



Center for Western Priorities: Winning the West: Public Attitudes on Conservation, Public Lands, & National Monuments

July 2023



Center for
Western Priorities

Methodology

- ✓ Benenson Strategy Group conducted 1,807 interviews with likely 2024 voters in Arizona, Colorado, and Nevada from July 12 – 24, 2023. Interviews were conducted online. The sample was weighted to ensure it was proportionately representative of voters in each state.
 - The margin of error for the entire sample is $\pm 2.3\%$. It is higher among subgroups.
 - Due to rounding, displayed answer choices may not always add up to 100%.
- ✓ This deck refers to several groups throughout:
 - The West: Likely 2024 voters across all 3 states.
 - Outdoor Voters (OV): Likely 2024 voters living in Arizona, Colorado, and Nevada who say conservation issues are important in deciding how they vote, who say public lands, parks, and wildlife have become more important to them in the last few years, who have participated in conservation activities, and who visit public lands frequently.

Key Findings: On Western Voters and the Role of Conservation in Elections

- **Nearly universally, Western voters are seeking leaders who'll prioritize conservation issues.** Almost 9 in 10 say these matters play an important role in deciding the candidates they choose to support in elections, notably leaders who deliver on preserving and establishing national parks and monuments, investing in recreation, and protecting public lands from over-development and fossil fuel production.
- **Western Voters are overwhelmingly in favor of President Biden ramping up his efforts on the environment:** 74% admit they would be more favorable to him if he did *more* to protect public lands, and a majority are supportive of his use of executive authority to designate monuments.
- **Despite the pain of inflation, voters in the West ultimately prioritize long-term clean energy solutions over bringing down energy prices.** Nearly 6 in 10 agree with prioritizing the production of renewables on public lands over increasing oil and gas drilling wherever oil is available. Even against the threat of global instability and this year's pain at the pump, Western voters recognize the importance of long-term investments in renewables.

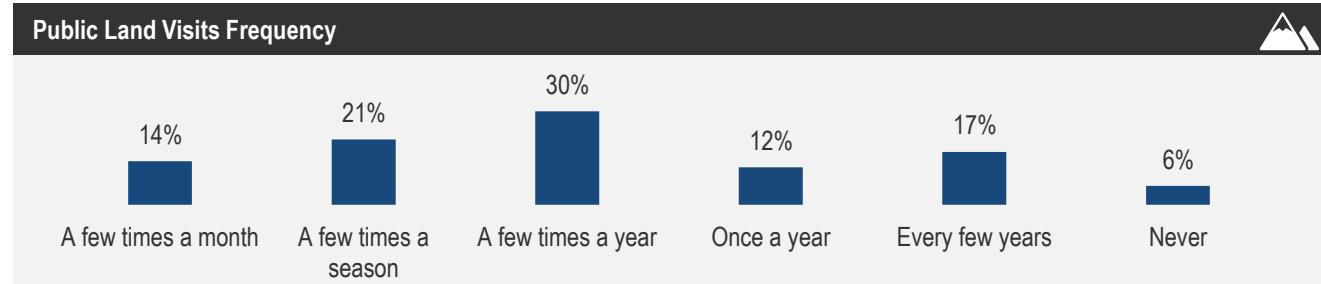
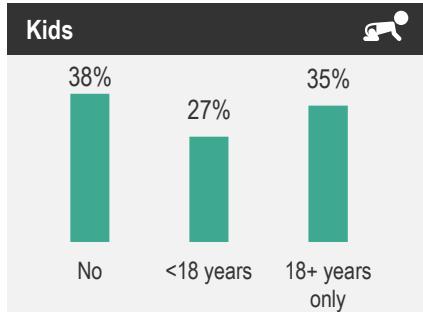
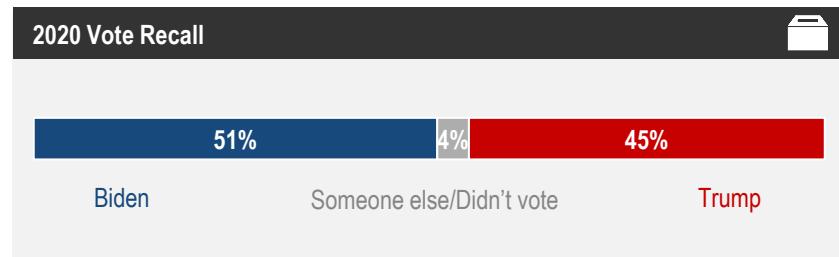
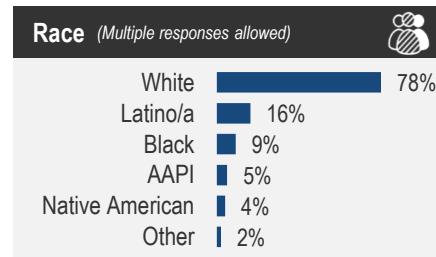
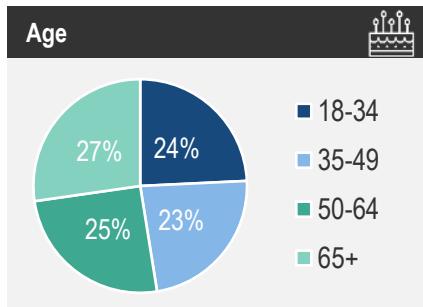
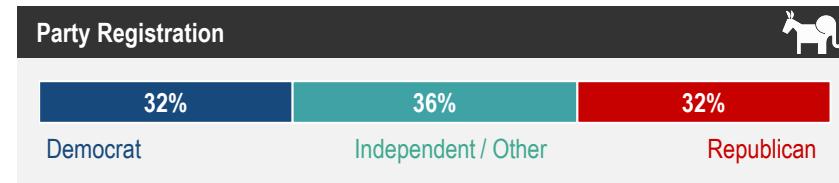
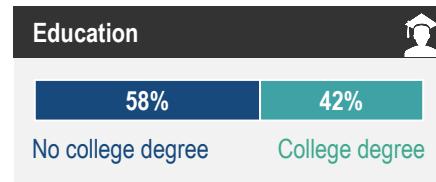
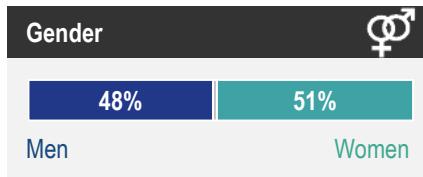
Key Findings: On BLM Conservation Rule, General Mining Act Update, and State Proposals

- Proactive conservation efforts such as the Bureau of Land Management Conservation Rule on land restoration and conservation and updating the General Mining Act of 1872 have *broad and bipartisan support*. Western Voters have a highly favorable view of the BLM (78%) and see the proposed rule as protecting the Western way of life. While the Mining Act is lesser known, over 8 in 10 voters see strengthening and modernizing environmental safeguards as important and aren't swayed into fear mongering around "new regulations."
- For Arizona voters, they strongly support the proposal to designate Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon. These voters were most convinced by hearing of the Tribes' leadership in this proposal and how the national monument will protect sacred Tribal homelands and resources.
- For Colorado voters, the proposal to designate Dolores River Canyon Country is strong across demographics and party. Our best "support message" soothes the concerns over the existing water crisis that many voters in the state have faced and emphasizes how this designation would protect the water supply.
- For Nevada voters, designating Bahsawahbee (Swamp Cedars) has a strong base of support. To make inroads with Republican voters, making the connection between the monument and preserving land for future generations is key.

