NOT had significant effects over the past 10 years

If it were up to you, what percentage of **STATE'S** electricity needs would come from renewable sources like wind and solar power?

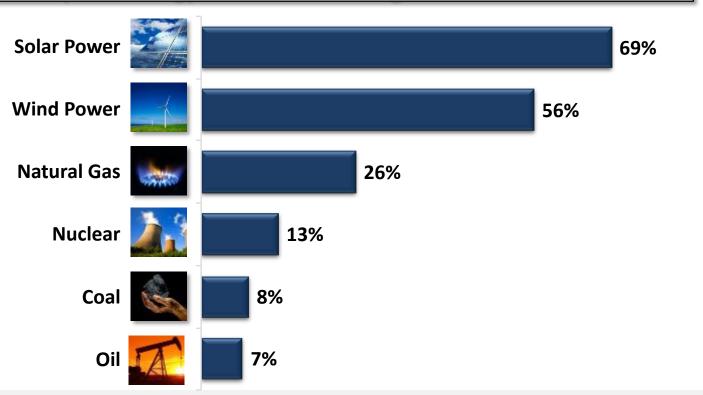






Overall, the desire for more renewable energy is in line with last year's survey results when Western voters indicated solar and wind should be encouraged in their state.





Which one of the following sources of energy would you want to encourage the use of here in your state?

Note: Percentages add up to greater than 100% because respondents chose two energy sources





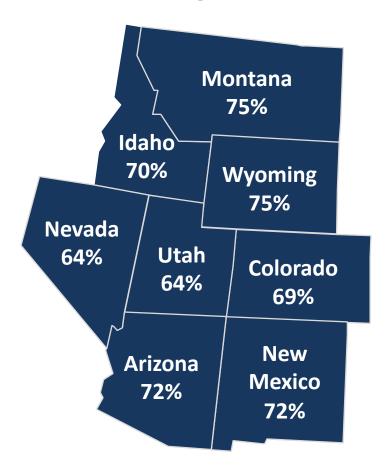




Public Lands



The survey demonstrates the overwhelming identification in every state with being a "conservationist."









Conservation in 2020

Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, wildlife and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official?



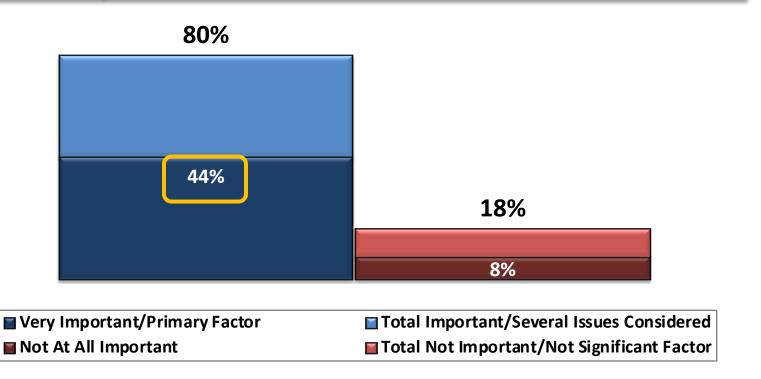






Western voters take a public official's stance on the environment very seriously; nearly half say it is a primary factor when deciding to support a candidate.





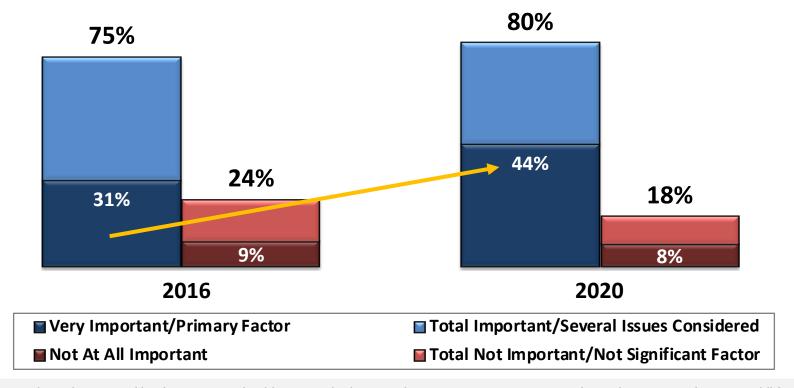
Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, wildlife and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official?







A public official's stance on the environment is even more important this year than in 2016, with a big jump in primacy of the issue.



Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, wildlife and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official?

