



TALKING POINTS

Public lands and the outdoor way of life remain deeply important to Western voters

Protected public lands draw people to the Mountain West

- **68%** label themselves as “conservationists.”
- **63%** of respondents, say the ability to live near, recreate on, and enjoy public lands like national forests, parks, or trails are a factor in why they live in the West.

Strong optimism for the outdoor economy

- **70%** view themselves as “outdoor recreation enthusiasts” and **87%** believe the outdoor economy is important to the future of their state.

Impacts of climate change top voter concerns

- **46%** view climate change as a very serious or extremely serious problem in their state—a steady increase over the duration of the history of the poll.
- **67%** believe wildfires are more of a problem than ten years ago, with changes in climate and drought being the top reasons given for the shift.
- **67%** view water supplies as becoming less predictable every year.

Voters reject the Trump administration’s approach to public lands and call for a new direction

Majorities view key actions over the past two years by the Trump administration as “bad changes”

- Removing national monument protections from lands in the West which contain archaeological and Native American sites, but also have oil, gas and mineral deposits (**Bad change 66% / Good change 13%**)
- Reducing the amount of time that the public can comment on proposed changes affecting public lands, such as leasing for oil and gas or mining (**Bad change 55% / Good change 17%**)
- Removing Clean Water Act protections from smaller streams and seasonal wetlands (**Bad change 60% / Good change 17%**)
- Allowing increased oil and gas production on eighty% of the “critical habitat” that Western states had identified in 2015 in order to try and restore the threatened sage grouse (**Bad change 50% / Good change 21%**)

Calls for the new Congress to challenge the Trump administration public lands priorities.

- **4%** want Congress to ensure the production of more domestic energy by maximizing the amount of national public lands available for responsible oil and gas drilling and mining.
- **65%**, by contrast, prefer Congress ensures the protection of clean water, air quality, and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities to visit and recreate on national public lands.

Voters want to see more state conservation efforts, and are willing to pay for them

Demand for leadership at all levels of government to advance policies that will protect and keep open outdoor landscapes.

- In every state but Wyoming, solar power and wind power **ranked highest** among energy sources voters said they would like to see encouraged in their state.
- **68%** of voters said they would support a small increase in local taxes to fund efforts at the state level to conserve land, water and wildlife, including projects like:
 - Protecting and restoring the health of rivers, lakes and streams (**81% support**)
 - Conserving sensitive areas which the state has identified as critical wildlife habitat (**71% support**)
 - Conserving natural areas, such as native prairies or forests (**66% support**)
 - Ensuring opportunities for outdoor recreation like hiking, fishing or camping (**64% support**)
 - Conserving land corridors which wildlife like deer and elk use for migration (**68% support**)
 - Providing incentives for landowners to conserve lands as natural areas rather than develop them (**56% support**)
 - Managing forests to help prevent catastrophic wildfires (**84% support**)