How Candidates Can Reach Outdoor Voters in the West

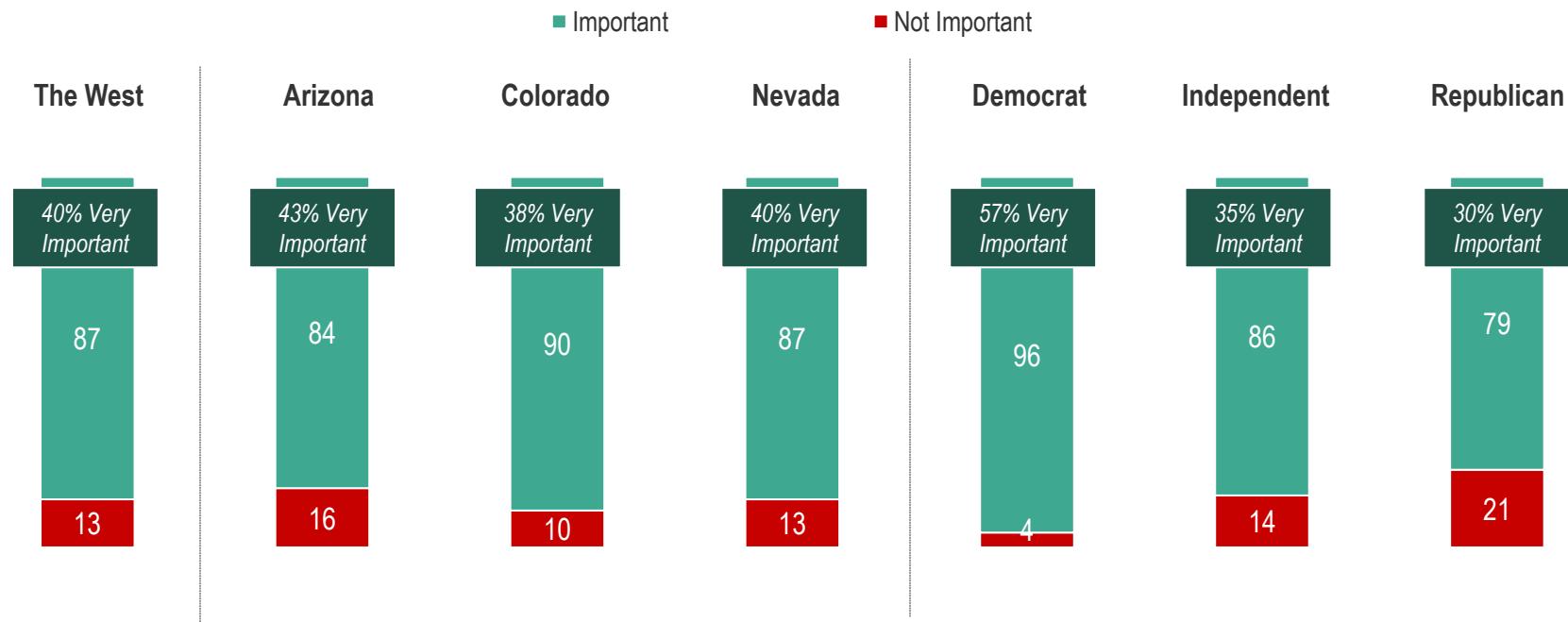
- **For Independents:** These voters strongly support conservation efforts generally. Independents' top environmental priority is protecting the land and they are very concerned about the loss of open spaces, landscapes, and the West's wildlife habitats. In terms of messaging national monuments, these voters are most supportive of messages that highlight protections for Tribal lands and the Tribes' leadership in these efforts.
- **For Democrats:** These voters' top conservation priorities are protecting public land and producing renewable energy. It is hugely important for Dems that candidates prioritize protecting public lands from being taken over by developers and fossil fuel corporations. Messaging that highlights holding corporations accountable for their actions does particularly well with these voters.
- **For Republicans:** These voters are more favorable to the fossil fuel industry, but still prioritize environment issues such as conservation efforts, outdoor recreation, and livestock grazing. While Reps are less concerned about the threat of climate change, messaging from candidates that highlights the need to preserve public lands and monuments for future generations is persuasive.

Snapshot of the Western Voters in Arizona, Colorado, and Nevada (see appendix for individual states)



To an overwhelming majority of voters across states and party, candidates' support of conservation plays an influential role in how they choose to cast their ballots

Candidates' support of conservation effect on vote choice



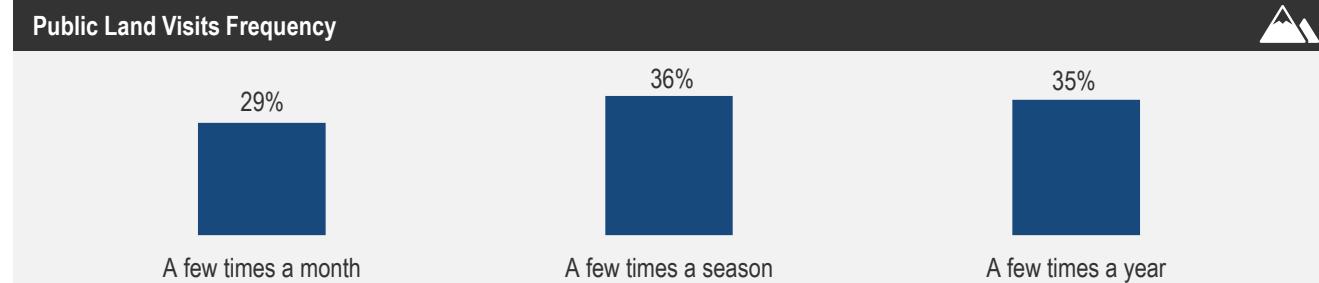
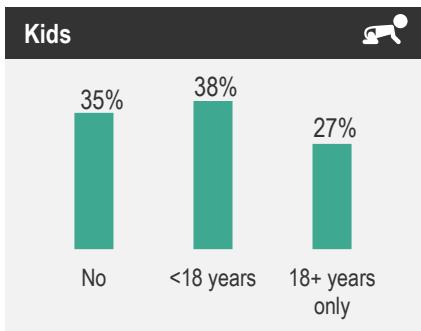
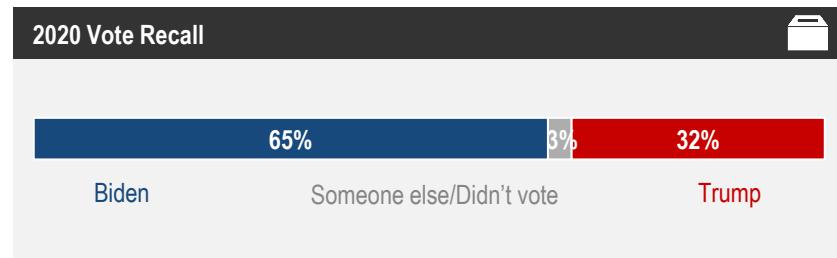
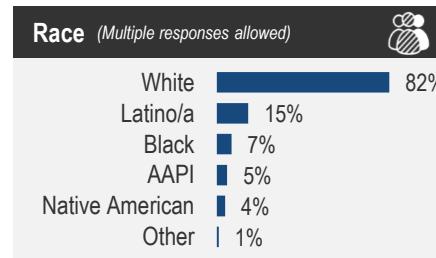
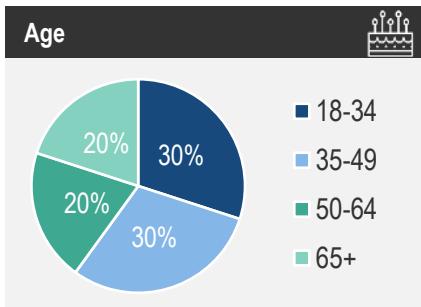
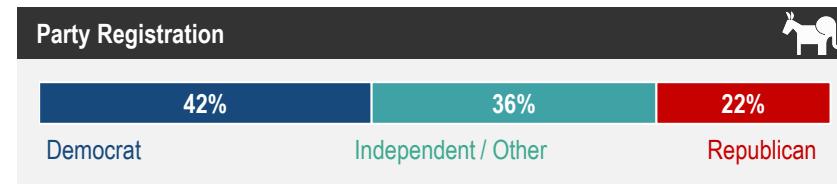
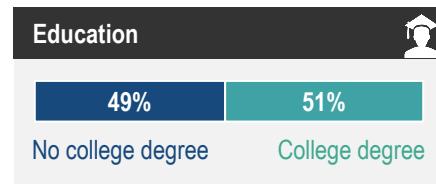
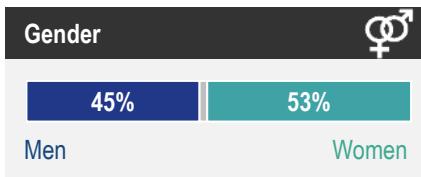
Q8. When deciding who to vote for in an election, how important is it that they support conservation of public lands?

Spotlight: Things to know about Outdoor Voters

Outdoor Voters (OV): Likely 2024 voters living in Arizona, Colorado, and Nevada who say conservation issues are important in deciding how they vote, who say public lands, parks, and wildlife have become more important to them in the last few years, who have participated in conservation activities, and who visit public lands frequently

- 1 Outdoor Voters skew Democrat and Independent, ideologically liberal, female, and disproportionately younger, but are otherwise fairly similar in demographic profile to Western Voters at large and spread nearly even across all 3 states.
- 2 Outdoor voters are even more supportive when it comes to land protection. Over 8 in 10 support President Biden using executive authority to designate national monuments.
- 3 There is a strong desire among Outdoor Voters for government to do more on all fronts relating to conservation, and they are more concerned that government won't do enough to protect our natural resources (73% to Western Voters' 63%).
- 4 These voters are much more worried about the impending threat of climate change and loss of public spaces, reflected in their strong desire to pass down these lands to future generations (as they have more children under 18 than Western Voters generally).
- 5 Outdoor Voters are up for grabs for those candidates in support of combatting the environmental issues of today. This means candidates who are willing to designate more national monuments, prioritize renewables and long-term sustainability, as well as protect our Western way of life.

