

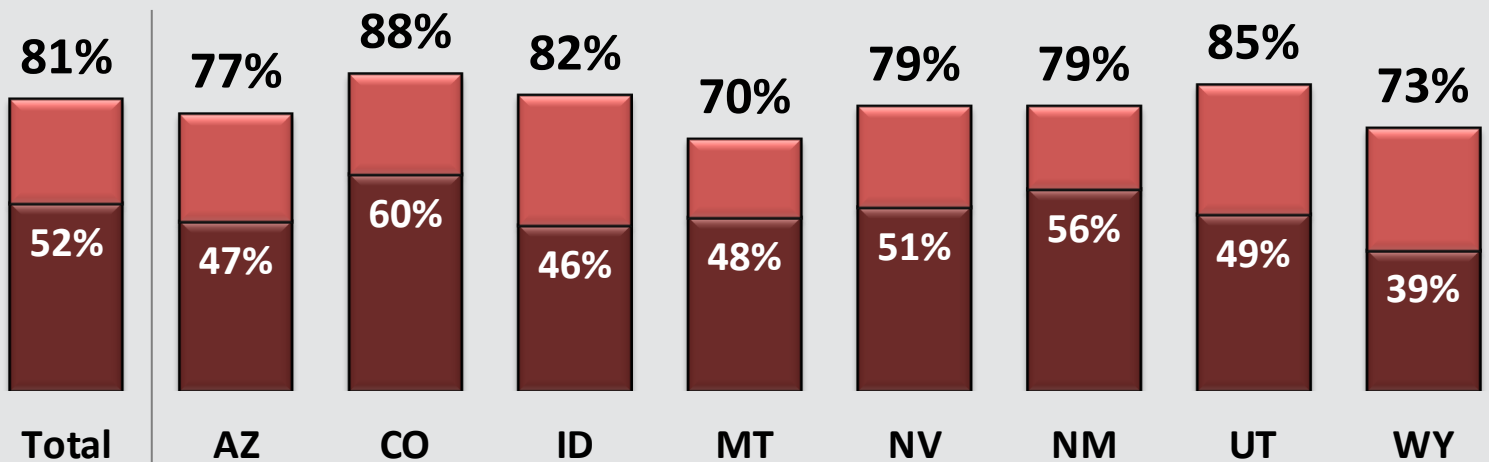
Wildlife in the West

Concerns about a range of environmental problems affecting wildlife have increased over the last decade, spurring strong support for conserving habitat and other protections.

Almost four-in-five in each of these Western states say that loss of habitat for fish and wildlife is a serious problem. This is true regardless of where respondents live. Eighty-seven percent of big city residents say it is a serious problem, along with 81 percent of suburbanites, 81 percent of small-town voters, and 73 percent of those living in rural areas. The percent saying this is an extremely or very serious problem has increased seventeen points since 2011 when compared to the data from the five original State of the Rockies states (CO, MT, NM, UT, WY).