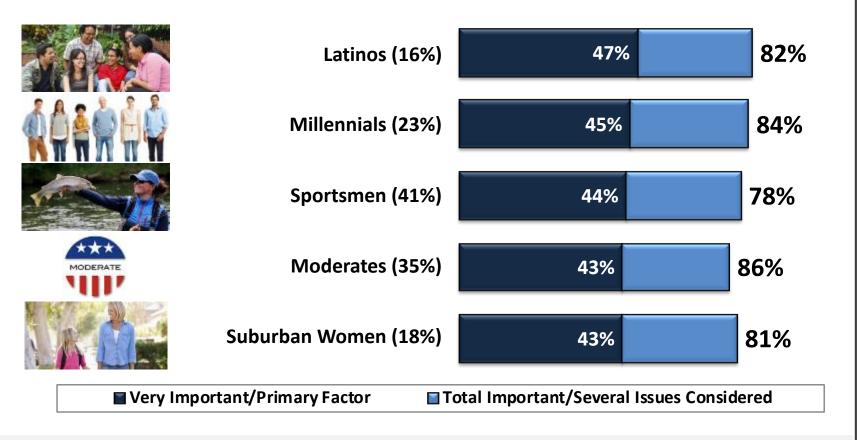
Showing 2020 data by just 2016 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY







Conservation issues are deemed important by many of the most critical "swing" sub-groups...



Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, wildlife and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official?







Two-thirds want their Congressman to protect national public lands over allowing more drilling and mining.

Ensuring we protect sources of clean water, our air quality and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities to visit and recreate on our national public lands

67%

Ensuring we produce more domestic energy by maximizing the amount of national public lands available for responsible oil and gas drilling and mining

25%

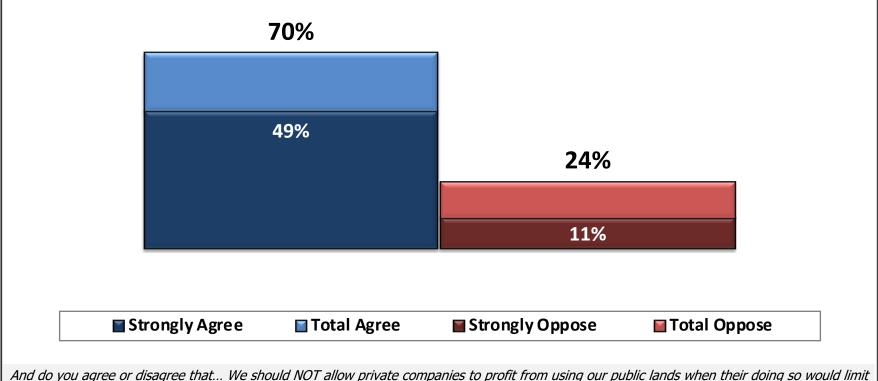
Which one would you prefer your Member of Congress place more emphasis on in upcoming decisions regarding national public lands?







Voters agree that private companies should not profit from using public lands when it limits the public's enjoyment of the area.



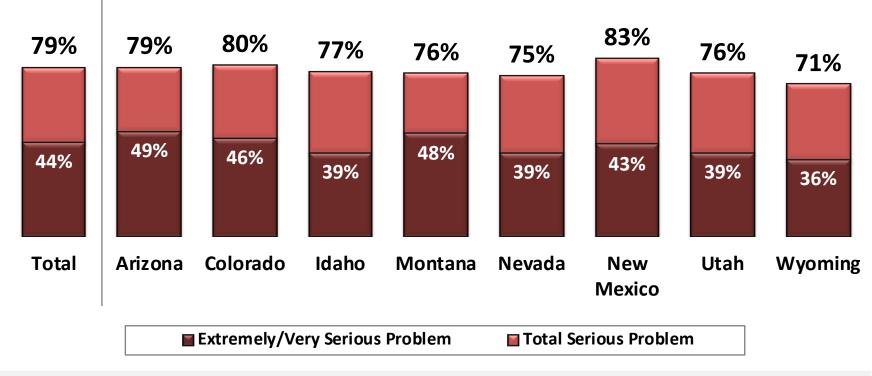
the public's enjoyment of - or access to - these lands. (Asked of N=1, 600 Respondents)







The lack of resources to properly maintain public lands is considered a serious problem across all Western states.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (INSERT STATE)... Lack of Resources to Properly Maintain and Take Care of National Parks, Forests and Other Public Lands

(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)

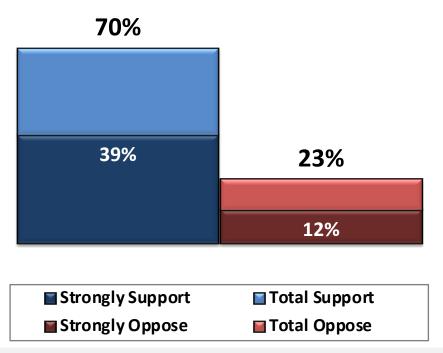






There is almost three-quarters support for fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund.