Snapshot of Outdoor Voters

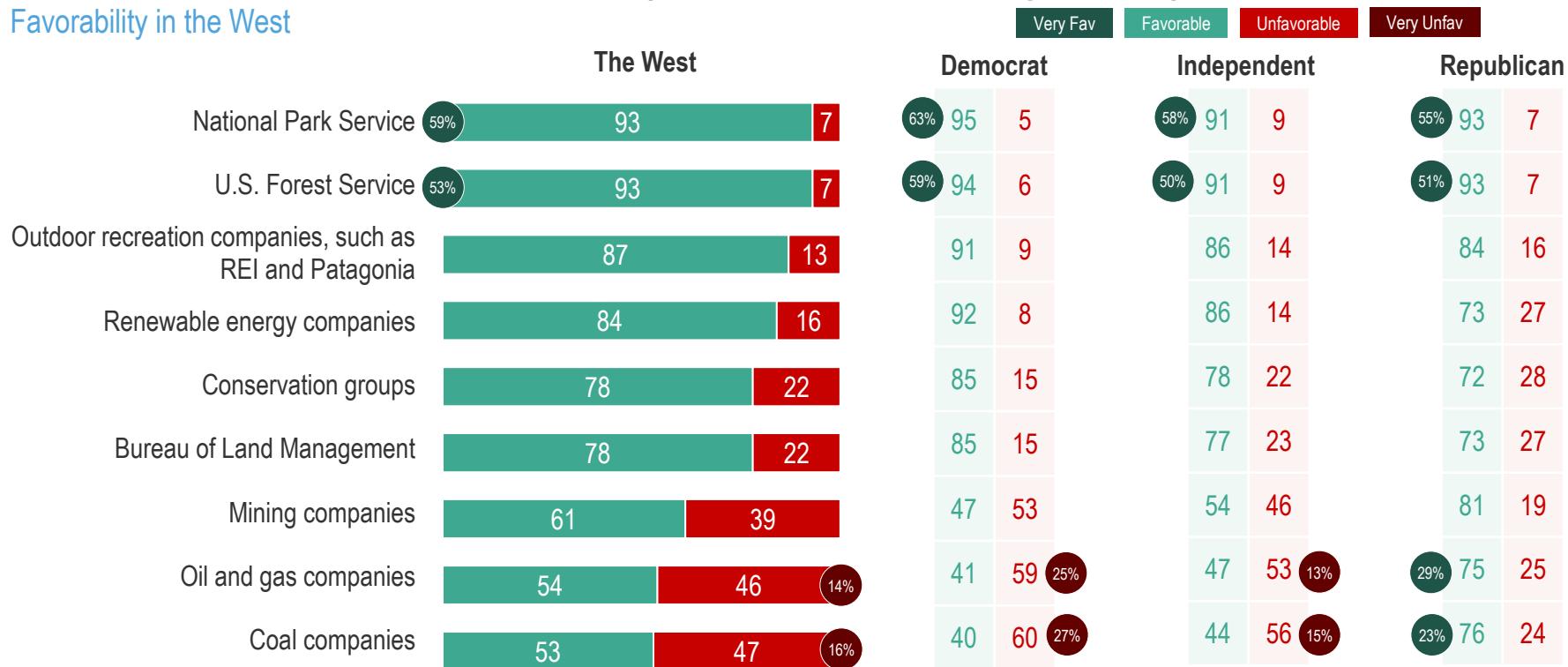




Political and Issues Landscape

National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, BLM, outdoor rec companies, and even renewable energy groups have broad and bipartisan appeal, while only Republicans view mining, oil and gas, and coal sectors favorably

Favorability in the West

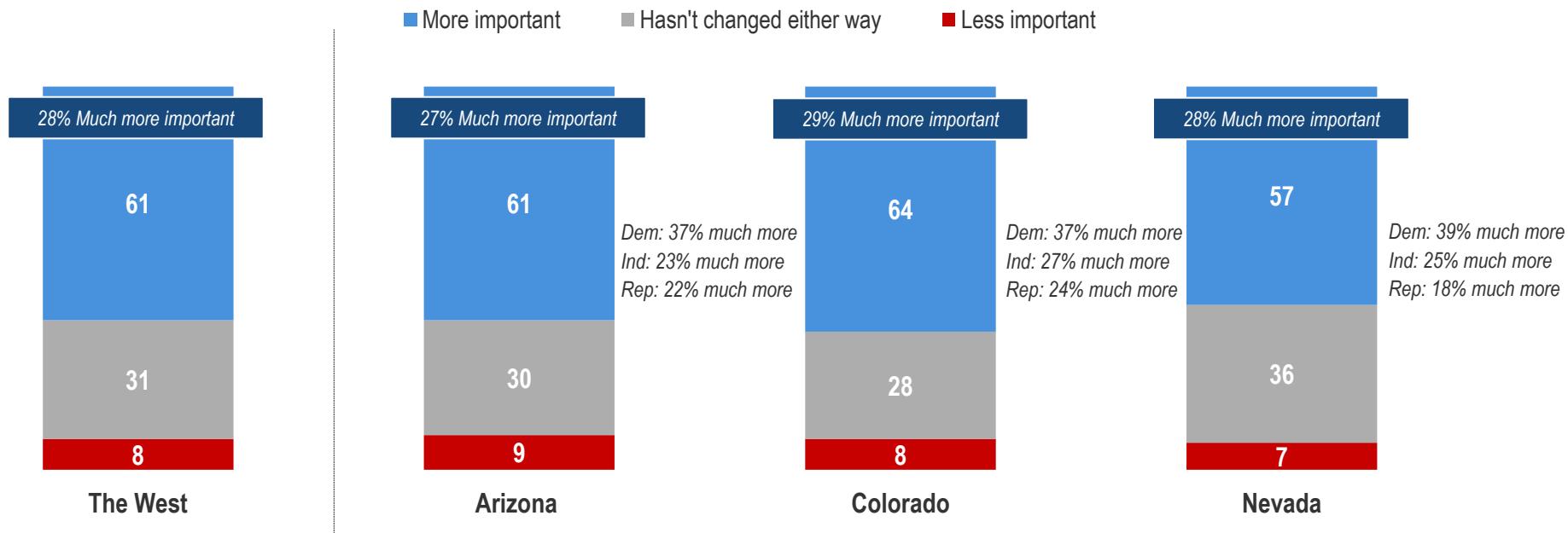


Q1. Are you favorable or unfavorable to the following people and groups?

Voters say conservation issues have become more important to them over the past few years

Changing importance of conservation issues

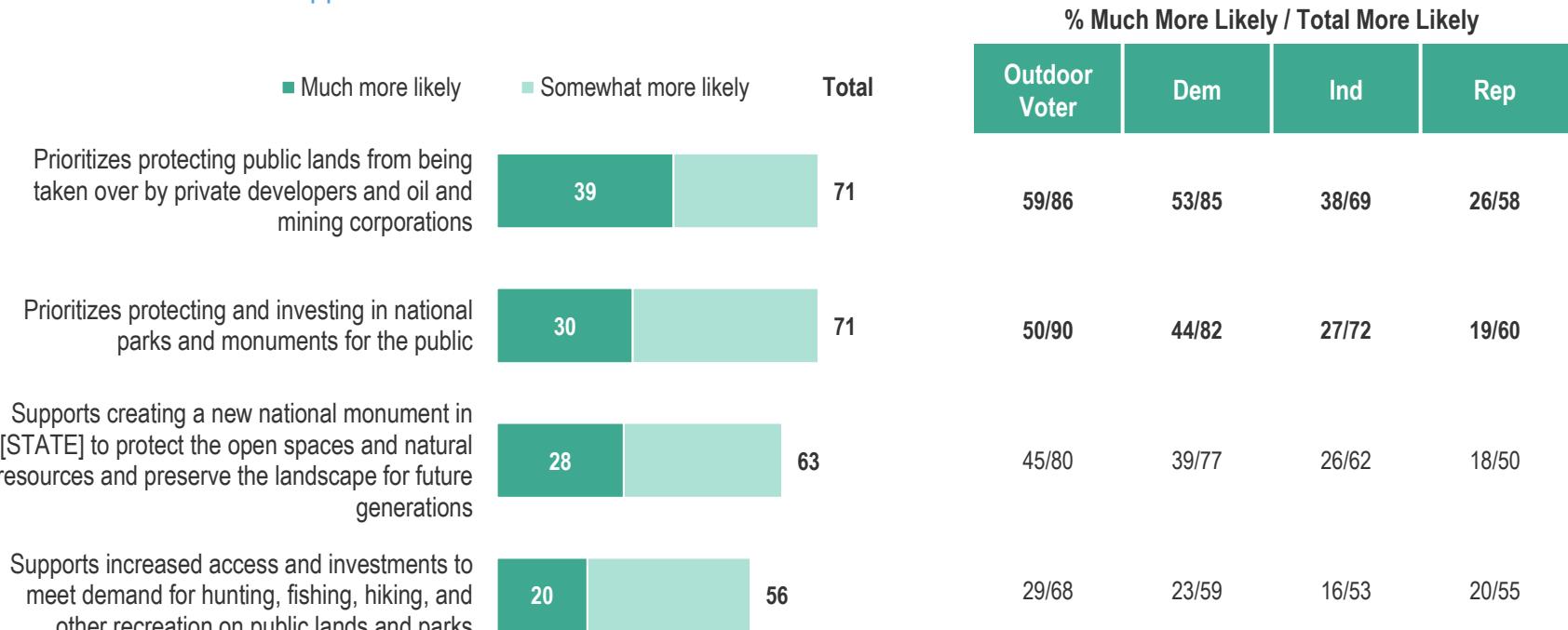
Over the past few years, have public lands, parks, and wildlife issues become more or less important for you?



Q25. Over the past few years, have public lands, parks, and wildlife issues become more or less important for you?

