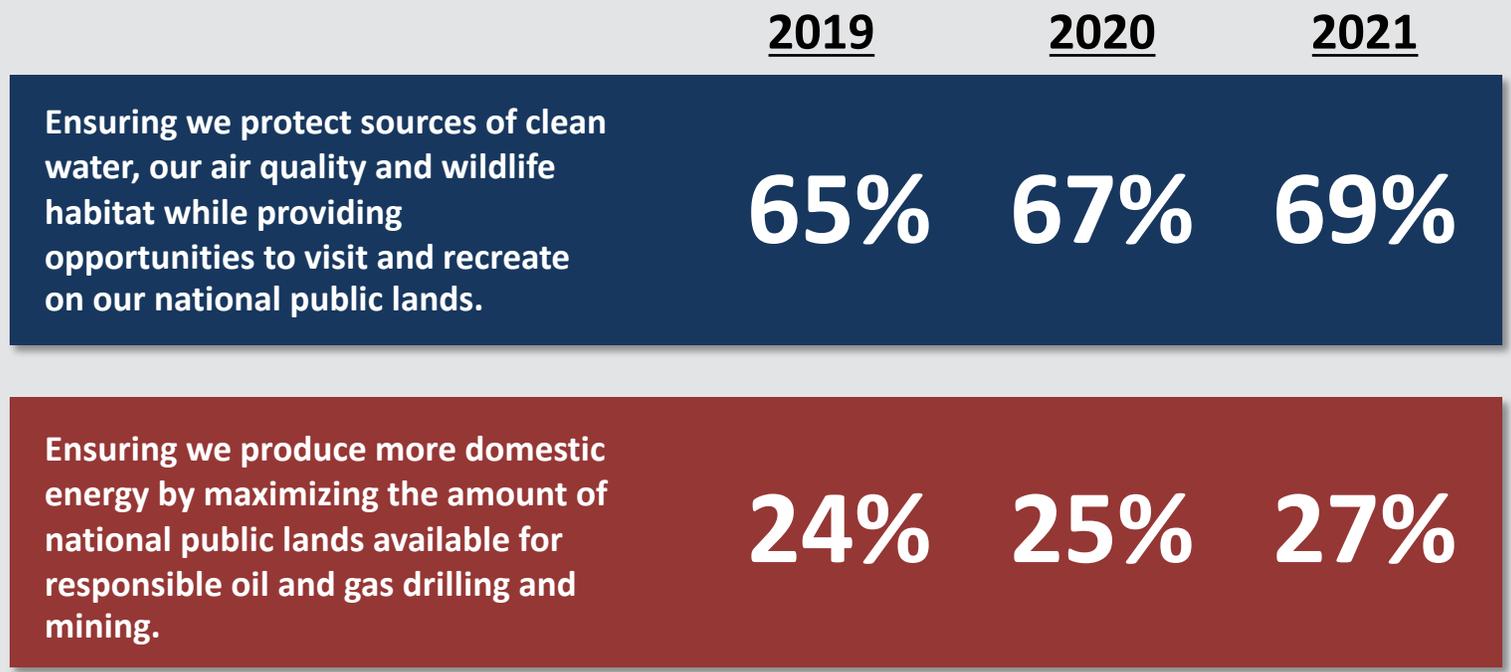


Public Lands in the West

Western voters are strongly in favor of limiting oil and gas development on public lands as well as protecting portions of existing public lands where wildlife migrate each year. Voters are enthusiastic about expanding national monument protections and creating new public lands for historic and recreation purposes.

Consistent with the past two years, over two-thirds of Western voters would prefer their Member of Congress to place more emphasis on protecting the conservation value of public lands, rather than allowing mining and drilling on public lands. Fully 69 percent want Congress to focus on “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” over “Ensuring we produce more domestic energy by maximizing the amount of national public lands available for responsible oil and gas drilling and mining” (27 percent). Voters of color are one of the strongest sub-groups to say we should prioritize conservation on public lands (78 percent conserve). Majorities in every type of community also prioritize the conservation value of these lands over maximizing energy production - from urban (78 percent) and suburban voters (70 percent), to those in small towns (67 percent) and rural areas (58 percent).