For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state... providing full dedicated funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the federal program that has funded thousands of parks and conservation projects using the fees charged to oil and gas companies for drilling offshore

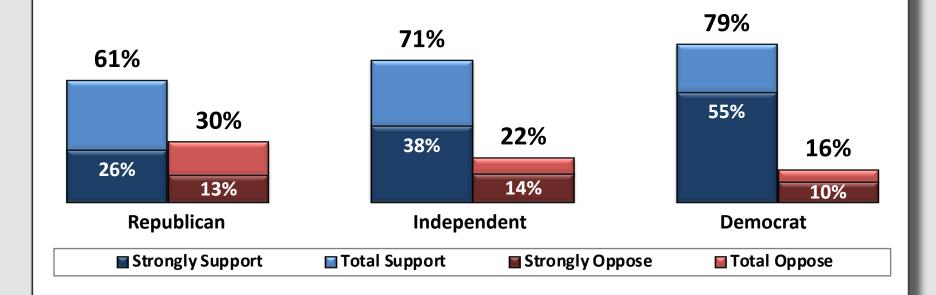
(Asked N=2,186 Respondents)







Regardless of political affiliation, there is support for full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



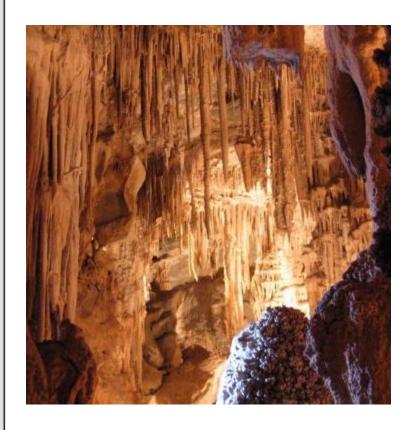
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state... **providing full dedicated funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the federal program that has funded thousands of parks and conservation projects using the fees charged to oil and gas companies for drilling offshore**(Asked N=2,186 Respondents)

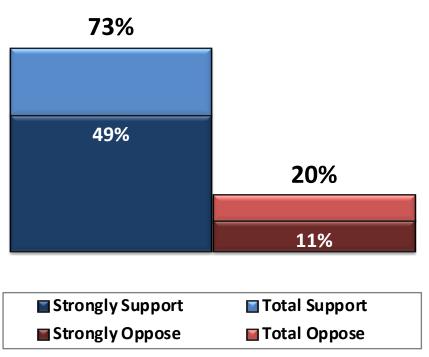






There is also strong enthusiasm for setting a national goal to protect 30% of America's land and ocean areas by 2030.





For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state... **setting a national goal of protecting 30**percent of America's lands and ocean areas by the year 2030

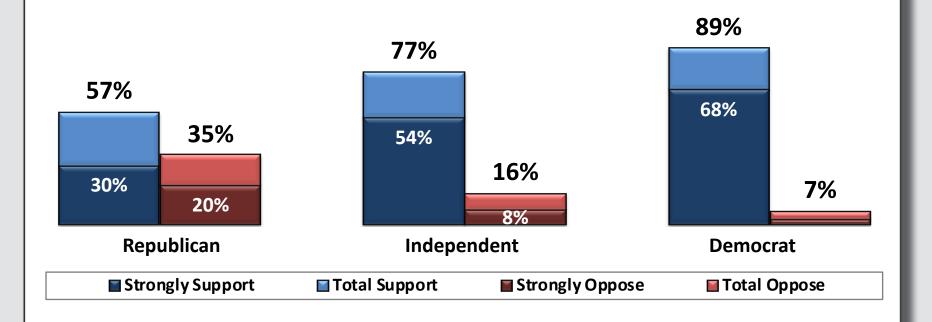
(Asked N=2,184 Respondents)