Prioritizing conservation efforts is helpful for leaders – particularly protecting public lands from developers; there is broad support for leaders creating new national monuments, too

Support for elected leader who supports conservation efforts



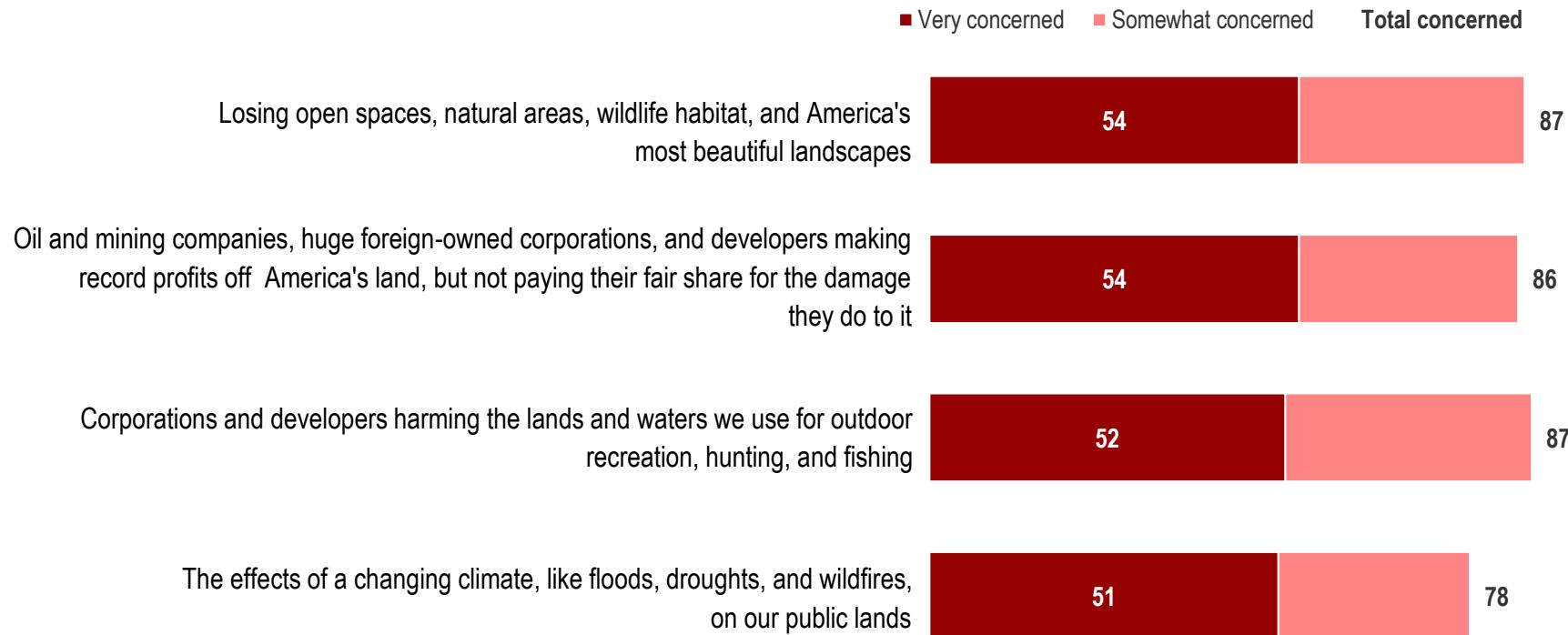
Q9. Would you be more or less likely to vote for someone who did each of the following? | Bolded data represents conservation commitments that will most strongly drive voters to support candidates



Western Voters' Environmental Priorities and Pain Points

Voters are very worried about conservation and climate issues generally, and soothing these concerns and providing concrete solutions to address them will go a long way in the West

Conservation concerns



Q3. How concerned are you about each of the following? Are you...

Losing open spaces is voters' biggest fear across the board, except for Dems who are most concerned about the effects of a changing climate

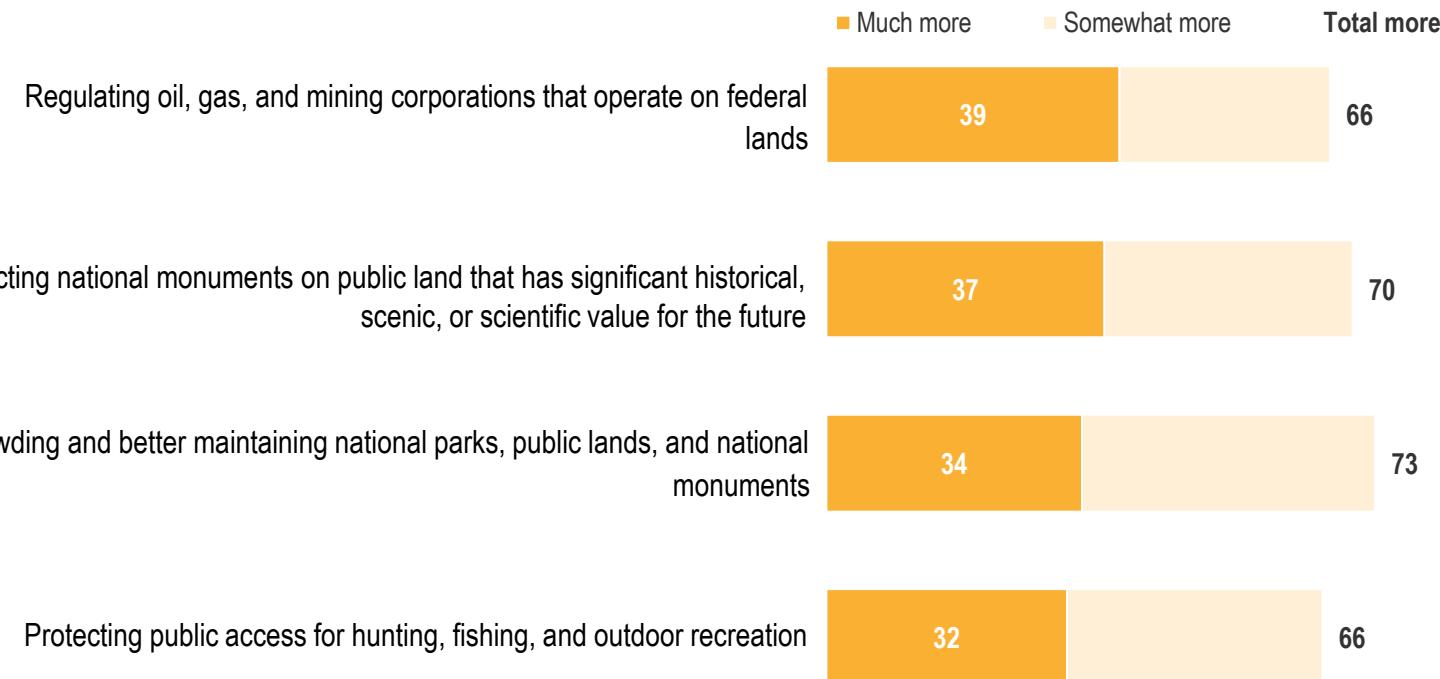
Conservation concerns

Showing % Very Concerned	The West	Outdoor Voter	AZ	CO	NV	Dem	Ind	Rep
Losing open spaces, natural areas, wildlife habitat, and America's most beautiful landscapes	54	73	55	56	52	63	58	42
Oil and mining companies, huge foreign-owned corporations, and developers making record profits off America's land, but not paying their fair share for the damage they do to it	54	70	55	54	53	68	53	41
Corporations and developers harming the lands and waters we use for outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing	52	67	52	49	53	64	50	41
The effects of a changing climate, like floods, droughts, and wildfires, on our public lands	51	68	51	53	48	73	51	28

Q3. How concerned are you about each of the following? Are you... | *Bolded data represents the top 1-2 (or statistically tied) conservation concerns*

Voters generally want to see government doing more conservation work – especially more regulation of the big corporations benefiting from public lands and more creation of national monuments

Government role in conservation



Protecting the land and producing renewable energy are key priorities across the board, though Republicans also prioritize drilling for oil and gas

Top priorities by key audiences

Showing NET 6+7 – Top Priorities

	The West	Outdoor Voter	AZ	CO	NV	Dem	Ind	Rep
Conservation efforts to protect the land	58	77	57	60	58	72	59	44
Renewable energy production (wind, solar, geothermal)	53	70	53	52	54	74	50	34
Recreation for the public (hunting, fishing, hiking)	41	51	39	42	43	43	38	44
Livestock grazing	35	42	36	32	37	36	29	40
Drilling for oil and natural gas	32	30	34	27	36	27	27	44
Timber harvesting	25	26	24	21	30	27	19	28
Mining for minerals	24	26	25	19	27	25	17	30

Q5. When it comes to how public land should be used, how important are each of the following priorities? Use a scale of 1 to 7 to indicate how much of a priority you think it should be, where 1 means you don't think it is a priority at all and 7 means you think it should be a top priority. | *Bolded data represents the top 2 priorities (outside the margin of error) for land usage*