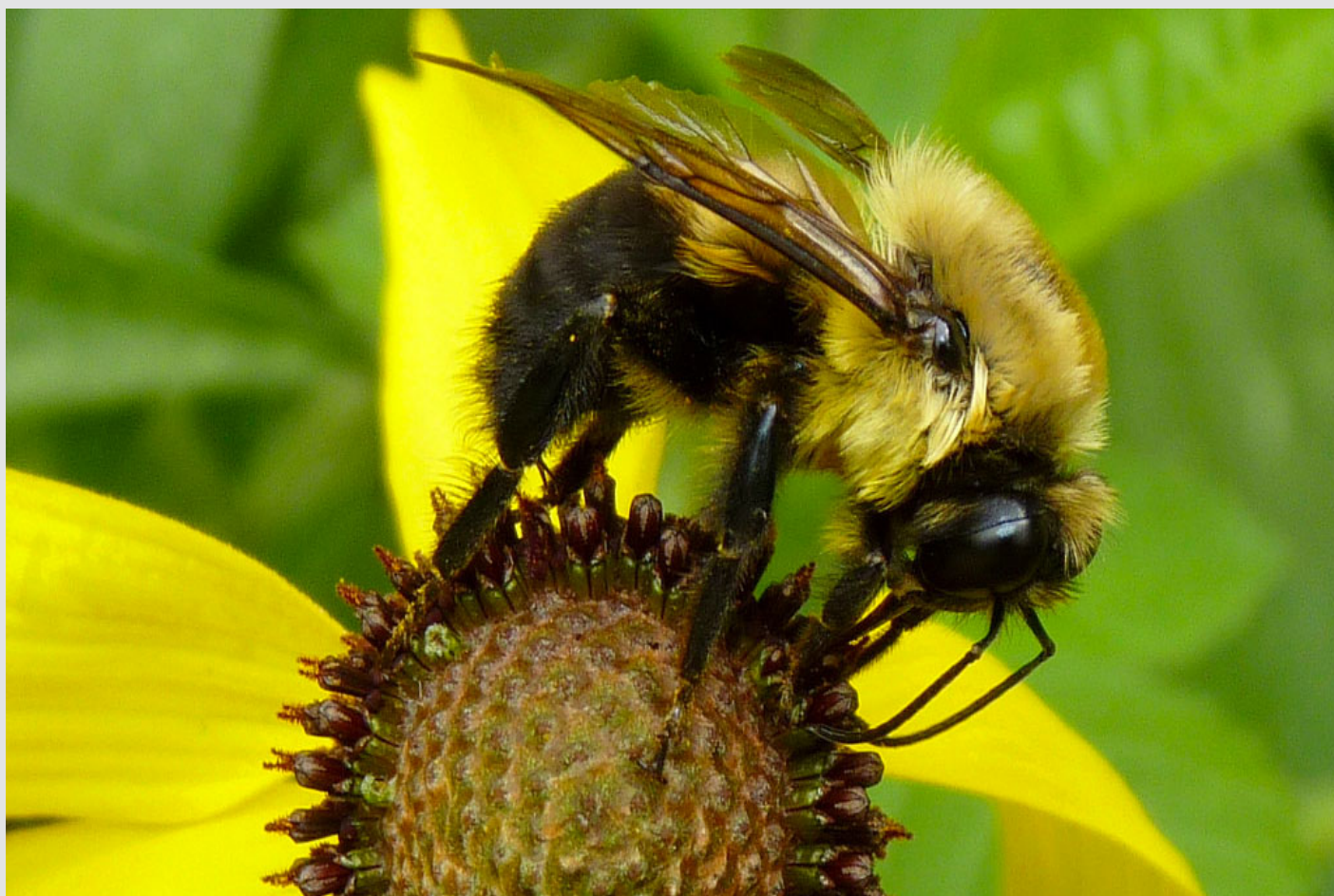
Seriousness of Loss of Habitat for Fish and Wildlife



■ Extremely/Very Serious Problem ■ Total Serious Problem

There is even greater concern for loss of pollinators, such as bees and butterflies. There was a significant increase even in just the last year in concern about the “loss of pollinators such as bees and butterflies” (63 percent say it is an extremely or very serious problem, up from 55 percent in 2020). When asked about a series of environmental problems, voter rate the loss of pollinators as the most extremely serious problem with more than one-in-three (34 percent) placing it in the top category as being an extremely serious problem.

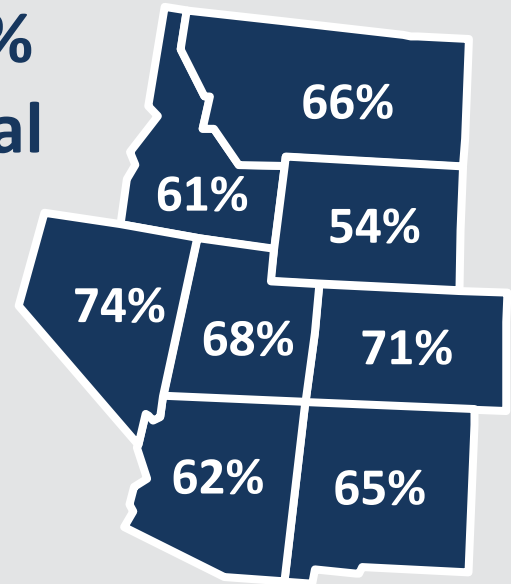
Overall, more than four-in-five Westerners (86 percent) say that loss of pollinators is a serious problem, and the issue tops water – typically of greatest concern in the West - in terms of the intensity of concern. Majorities in every state and across all types of communities say that loss of pollinators is a problem, including in cities (89 percent), suburbs (87 percent), small towns (87 percent), and rural areas (82 percent).



Most Western voters say they would support restoring limits on drilling or industrial activities that could negatively impact threatened wildlife on national public lands such as sage grouse. This majority sentiment is consistent across every type of community: city (73 percent support), suburbs (66 percent), small town (66 percent), and rural areas (58 percent). Republicans are more divided on the topic (50 percent support), but large majorities of Independents and Democrats say they would support restoring limits on drilling or industrial activities (67 percent and 87 percent respectively).