The desire to conserve national public lands may be due to the continued perception that these lands do boost state economies. Seventy-seven percent of Western voters say that the presence of national public lands in their state helps the state economy. The view that national public lands help the economy is one of the least partisan opinions, holding true across the political spectrum.

Helps Economy



79%



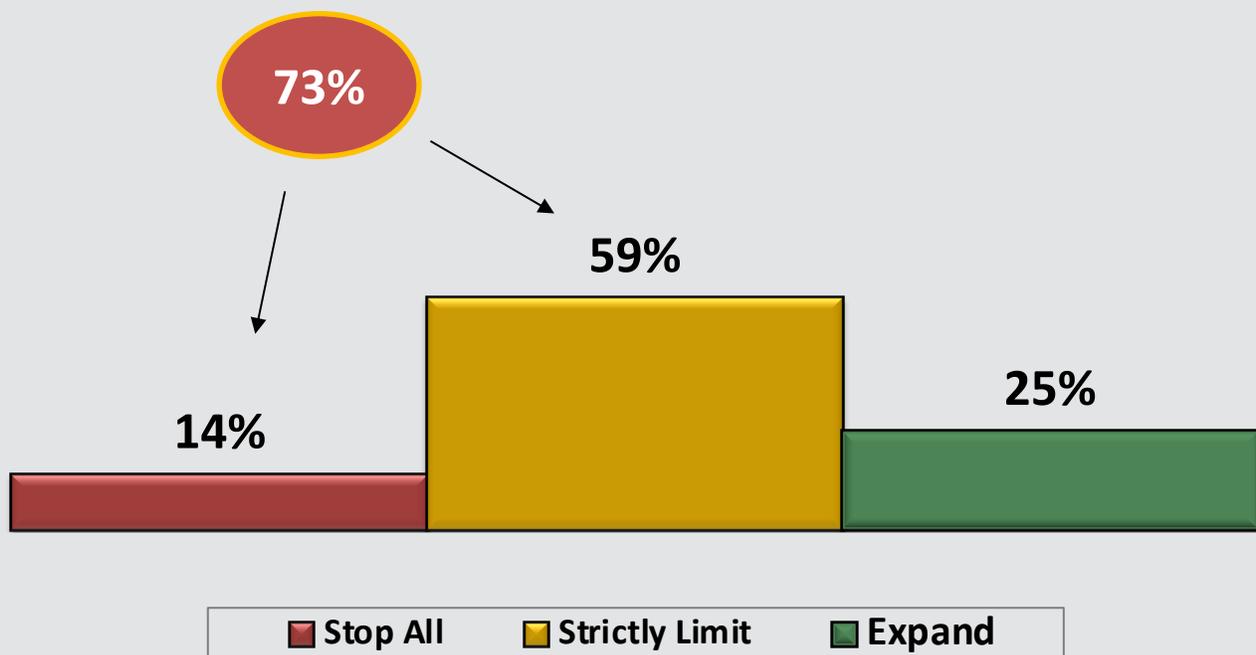
77%



75%

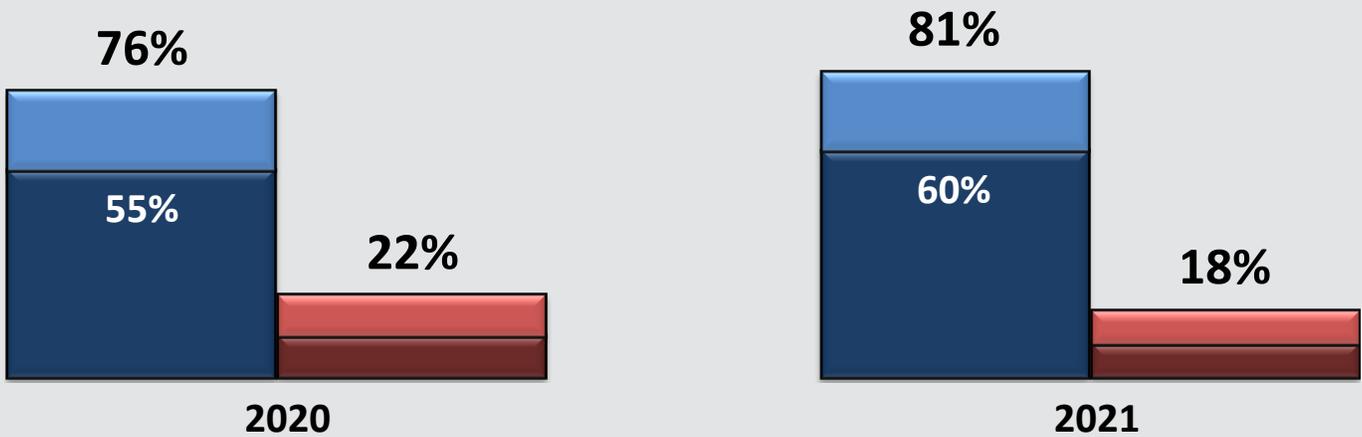
Even prior to the new Administration’s “time-out” on leasing, a strong majority of Western voters voiced support for stopping or strictly limiting oil and gas development on national public lands. Fifty-nine percent of voters say that oil and gas development on public lands should be limited and fourteen percent say oil and gas development should be stopped altogether. Only a quarter believe it should be expanded.

Future of Oil and Gas Development on Public Lands



Support for designating wildlife migration corridors where oil and gas production is not allowed has increased. We asked voters whether they would support or oppose a proposal to designate portions of existing public lands where wildlife migrate each year as areas which should not be open to oil and gas drilling. We saw a slight uptick in support from 2020. Sportsmen and non-sportsmen alike support conserving migration corridors without drilling. Support is strong in every state, including energy intensive-Wyoming.