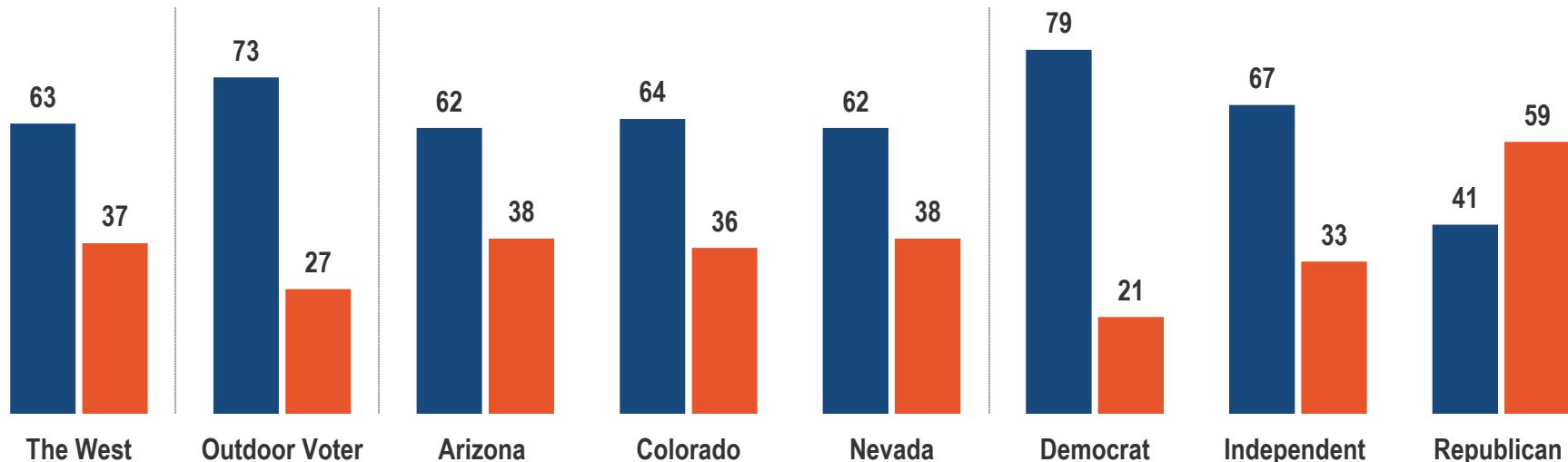
Western voters, including 2 in 5 Republicans, are much more concerned that the government won't do enough to protect natural resources than that it will go too far

Environmental protections vs. Government overreach

When it comes to conservation efforts in this country, which of the following concerns you more?

The government won't do enough to protect America's natural resources against overdevelopment, corporate greed, and environmental disasters.

The government will go too far with regulations and restrictions on land use that hurt our economy and destroy local jobs.



Q6. When it comes to conservation efforts in this country, which of the following concerns you more?

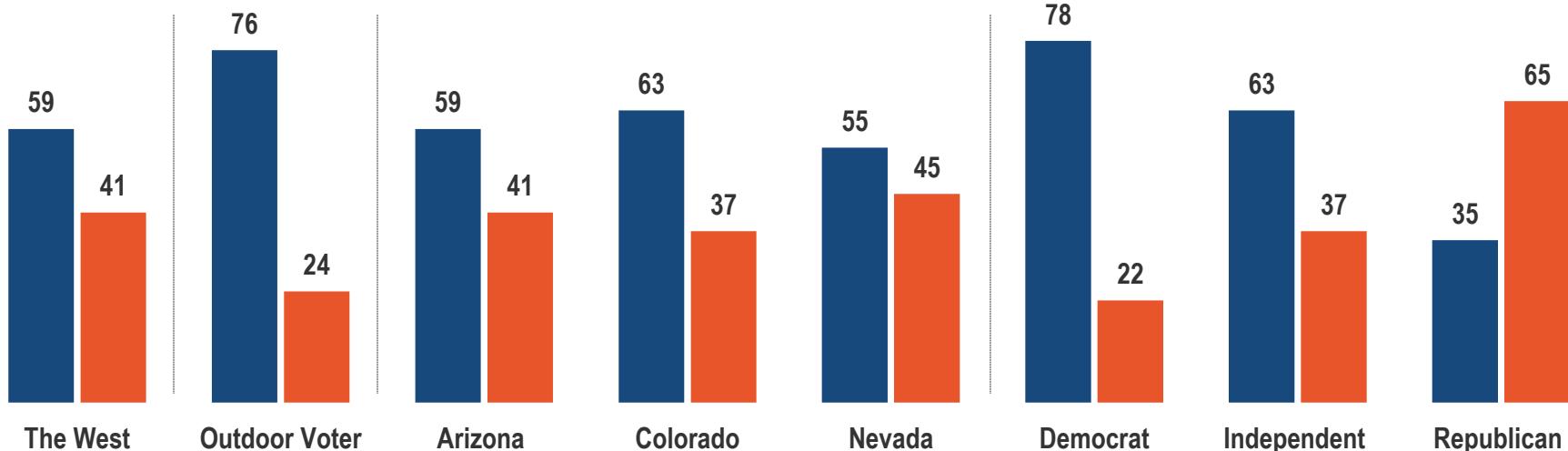
Over half want gov to prioritize producing renewable resources, but making energy prices affordable through increased drilling still resonates with a significant portion of voters – particularly in Nevada

Prioritizing renewable resources vs. Drilling on public lands

Which do you agree with more?

We need to prioritize renewable resources on public lands, with careful management of our land and natural resources. Wind and solar power, which are now more affordable than fossil fuels, will only keep getting cheaper for consumers. We can meet energy needs without dangerous, boom-and-bust energy sources, while still protecting our public lands, forests, mountains, and deserts.

We need to use all available options to make energy prices affordable again and that means increasing oil and gas drilling wherever oil is available – including on public lands. With global instability in Russia, Ukraine, and the Middle East, America should prioritize energy exploration on public lands.



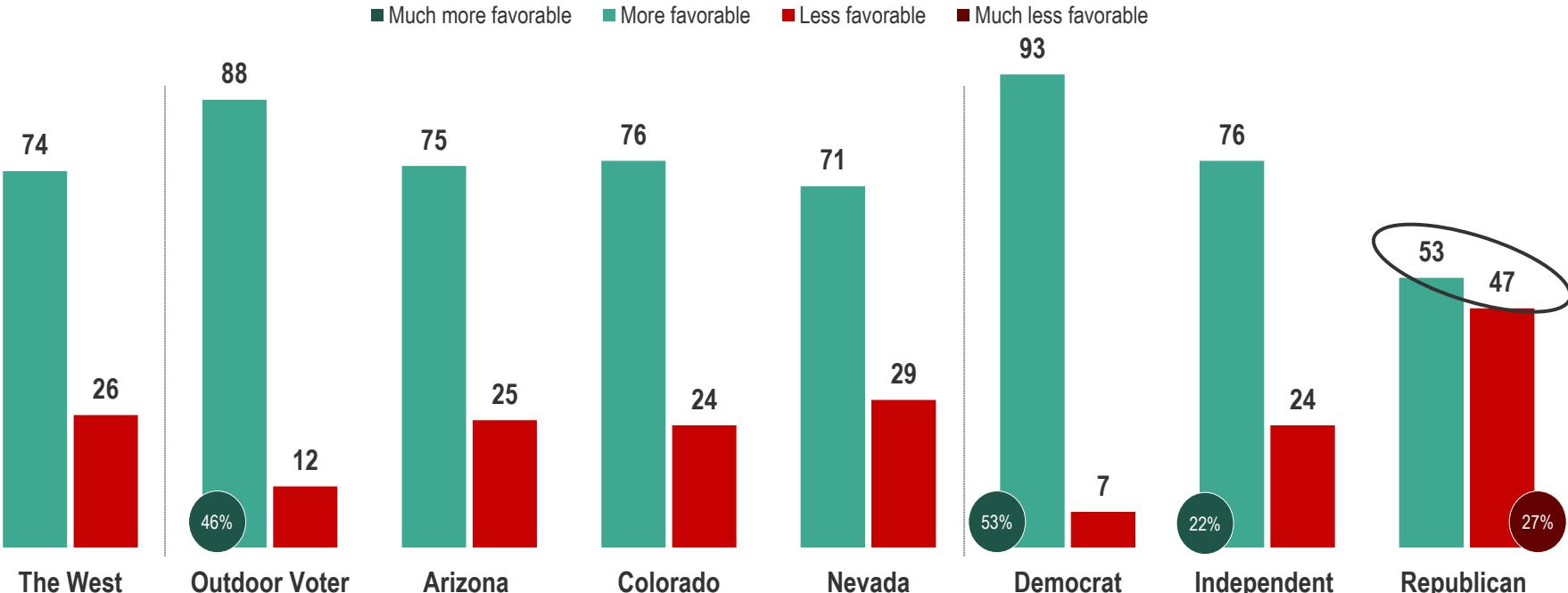


The Biden Administration and Monuments

Voters – including Republicans – support the Biden admin doing more to focus on public lands, wildlife, and national monuments

Biden conservation efforts impact on favorability

If President Biden and his administration did more to focus efforts to protect and conserve public lands, parks, wildlife, and national monuments, would that make you more or less favorable to them?