There is majority support across party lines for support for this lofty conservation goal.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state... **setting a national goal of protecting 30**percent of America's lands and ocean areas by the year 2030

(Asked N=2,184 Respondents)

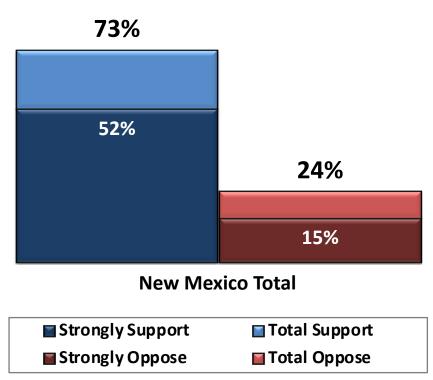






In New Mexico, conserving the land surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park is supported by the vast majority.





For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state.... conserving existing public lands surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park in northwestern New Mexico so that oil and gas drilling will not take place on public lands in the area. Traditional Native American uses of the lands will still take place

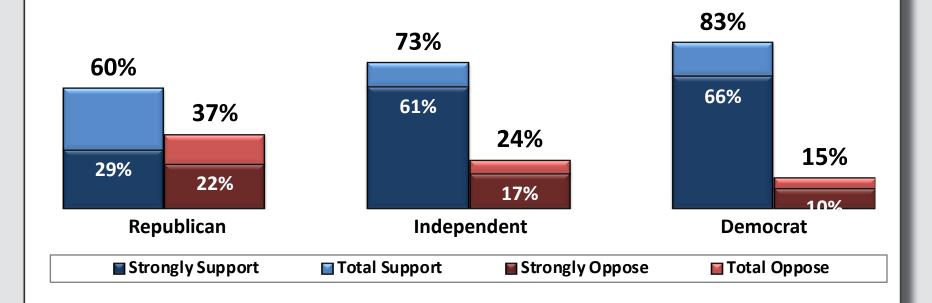
(Only asked to N=400 New Mexico voters)







Democrats and Independents are highly supportive of this plan, and three-in-five Republicans express support.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state.... conserving existing public lands surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park in northwestern New Mexico so that oil and gas drilling will not take place on public lands in the area. Traditional Native American uses of the lands will still take place

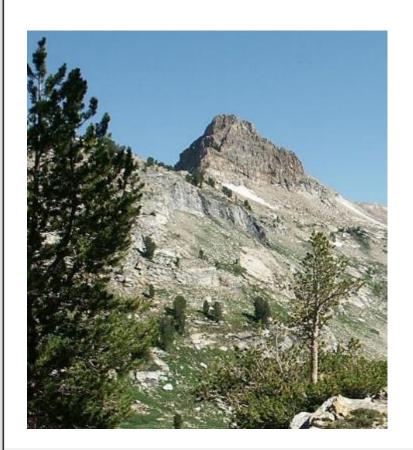
(Only asked to N=400 New Mexico voters)

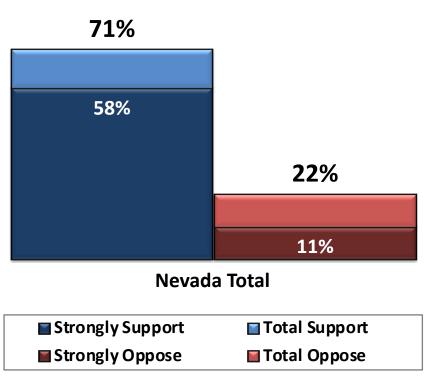






Nevada voters support conserving existing Forest Service lands in the Ruby Mountains without drilling.





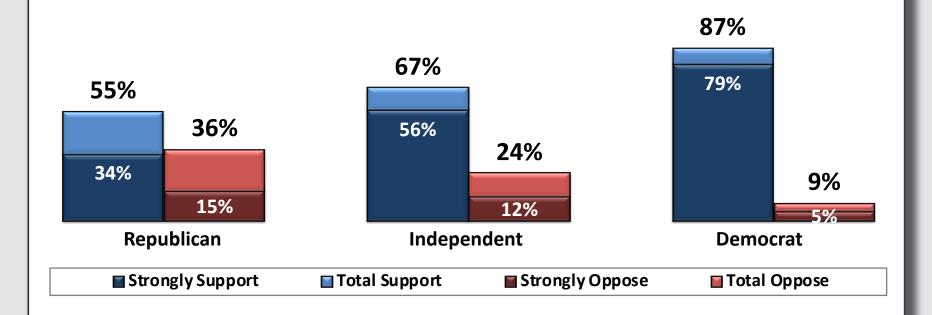
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state.... **conserving existing Forest Service lands in the Ruby Mountains, so that oil and gas drilling will not take place in the area**(Only asked to N=400 Nevada voters)







