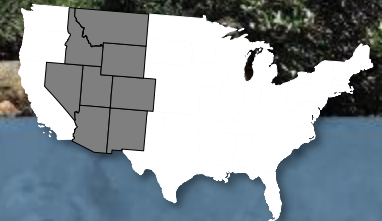




KEY FINDINGS

THE 2021 SURVEY OF THE ATTITUDES OF VOTERS IN EIGHT WESTERN STATES



JANUARY 2021

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

Methodology

- ❖ 3,842 telephone (cell and landline) and online interviews via email invitation with registered voters in eight states: Arizona (N=559), Colorado (N=548), Idaho (N=459), Montana (N=442), Nevada (N=505), New Mexico (N=480), Utah (N=439), and Wyoming (N=410).
- ❖ Two oversamples were also conducted this year, in order to have greater ability to report distinctions among racial/ethnic sub-groups. We conducted additional interviews to reach a total of N=306 Black voters and a total of N=217 Native American voters, which were then weighted back to reflect their true proportions within the electorate in this region.
- ❖ Interviews conducted January 2-13, 2021, in Spanish and English.
- ❖ The effective margin of error is $\pm 2.2\%$ at the 95% confidence interval for the total sample; and at most $\pm 4.8\%$ 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.
- ❖ Comparisons are made to similarly conducted surveys annually from 2011 to 2020.
- ❖ Bi-partisan research team of New Bridge Strategy (R) and Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D).

Western voters are far more likely to say they are worried about the future of nature than optimistic.

36%

Hopeful



61%

Worried



When you think about the future of nature, meaning our land, water, air and wildlife, would you say that you feel – more hopeful or more worried?

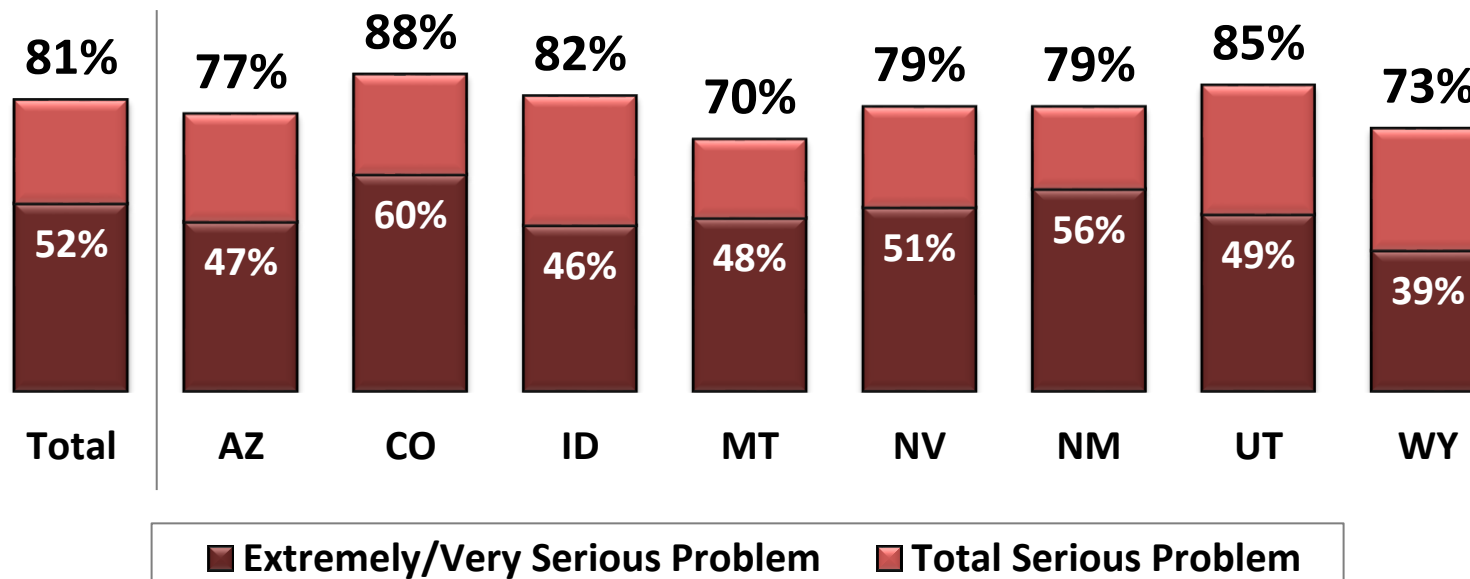
A number of environmental problems we tracked from 2011 have increased as very serious problems, especially climate change.

<i>% Extremely/Very Serious</i>	2011	2021	% Increase
Climate change	27%	→ 54%	+27%
Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife	38%	→ 55%	+17%
Pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams	42%	→ 55%	+13%
Inadequate water supplies	40%	→ 51%	+11%
Loss of family farms and ranches	50%	→ 56%	+6%
The impact of oil and gas drilling on our land, air and water	31%	→ 37%	+6%
Air pollution and smog	40%	→ 43%	+3%

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 your state... Showing 2021 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

Almost four-in-five in each of these Western states say that loss of habitat for fish and wildlife is a serious problem.