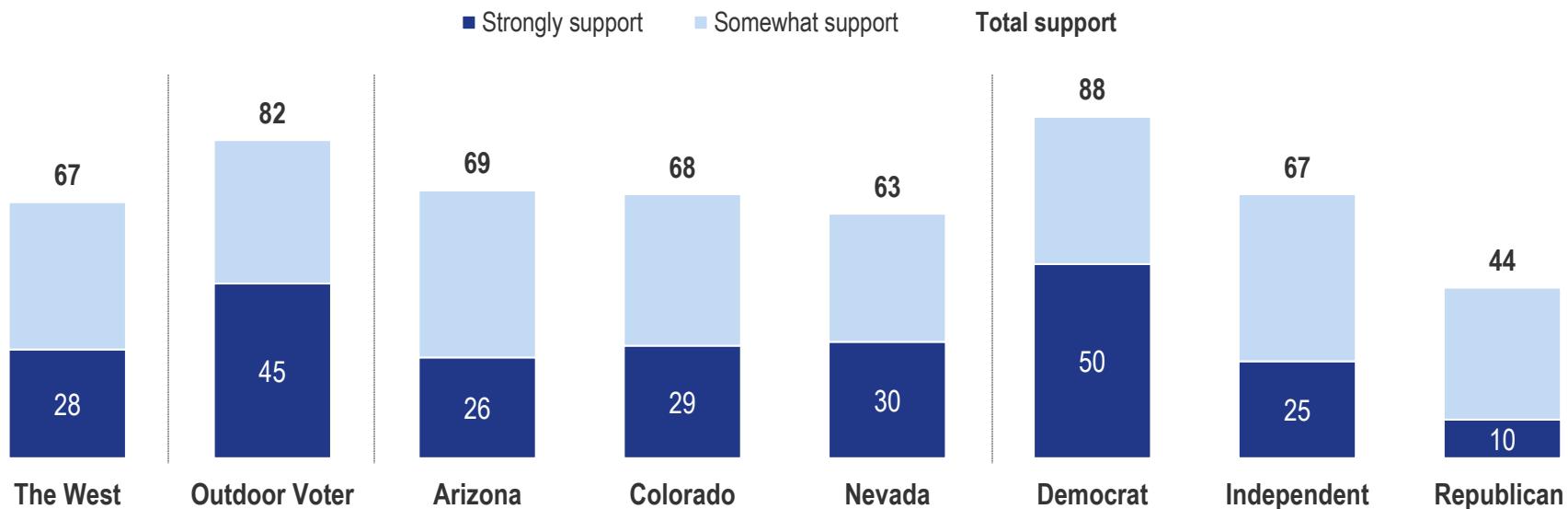


Q10. If President Biden and his administration did more to focus efforts to protect and conserve public lands, parks, wildlife, and national monuments, would that make you more or less favorable to them?

Over two thirds are supportive of the President using executive authority for national monuments, with our strongest pockets of support among Outdoor Voters and Dems

Executive authority and designating national monuments

Would you support or oppose President Biden using executive authority to designate land or water as a national monument if it had unique cultural, historical, or natural significance?



Q11. Would you support or oppose President Biden using executive authority to designate land or water as a national monument if it had unique cultural, historical, or natural significance?

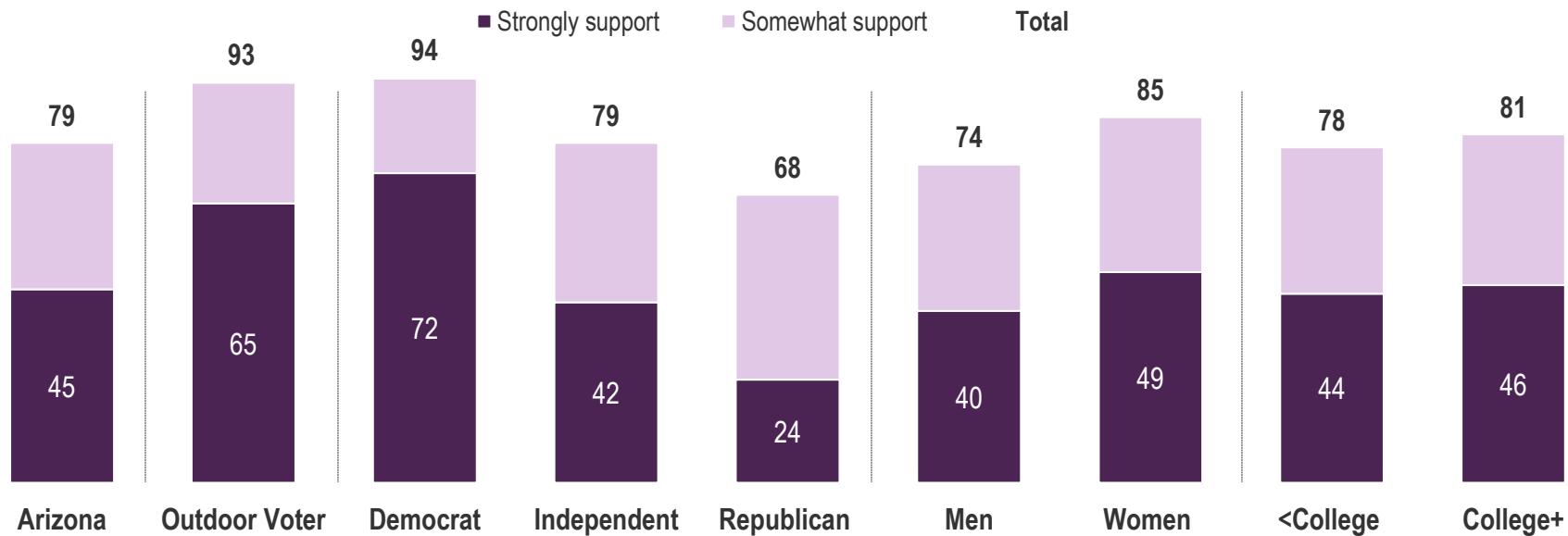


Western State Monument Debates

In Arizona, there's broad support across all demos for designating Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni as a national monument

Arizona national monument - Initial proposal

In Arizona there is a proposal to designate the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon as a national monument. The proposed national monument would include more than 1 million acres adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park and would protect Tribal cultural and historic sites against any future mining claims, while also enhancing the natural, recreational, and scientific resources of the region.



Q12. Do you support or oppose President Biden designating the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon as a national monument?

For Arizona voters, sacred Tribal land, protecting the Grand Canyon, and preserving landscapes for future generations are the strongest reasons to designate a new monument

Reasons for designating national monuments – Arizona

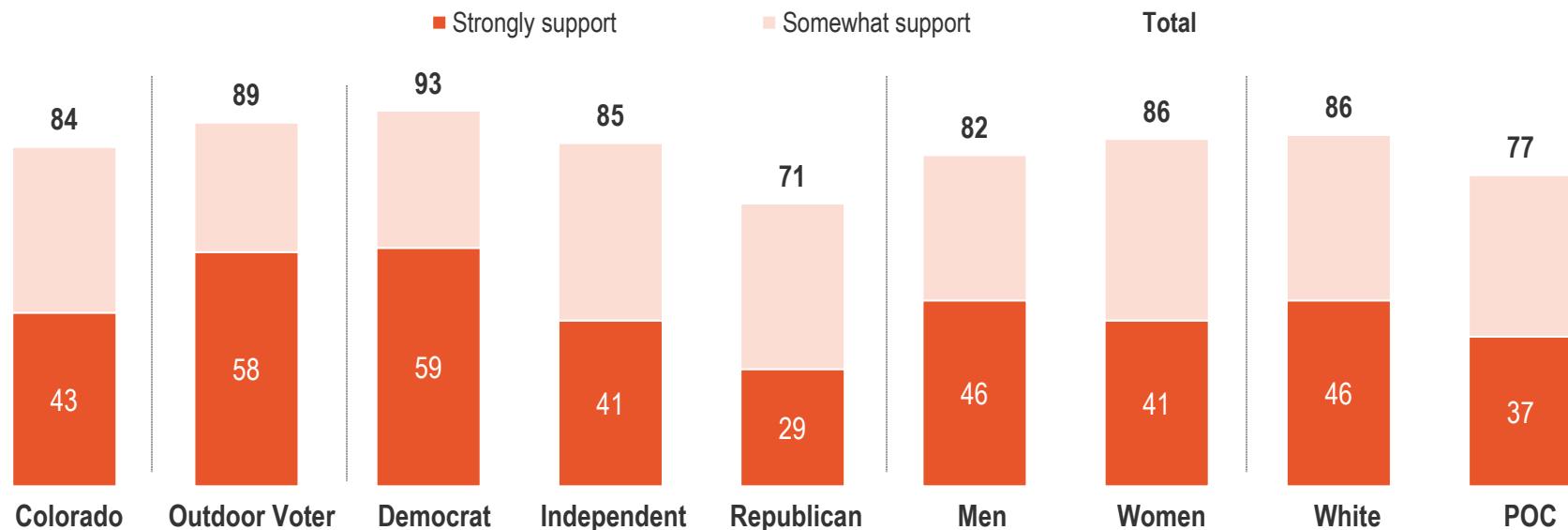
	How convincing is this reason to you?	% Very Convincing / Total Convincing				
		The West	Outdoor Voter	Dem	Ind	Rep
Tribes	The effort is being led by Native American Tribes and would protect Tribal ancestral homelands and natural and cultural resources that are historically significant and sacred to Tribes.	42/79	59/93	57/91	50/84	22/64
Water & Wildlife	The designation would stop new uranium mining, which is a major threat to the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River, and would endanger the safety of surrounding northern Arizona communities.	42/72	60/89	57/89	42/71	28/59
Future Generations/ Unity	Designating land or waters as national monuments allows us to protect and preserve these priceless landscapes, so that we can pass them down to future generations.	40/79	54/93	60/92	35/76	25/70
Taxes/ Economic Incentives	Protecting public lands unites all Americans.	25/62	35/75	36/76	22/56	19/55
	National monuments and parks save taxpayers money in the long run, protecting our water supplies and reducing the wildfires and flooding that cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year.	34/75	47/82	50/91	31/73	23/62
	Every \$1 invested in national parks and monuments, returns approximately \$10 to the U.S. economy.	30/72	40/83	44/86	24/69	22/61
Tourism & Rec	A study of communities near 14 newly designated national monuments in the West found that they experienced increases in the number of businesses and jobs.	25/72	36/81	39/81	21/70	15/65
	It would protect the outdoor recreation economy of Arizona, which brings around 6 million people to visit the Grand Canyon National Park each year, and provides recreation opportunities like hiking, hunting, and angling.	33/78	45/88	45/90	30/77	25/70