Majorities across the partisan spectrum support conserving the existing Forest Service lands in this area.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state.... **conserving existing Forest Service lands in the Ruby Mountains, so that oil and gas drilling will not take place in the area**(Only asked to N=400 Nevada voters)

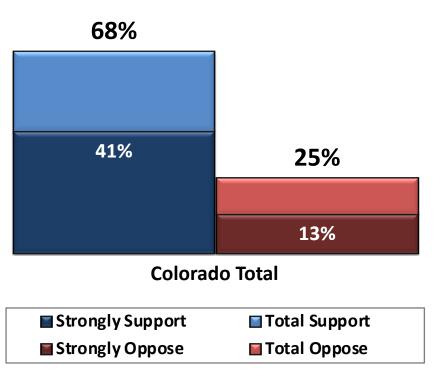






In Colorado, the CORE Act is supported by more than two-thirds of the state's voters.





For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state.... designating some existing public lands as wilderness areas in western Colorado, limit future drilling on public lands in the Thompson Divide area, and create a national historic landscape at the former site of the Army's 10th Mountain Division

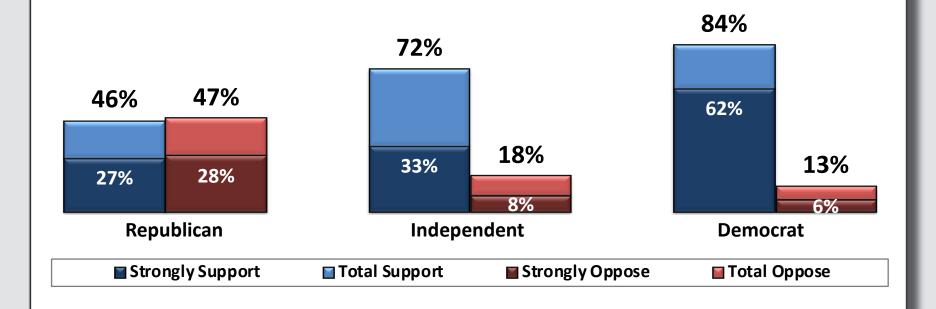
(Only asked to N=400 Colorado voters)







Colorado Republicans are split, but the vast majority of Independents and Democrats offer up support.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state.... designating some existing public lands as wilderness areas in western Colorado, limit future drilling on public lands in the Thompson Divide area, and create a national historic landscape at the former site of the Army's 10th Mountain Division

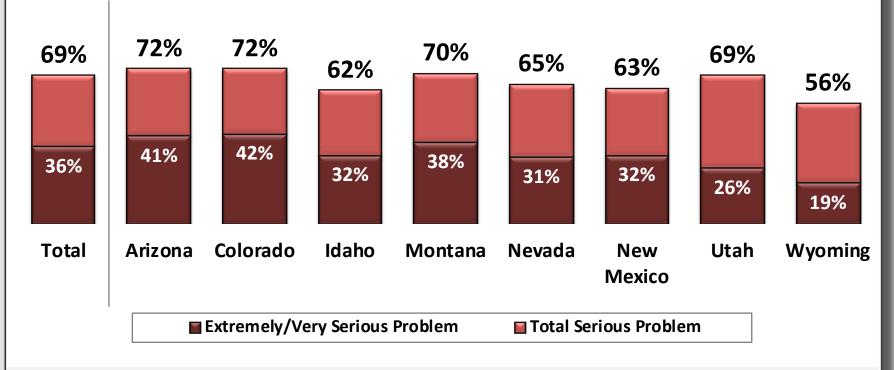
(Only asked to N=400 Colorado voters)







Additionally, voters across all states consider the impact of mining on land and water to be a serious problem.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in **(INSERT STATE)**.