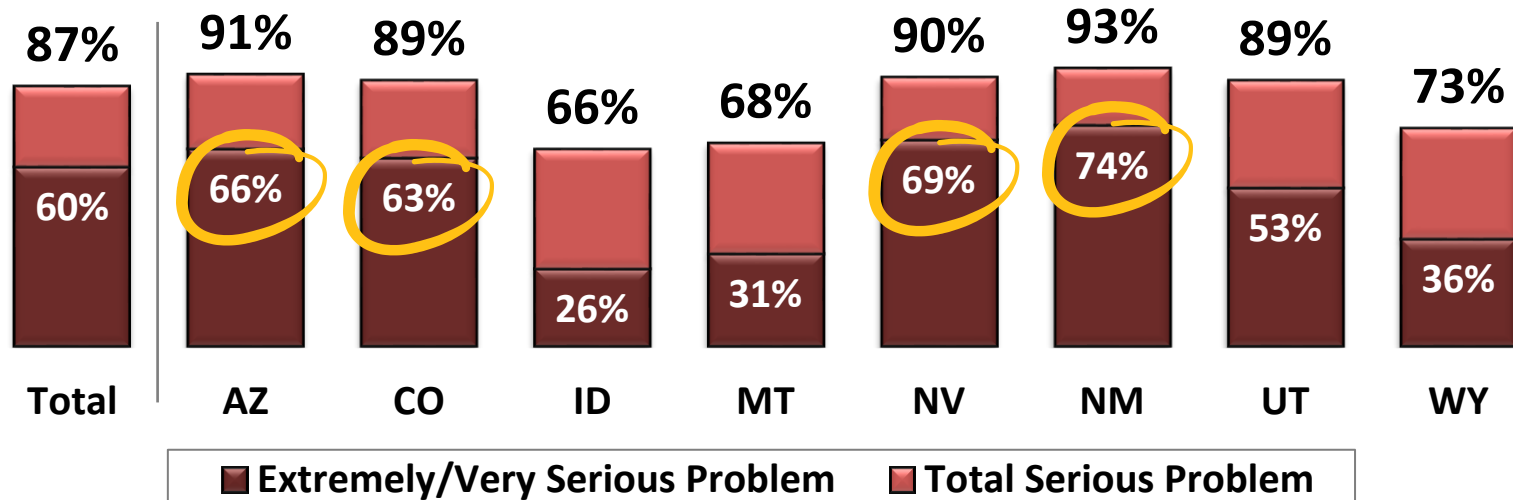
Seriousness of Loss of Habitat for Fish and Wildlife



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 your state...

Water is also a top environmental concern. River levels are perceived as serious problems by the majority of voters across all Western states interviewed.

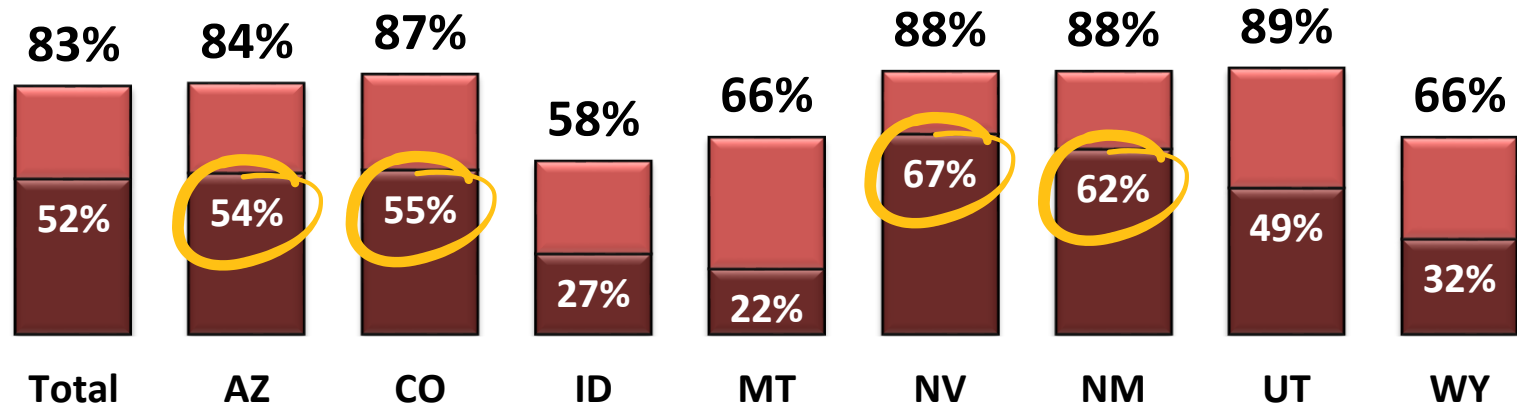
Seriousness of Low Level of Water in Rivers



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 your state...

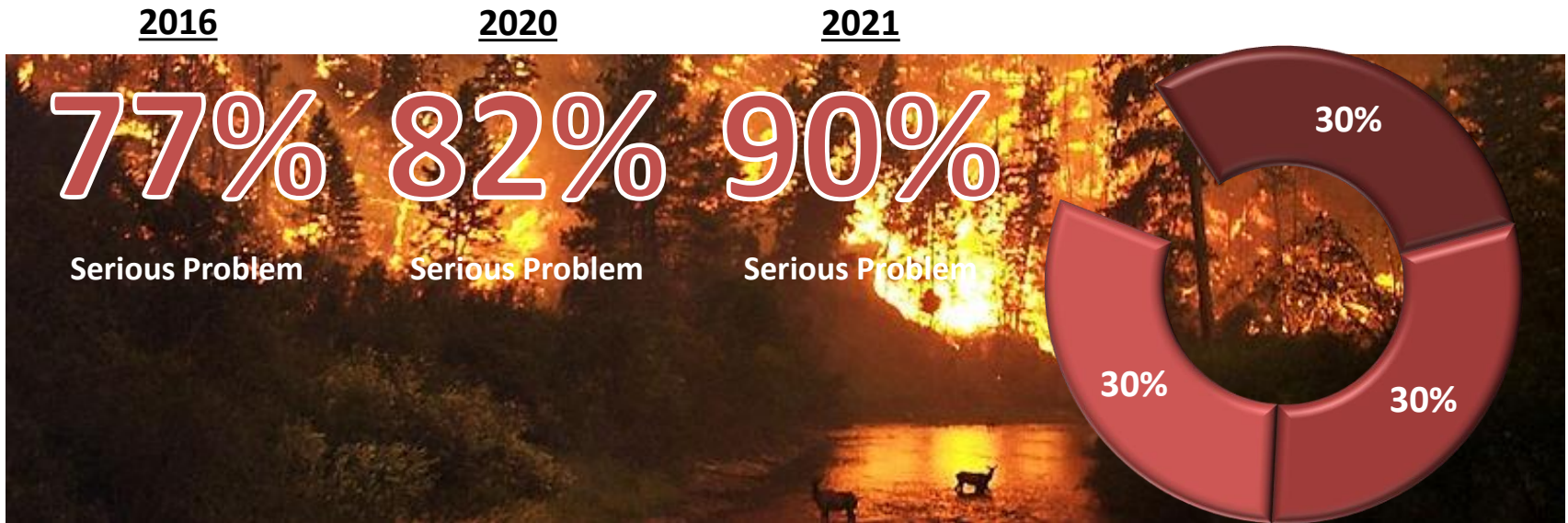
Not surprisingly, inadequate water supplies are of most intense concern in the desert states of Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico.