Q15. Below are reasons people have given for designating Baaj Nwaavjo l'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon as a national monument. How convincing is this reason to you? | *Bolded data represents the top ranking 3 ranking reasons for designating national monuments, based on very convincing*

More than 8 in 10 Coloradans – including 7 in 10 Republicans – support the Dolores River Canyon Country national monument proposal

Colorado national monument - Initial proposal

In Colorado there is a proposal to designate the Dolores River Canyon Country as a national monument. The proposed national monument would protect existing public lands surrounding the Dolores River in Western Colorado to conserve important wildlife habitats, safeguard the area's scenic beauty, and support outdoor recreation.



Q13. Do you support or oppose President Biden designating the Dolores River Canyon Country as a national monument?

In Colorado, voters are most convinced by protections for the West's water supply and Tribal sites

Reasons for designating national monuments – Colorado

% Very Convincing / Total Convincing

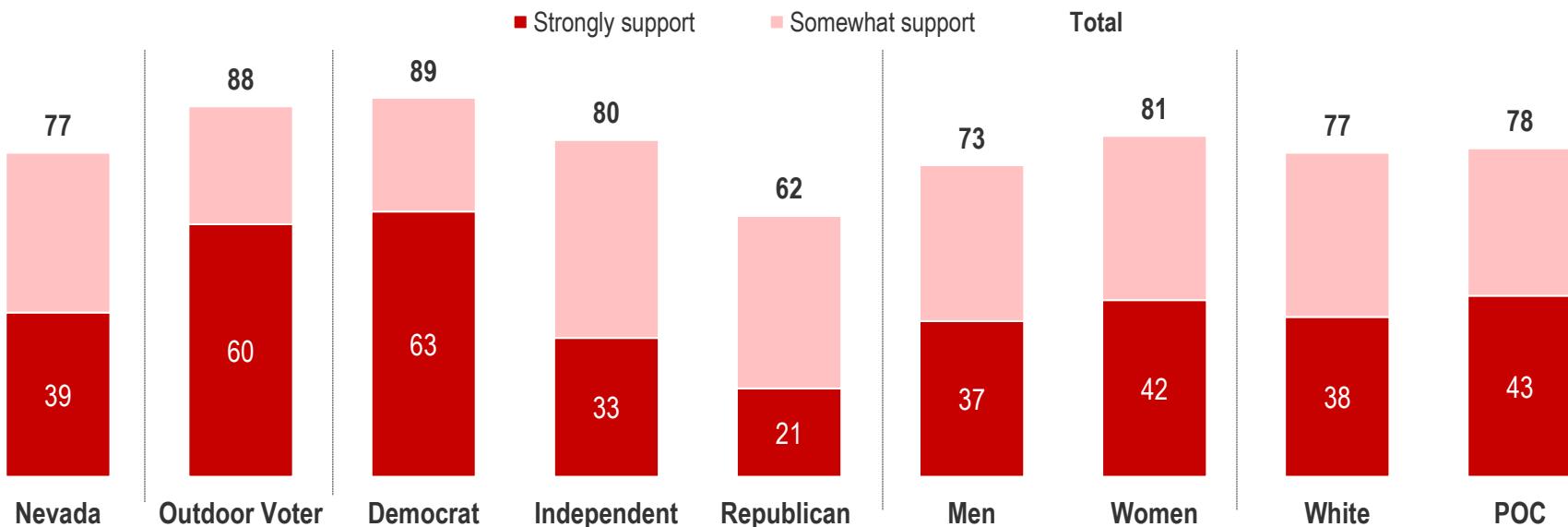
	How convincing is this reason to you?	The West	Outdoor Voter	Dem	Ind	Rep
Water & Wildlife	The designation would protect the West's scarce water supply because the Grand Canyon region is a watershed for the Colorado River, which provides water to 40 million Americans.	40/86	58/93	54/91	40/87	26/79
Tribes	The designation would protect important Native American artifacts and cultural sites along the Dolores River and has support from local Tribes.	39/84	59/89	57/91	32/82	32/79
Future Generations & Unity	Designating land or waters as national monuments allows us to protect and preserve these priceless landscapes, so that we can pass them down to future generations.	35/84	50/95	50/88	32/86	25/76
	The proposal has bipartisan support from Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate.	30/71	43/76	36/80	28/69	24/64
	Protecting public lands unites all Americans.	25/61	37/74	34/70	21/59	20/55
Taxes/ Economic Incentives	Every \$1 invested in national parks and monuments, returns approximately \$10 to the U.S. economy.	32/74	42/83	40/80	29/78	26/63
	National monuments and parks save taxpayers money in the long run, protecting our water supplies and reducing the wildfires and flooding that cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year.	31/77	48/87	45/88	27/76	23/66
	A study of communities near 14 newly designated national monuments in the West found that they experienced increases in the number of businesses and jobs.	27/79	43/87	38/87	25/78	19/70
Tourism & Rec	It would protect the outdoor recreation economy of Colorado, which last summer brought half a million people to enjoy activities like rafting and kayaking on the Colorado River.	30/79	42/88	39/84	27/77	26/77

Q15. Below are reasons people have given for designating Dolores River Canyon Country as a national monument. How convincing is this reason to you? | *Bolded data represents the most overall convincing messages, outside the margin of error, based on very convincing*

The Nevada proposal to designate Swamp Cedars as a national monument is supported by nearly 4 in 5 voters

Nevada national monument - Initial proposal

In Nevada there is a proposal to designate the Bahsahwahbee National Monument (locally known as Swamp Cedars) as a national monument. The proposed national monument would protect land that was once a ceremonial and pilgrimage site for thousands of Indigenous Newe Peoples, and was at the heart of three 19th century massacres, one being the largest known Indian massacre in US history.



Q14. Do you support or oppose President Biden designating Bahsahwahbee (Swamp Cedars) as a national monument?

Nevadans are strongly convinced by a generational message, followed closely in intensity by one that highlights Tribal significance; protecting swamp cedar trees themselves is powerful only with OVs and Dems

Reasons for designating national monuments – Nevada

	How convincing is this reason to you?	The West	Outdoor Voter	Dem	Ind	Rep
% Very Convincing / Total Convincing						
Future Generations/ Unity	Designating land or waters as national monuments allows us to protect and preserve these priceless landscapes, so that we can pass them down to future generations.	37/81	55/94	51/94	35/79	25/71
Tribes	Protecting public lands unites all Americans.	25/61	40/72	37/76	21/57	17/50
Tourism & Rec	The land is a holy site for nearby Tribal nations and a place of historical significance, where nearly 1,000 indigenous Newe ancestors were killed during 19th-century massacres.	37/77	49/87	52/87	33/77	26/65
Taxes/ Economic Incentives	It would protect the outdoor recreation economy of Nevada, which in recent years has supported nearly \$5 billion in spending and created over 50,000 jobs.	32/78	45/83	45/89	26/78	24/67
	Every \$1 invested in national parks and monuments, returns approximately \$10 to the U.S. economy.	32/72	47/82	46/82	31/76	21/57
	National monuments and parks save taxpayers money in the long run, protecting our water supplies and reducing the wildfires and flooding that cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year.	27/73	37/87	38/86	20/73	22/59
	A study of communities near 14 newly designated national monuments in the West found that they experienced increases in the number of businesses and jobs.	25/76	31/81	40/85	23/79	10/64
Water & Wildlife	The land is home to the sacred and globally unique grove of shallow-rooted Rocky Mountain juniper trees known as the 'swamp cedars'.	29/69	46/85	42/84	25/70	18/54