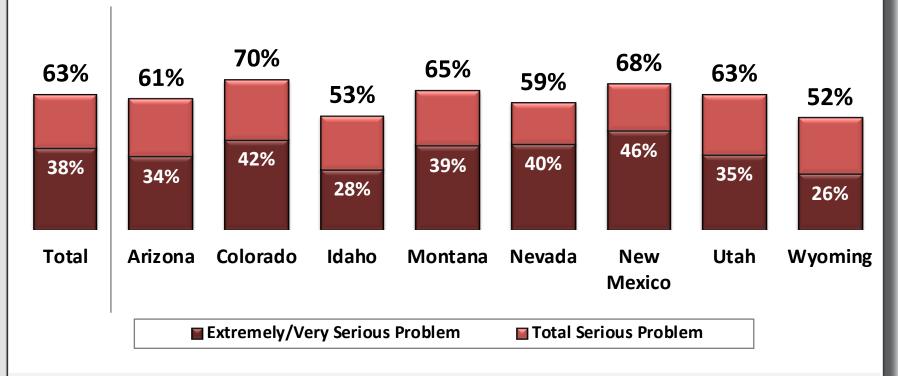
(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







Oil and gas drilling impacts on land and water are also considered to be a serious problem in every state.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in **(INSERT STATE)**.

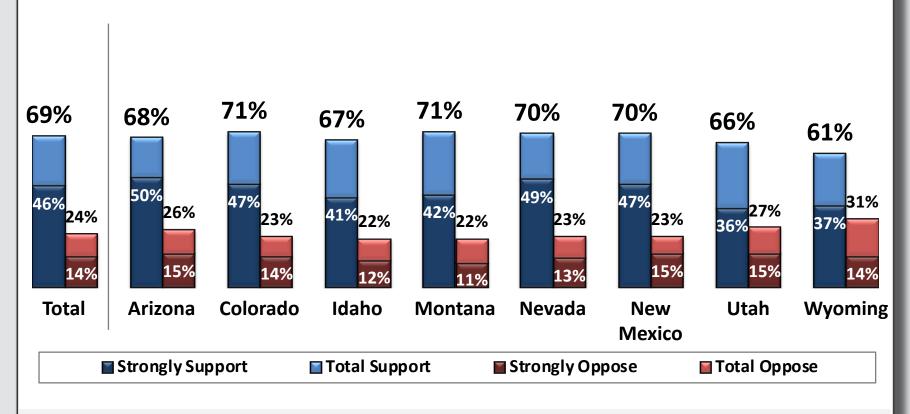
(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)







There is strong support across the Western states to increase royalty fees for drilling on public lands.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state... increasing the royalty fee that oil and gas companies pay your state for drilling on public lands to 25 percent, the same as Texas

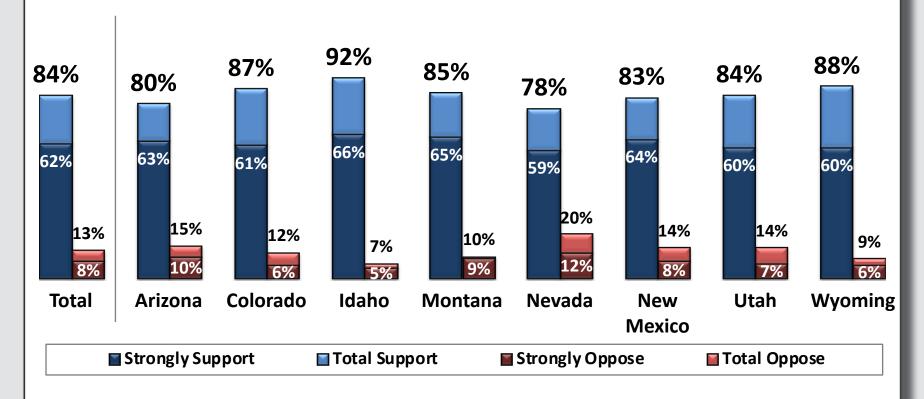
(Asked of N=1,600 Respondents)







Nearly all voters support requiring mining companies pay fee to mine on public lands.