Seriousness of Inadequate Water Supplies



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 your state...

Wildfires are also seen as a more serious problem now than even five years ago.

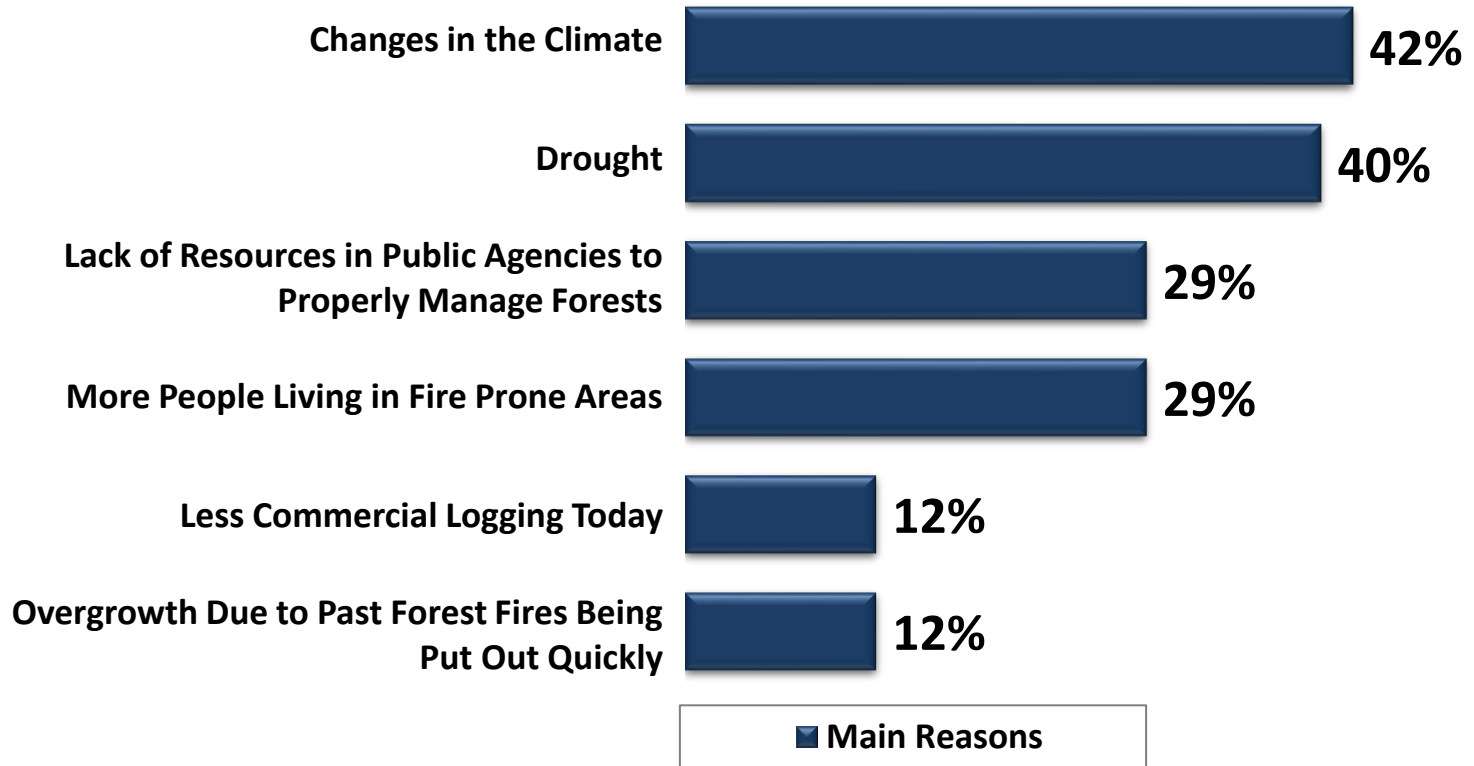


Uncontrollable wildfires that threaten homes and property

- Extremely Serious
- Very Serious
- Somewhat Serious

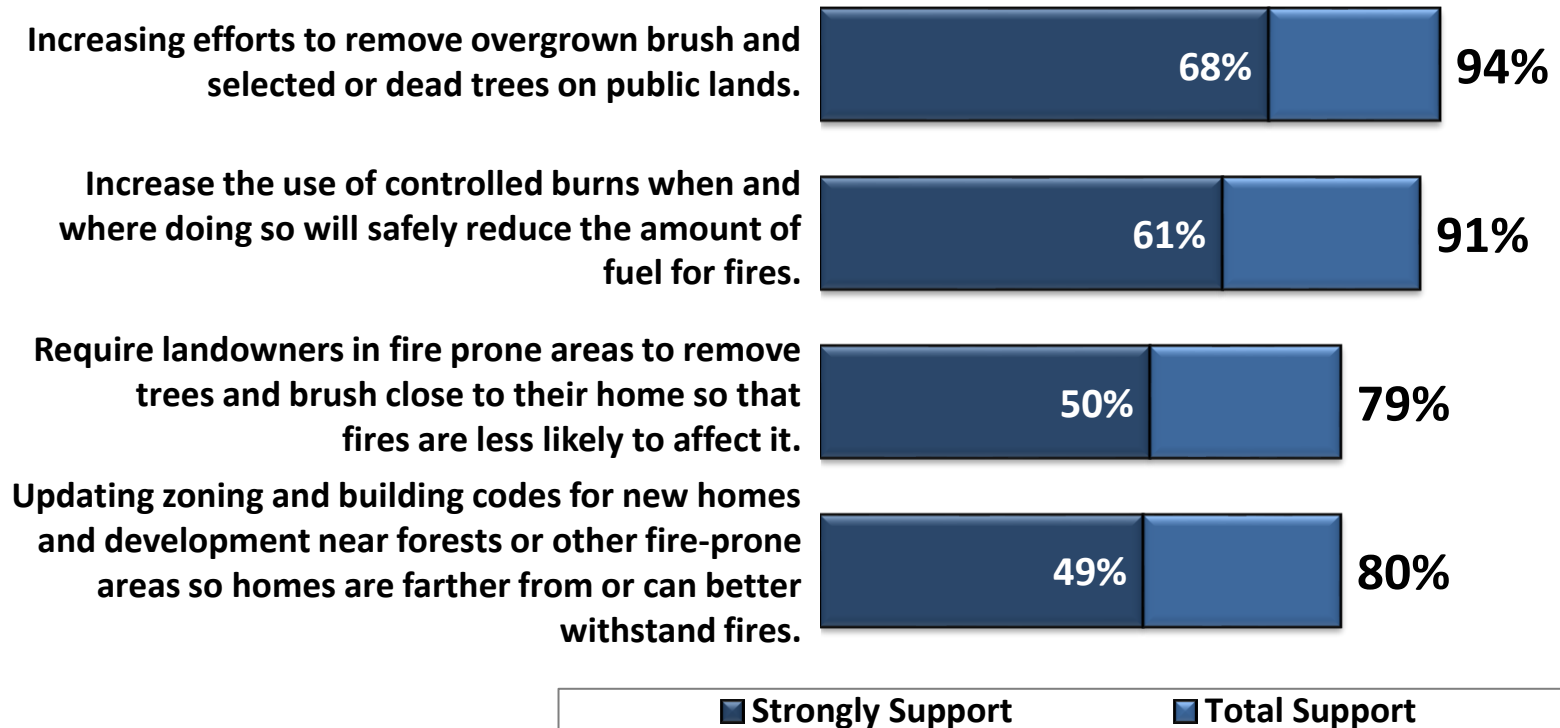
For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in your state... **Uncontrollable Wildfires That Threaten Homes and Property** - (Asked N=1,869 Respondents)
Showing 2020 and 2021 data by just 2016 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

Voters cite climate change and drought as the two biggest reasons for increased wildfires.

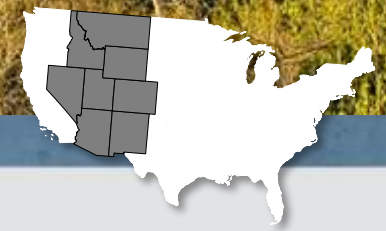


*What are the main reasons you think wildfires are more of a problem than ten years ago?
Asked if Q17: Wildfires are More of a Problem (N=2,715). Multiple Responses Accepted*

Voters generally support any proposal designed to help prevent the negative impacts of wildfires.



Thinking about some actions that could or are being taken to help address the risks from wildfires in the western United States... For each one, please indicate if you support or oppose taking that specific action.