Designating Migration Corridors Safe From Oil and Gas Drilling

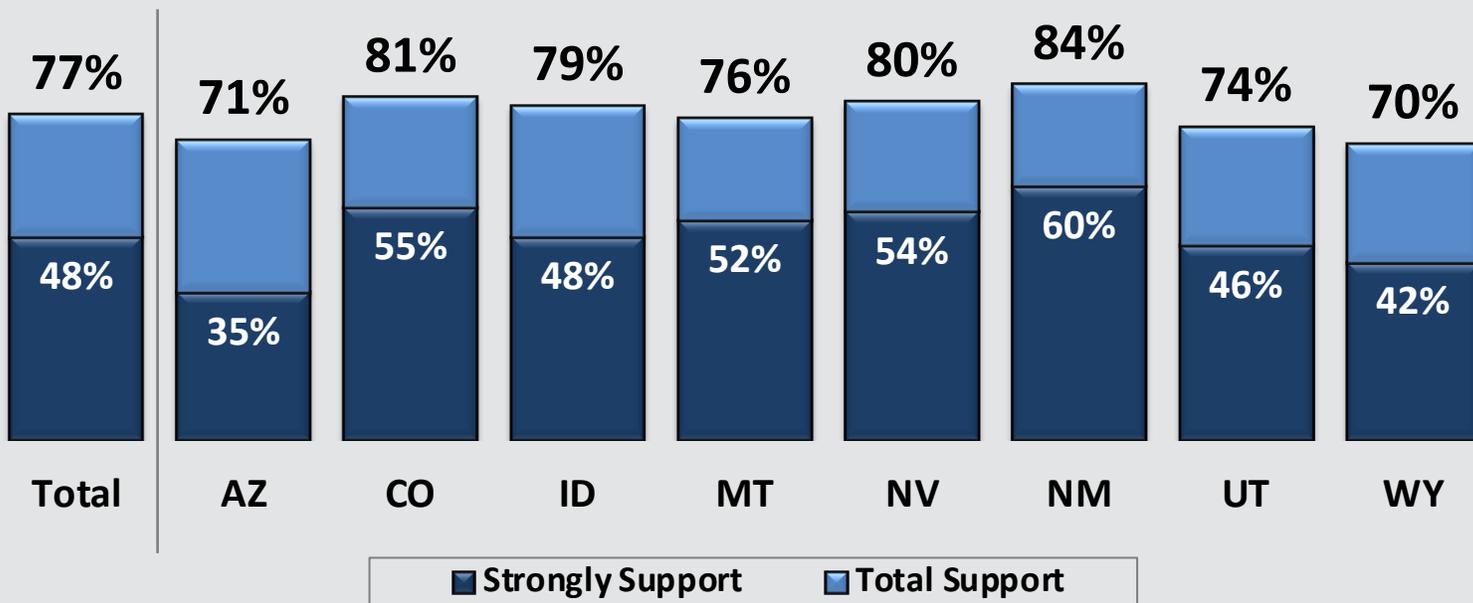


Strongly Support
 Total Support
 Strongly Oppose
 Total Oppose



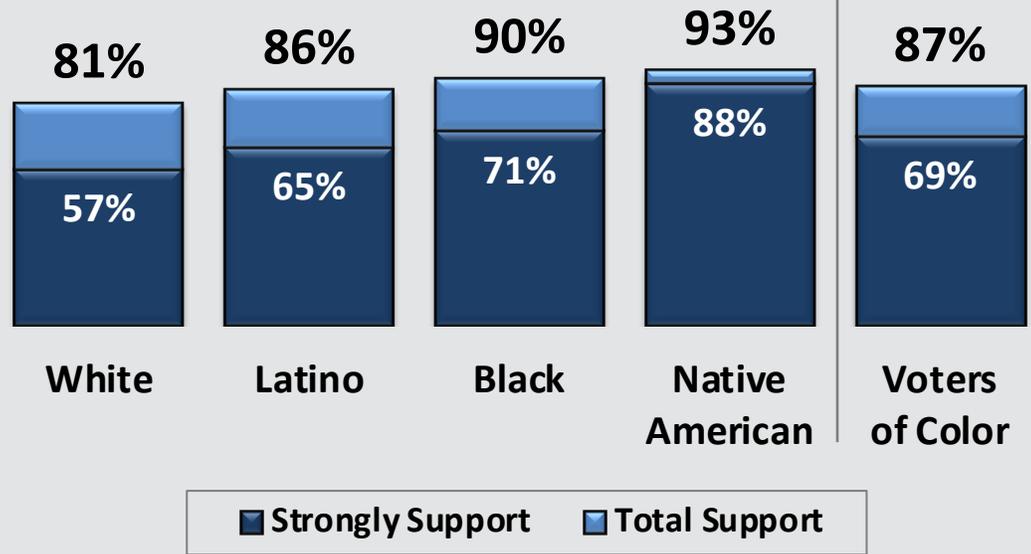
Voters in every state support restoring national monument protections, including nearly three-quarters in Utah. Voters of color feel strongly about these protections. Seventy-five percent of Black voters, seventy-five percent of Latino voters and seventy-seven percent of Native American voters are in support of this proposal.

Restoring National Monument Protections w/ Native American Sites and Oil, Gas, and Mineral Deposits



Greater tribal input on public lands is supported across the region. Voters of all ethnicities strongly support greater input into decisions that affect lands that are culturally important to tribes.

Tribal Input on Sacred National Public Land



Voters also overwhelmingly support creating more public lands for historic or recreation purposes. There is broad and deep support for this proposal regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, party or type of community. Over seven-in-ten Republicans support this proposal, as do 85 percent of Independents and 95 percent of Democrats.

New Parks, Monuments, Refuges, and Tribal Lands to Protect Historic Sites or Provide Areas for Outdoor Recreation