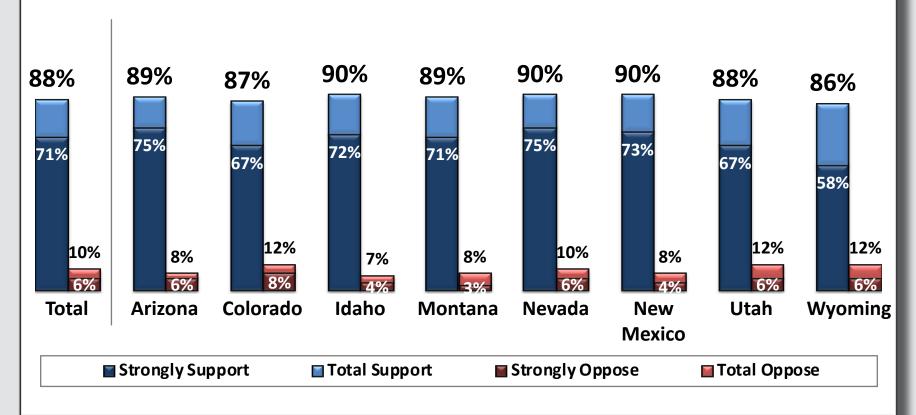
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state.... **requiring mining companies to pay fees for mining on public lands**(Asked of N=1,600 Respondents)







There is near universal support to require oil and gas companies to use updated equipment to prevent methane gas pollution.



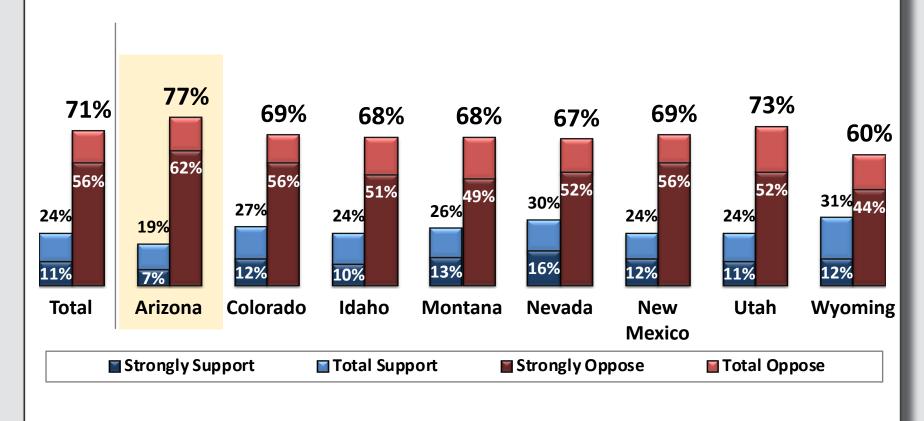
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state.... requiring oil and gas companies to use updated equipment and technology to prevent leaks of methane gas and other pollution into the air (Asked of N=1,600 Respondents)







Voters, especially in Arizona, oppose new uranium mining on public lands next to the Grand Canyon National Park.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state... **allowing new uranium mining claims on existing public lands next to the Grand Canyon National Park, a practice that is currently banned**(Asked of N=2,093 Respondents)

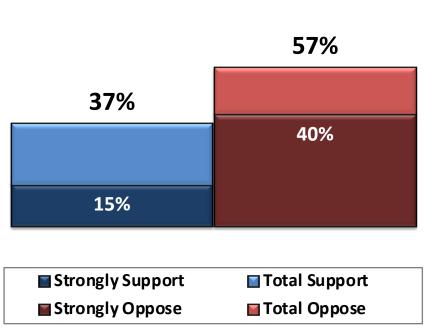






There is majority opposition to privatizing management and services at National Parks.





For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state.... privatizing the management of campgrounds, visitor centers and other services provided at National Parks and other national public lands

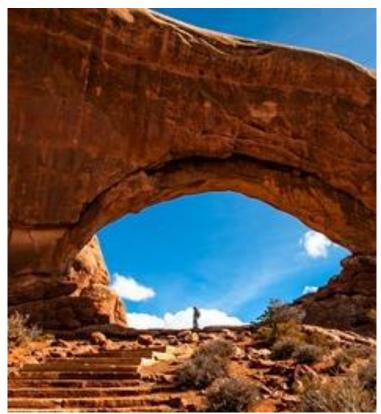
(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)

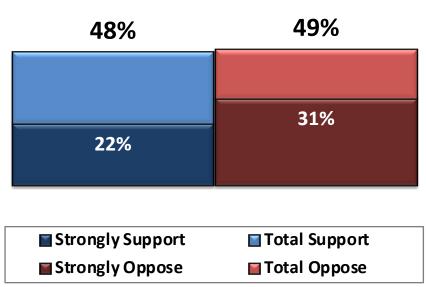






However, Western voters are split on raising entrance fees at National Parks during peak seasons.





For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state... raising fees to enter some of the country's largest National Parks during the peak seasons
(Asked N=1,600 Respondents)









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