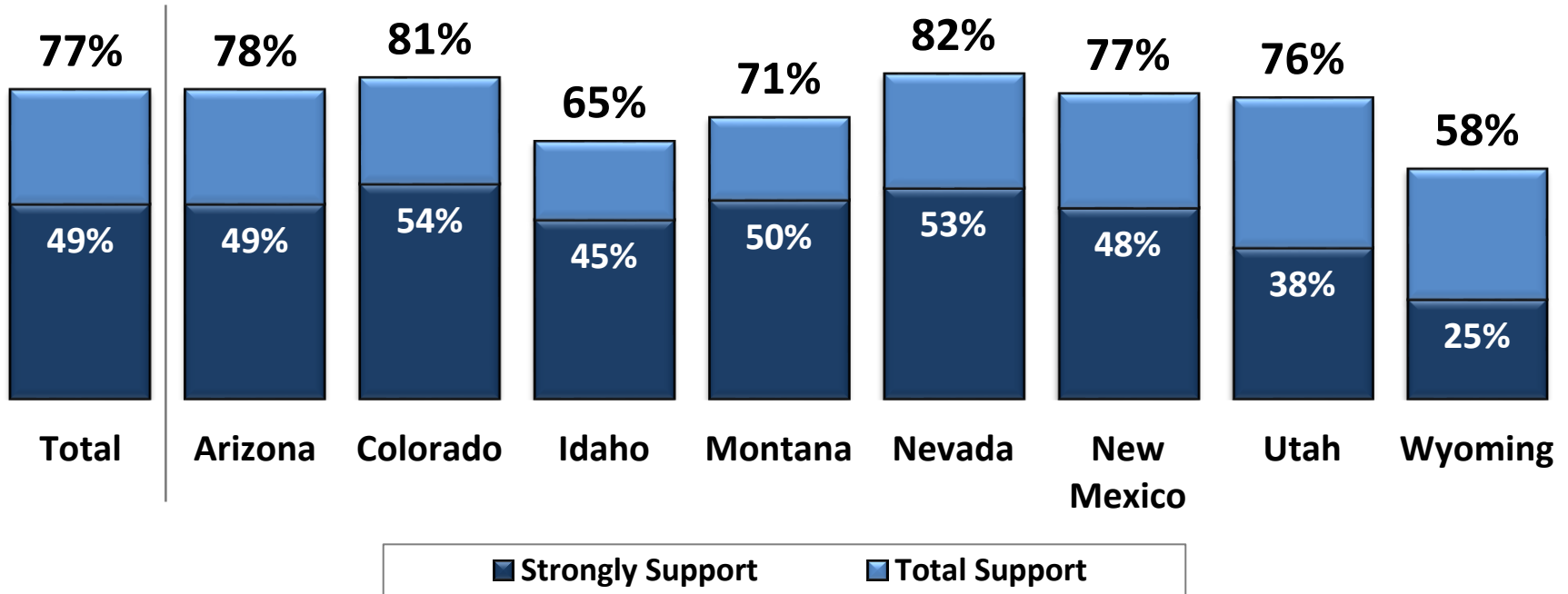


Public Lands & Energy



A majority of voters express support for an initiative to conserve 30% of land and waters by 2030.

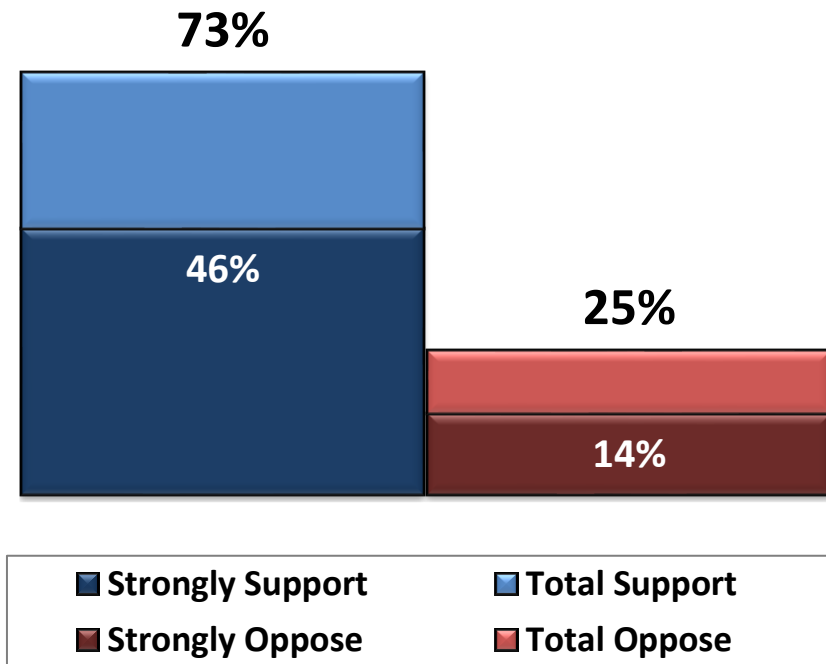
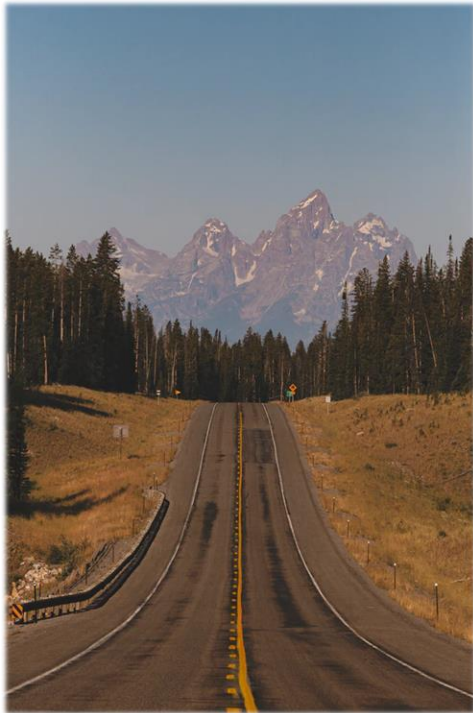
National 30% Conservation Goals



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state...