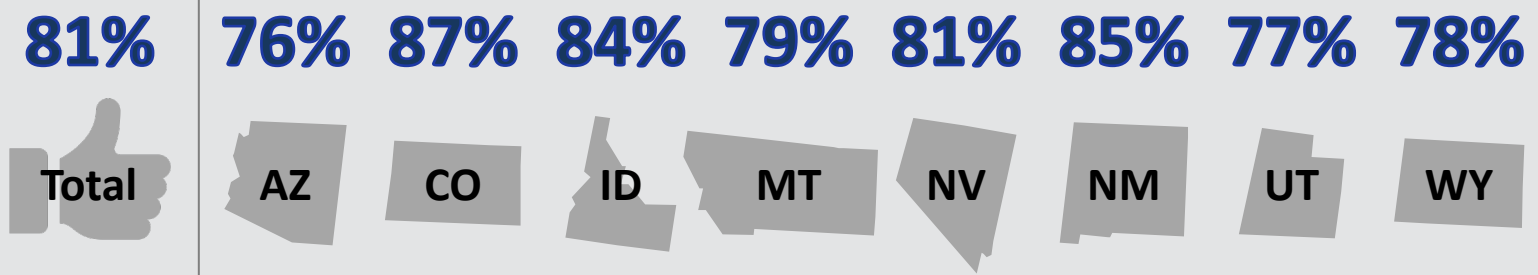
Restore Limits on Drilling or Industrial Activities

67% Total



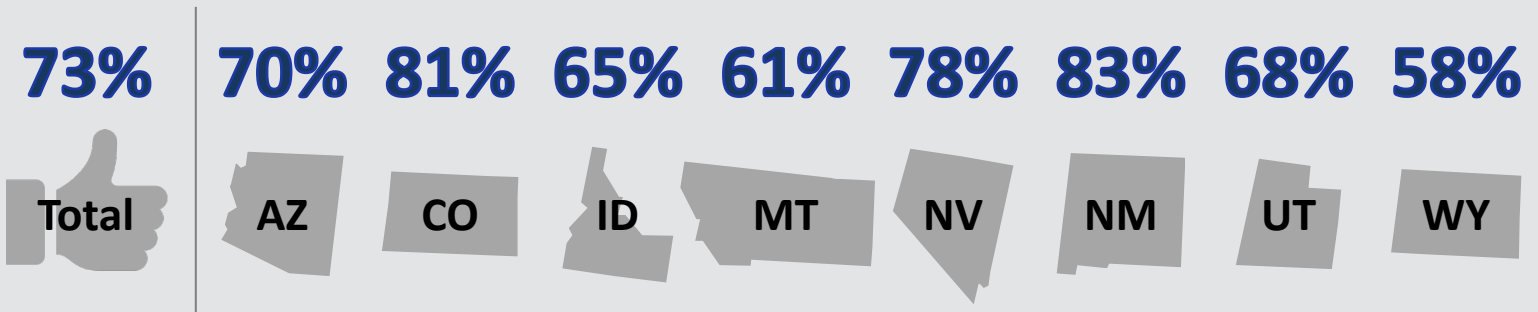
There is broad and deep support for a proposal that would designate portions of existing public lands where wildlife migrate each year as areas which should not be open to oil and gas drilling. More than four-in-five Westerners (81 percent) back conserving wildlife migration routes on public lands, including the vast majority in every state, including Wyoming (78 percent support, 19 percent oppose). Support for this proposal extends across party lines as 68 percent of Republicans, 83 percent of Independents, and 93 percent of Democrats favor the proposal. There is virtually no distinction between white voters and voters of color on this proposal. Over eight-in-ten regardless of ethnic background are supportive, though voters of color strongly support the measure by a few points (65 percent of voters of color strongly support and 59 percent of white voters strongly support).

Designate Migration Routes as Not Open to Oil and Gas Drilling



Nearly three-quarters of Western voters support restoring protections for threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act. A majority in all states are in support and over a third in each state are strongly in support. Moreover, a majority across party lines support restoring protections under the ESA with 57 percent of Republicans in support, 71 percent of Independents and 95 percent of Democrats. Latino and Black voters demonstrate extraordinary levels of support for ESA restoration, with 83 percent of Latinos and 81 percent of Black voters in support.

Restoring Endangered Species Act Protections



In Idaho, voters continue to overwhelmingly support efforts to improve salmon migration. Almost nine-in-ten Idaho voters (89 percent) support a proposal to improve migration of salmon in the state’s rivers so that there are abundant populations, with a clear majority saying they “strongly” support it (60 percent). Support is up five points from last year when 84 percent said they supported the proposal, and 55 percent strongly did so. There continues to be solid partisan agreement on improving salmon migration, with the vast majority of Republicans (84 percent support), Independents (92 percent), and Democrats (97 percent) backing such an effort. Moreover, there is deep support for this proposal regardless of whether voters are anglers/fishermen (88 percent) or not (91 percent).

Improving Migration of Salmon in Idaho Rivers