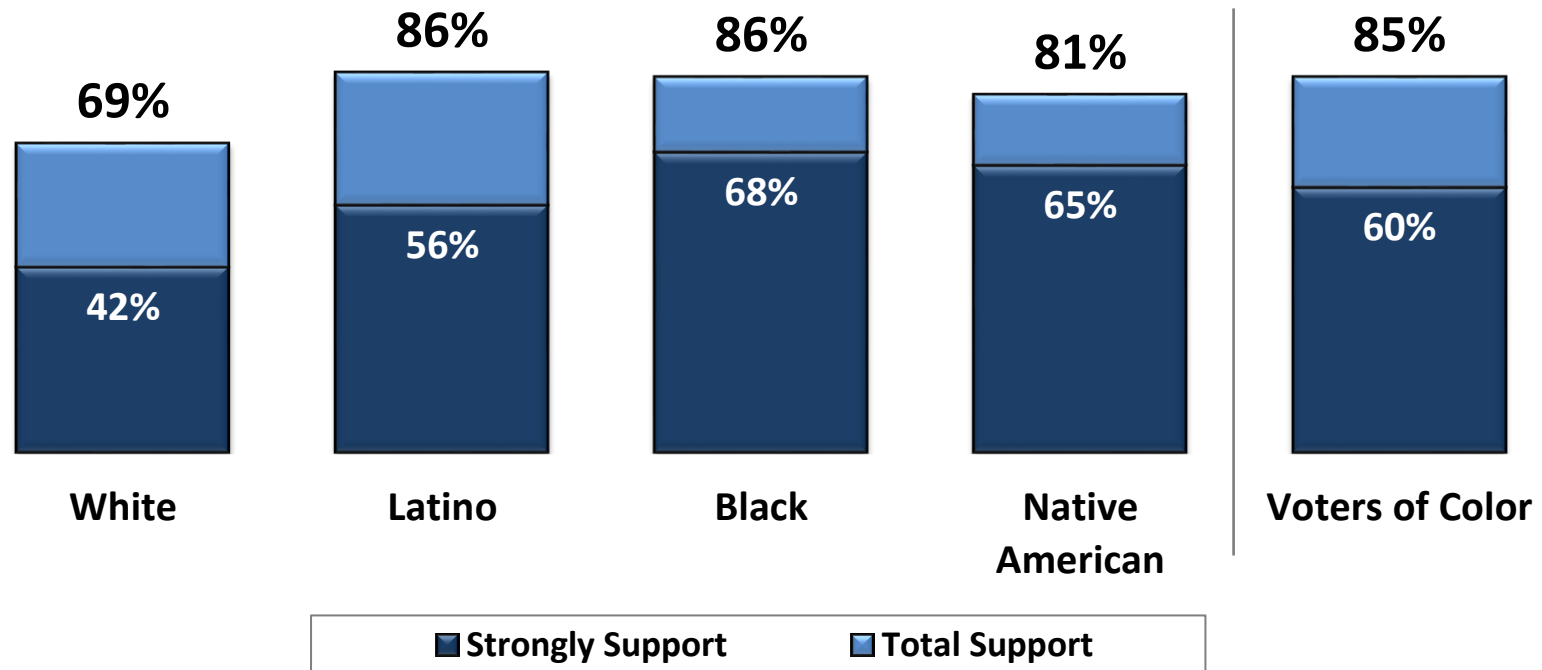
Setting a national goal of conserving thirty percent of land and inland waters in America, and thirty percent of its ocean areas by the year 2030. (Asked N=1,973 Respondents)

Voters overwhelmingly support directing funding to increase access for lower-income people and communities of color.



*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state...
Directing funding to ensure adequate access to parks and natural areas for lower-income people and communities of color that have disproportionately lacked them (Asked N=1,869 Respondents)*

Support is strongest among communities of color.



*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state...
Directing funding to ensure adequate access to parks and natural areas for lower-income people and communities of color that have disproportionately lacked them (Asked N=1,869 Respondents)*

With the potential for a return to normalcy in 2021, a majority intend to visit national public lands more often.



57%

More Often



39%

Same



4%

Less Often

Top Groups More Often: City Women (67%), New Mexico (66%), Democrat 18-44 (66%), Women 18-34 (64%), Women 35-54 (63%)

And obviously 2020 was an unusual year, so assuming that the pandemic is under control this year, do you plan to visit national public lands - more often, less often or about the same amount in the year ahead?

Hiking and camping are by far the most common outdoor activities.



75%

Hiking/Running/
Walking



47%

Camping

Picnicking **34%**

Hunting/Fishing **33%**

Bird Watching/
Viewing Wildlife **31%**

Boating/Rafting/
Kayaking **27%**

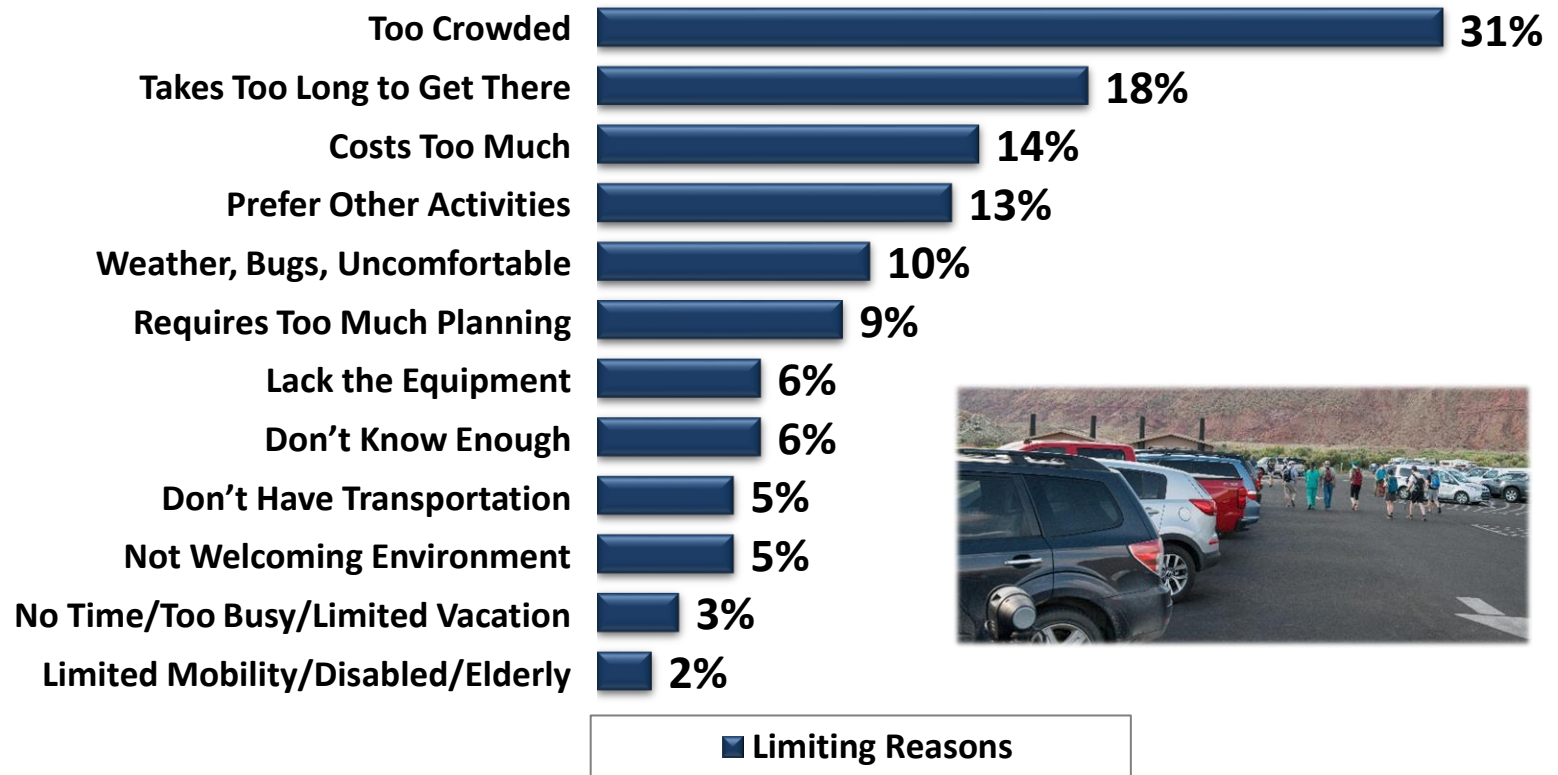
Sports **25%**

Mountain/Trail Biking **22%**

Off-Road/Snowmobile **21%**

Which of the following types of outdoor recreation, if any, do you participate in regularly?

Crowding is the greatest deterrent to visiting national public lands more often, topping concerns about distance or cost.



Which if any of the following limit how often you might visit national public lands such as national parks or national forests?

Two-thirds prefer their Member of Congress to emphasize protecting resources and natural lands over drilling or mining.

2019

2020

2021

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.

65%

67%

69%

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

24%

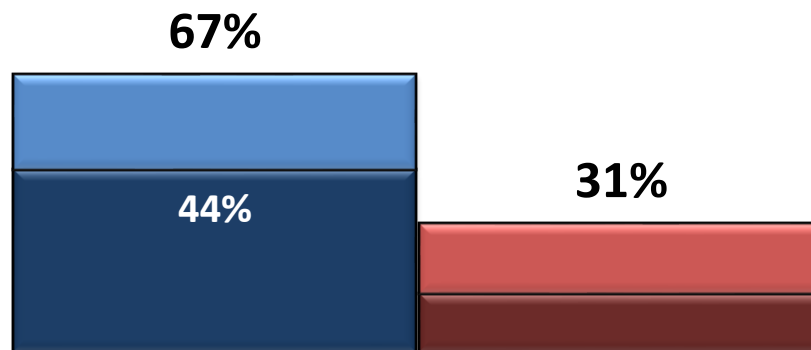
25%

27%

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

Two-thirds support limits on drilling or other industrial activities to protect threatened wildlife like sage grouse.

Restoring Drilling and Industrial Limits



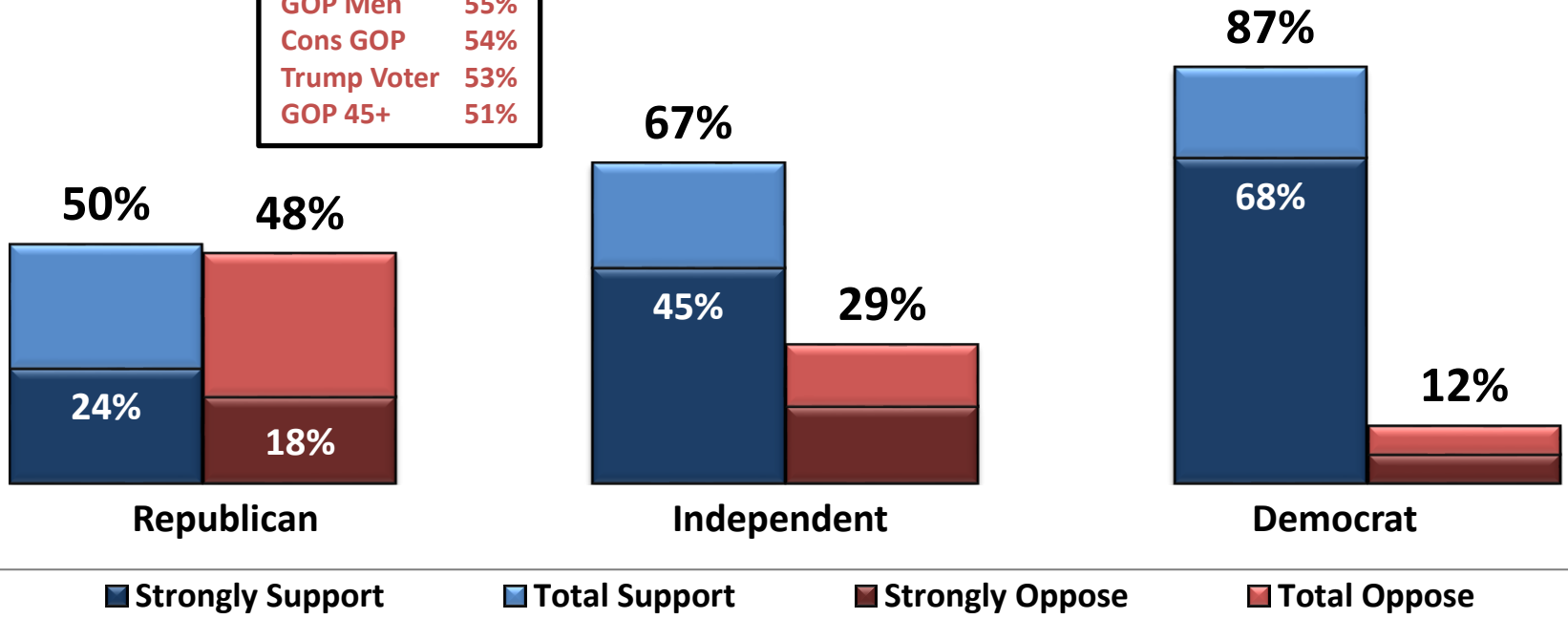
■ Strongly Support ■ Total Support
■ Strongly Oppose ■ Total Oppose

*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state...
Restoring limits on drilling or industrial activities that could negatively impact threatened wildlife on national public lands, such as sage grouse, a bird species which is at-risk. (Asked N=1,973 Respondents)*

Republicans are divided on this, while two-thirds of Independents and nearly all Democrats support it.

Top Groups: Total Oppose

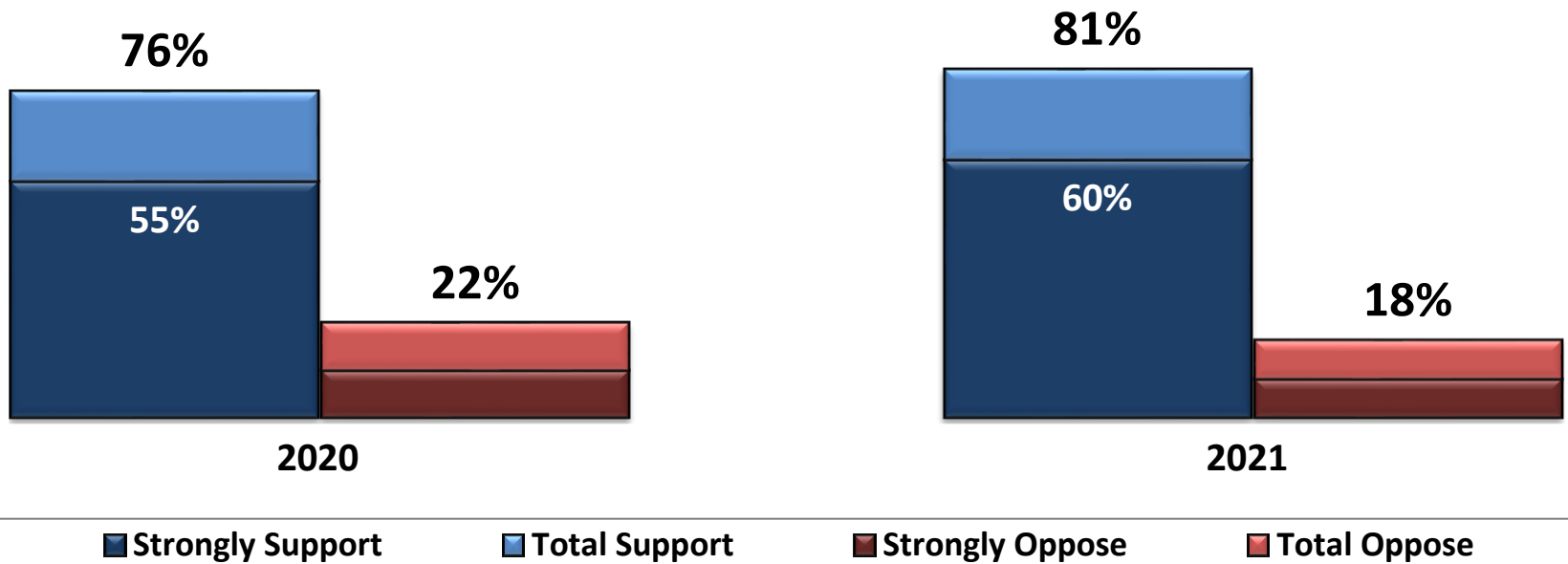
GOP Men	55%
Cons GOP	54%
Trump Voter	53%
GOP 45+	51%



*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state...
Restoring limits on drilling or industrial activities that could negatively impact threatened wildlife on national public lands, such as sage grouse, a bird species which is at-risk. (Asked N=1,973 Respondents)*

Support for designating wildlife migration corridors where oil and gas production is not allowed has increased.

Designating Migration Corridors Safe From Oil and Gas Drilling



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state... **Designating portions of existing public lands where wildlife migrate each year as areas which should NOT be open to oil and gas drilling.** (Asked N=1,869 Respondents)

How the State of the Rockies Data is Used

- ❖ The State of the Rockies poll data is utilized by policymakers in the West to understand voter sentiments in their state or region regarding environmental and social challenges.
- ❖ Non-profit organizations or other groups with specific environmental or social missions use the State of the Rockies data in their communications or as the basis for further research.
- ❖ It is also used by journalists or other members of the media to highlight various topics or issues of interest to Western voters, and;
- ❖ The data is used by students and faculty at Colorado College as the basis for various projects and research throughout the academic year, as well.

State of the Rockies Poll - Website

<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewest/2021/index.html>

- ❖ Website includes 11 years of visual representations of the State of the Rockies poll data
- ❖ Also includes summary reports for each state included in the poll...
- ❖ And eleven topic reports including “Climate Change in the West” and “Conservation in a New Era,” for example.



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