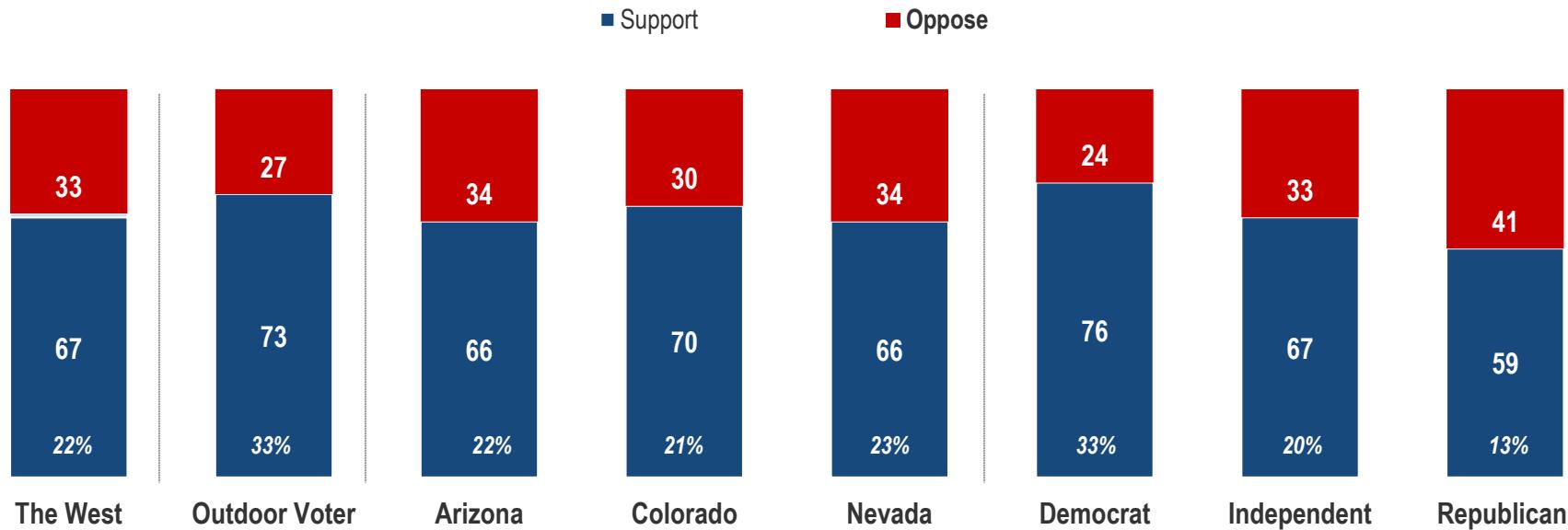
Q15. Below are reasons people have given for designating Bahsahwahbee (Swamp Cedars) as a national monument. How convincing is this reason to you? | *Bolded data represents the most overall convincing messages outside the margin of error, based on very convincing*



Bureau of Land Management Conservation Rule & Mining Proposal Check-in

Over two thirds of voters support the new BLM conservation rule with just a short intro BLM proposal

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the agency that manages America's public lands, recently proposed a new rule that would instruct land managers to treat land restoration and conservation as a use of the land, equal to other uses such as mining, oil drilling, and grazing.



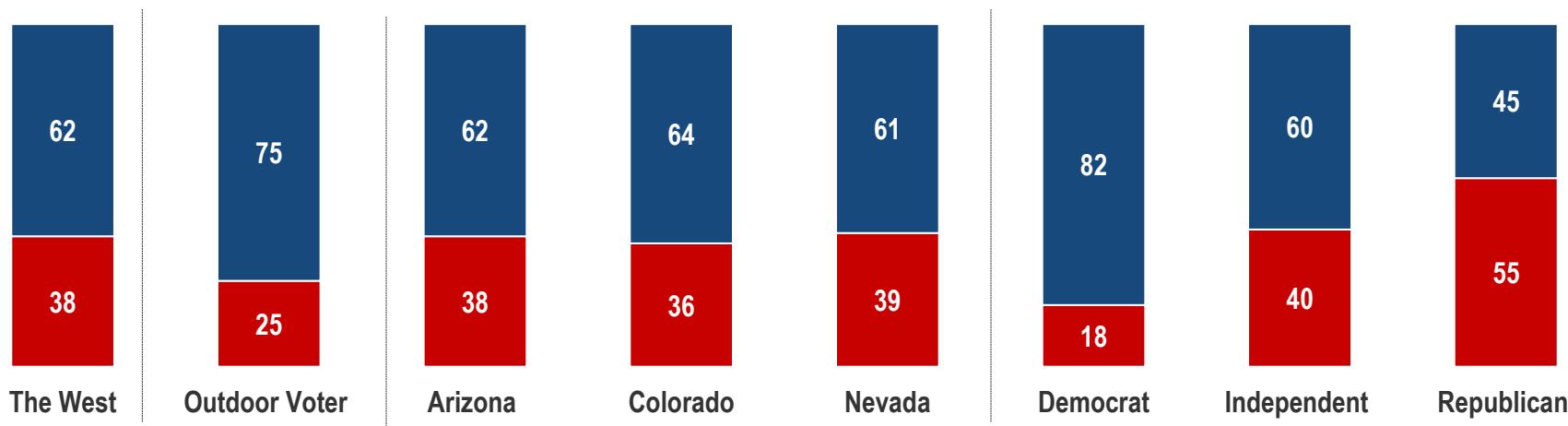
Even after hearing opposition messaging, voters say BLM conservation rule protects Western way of life

BLM Rule view

Which do you agree with more?

Supporters of the Rule say it protects the Western way of life. Public lands belong to all Americans, current and future. Conservation efforts will restore natural resources and recreation areas damaged by drilling and mining. It will ensure land can be used for recreation, hunting, and fishing for generations to come and safeguard natural resources like watersheds on which millions of Americans rely.

Opponents of the Rule say it would hurt Western states by letting the federal government stop activities essential to local economies like grazing, energy development, and tourism on taxpayer-owned lands. It's clear anti-grazing and anti-development organizations and special interests plan to abuse the Rule to halt ranching and block access to our nation's abundant energy reserves located on public lands.

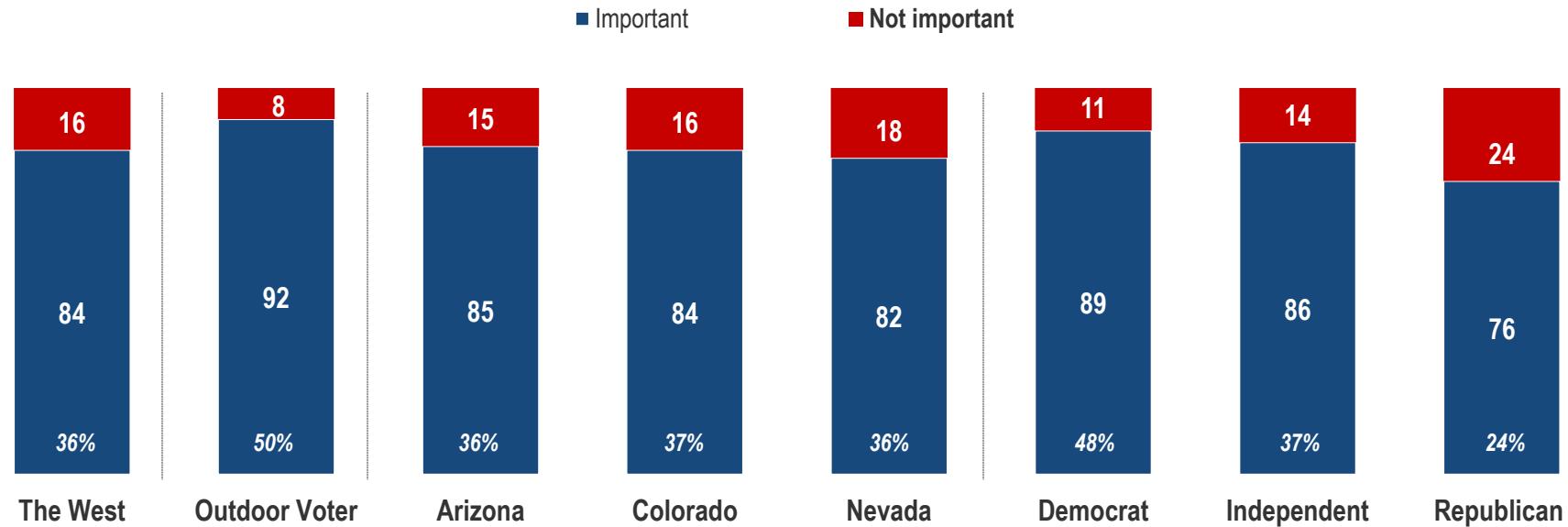


Q20. Here are two different views of the new proposed Public Lands Rule. Which do you agree with more?

The West collectively believes updating the Mining Act is important to the wellbeing of the land

Mining Act of 1872 importance

Mining for minerals on public lands is getting more attention because some minerals are important for the production of solar panels, batteries and other clean energy technology. The industry is currently regulated by the General Mining Act of 1872. Some people have proposed updating and modernizing the law to strengthen environmental safeguards and require companies to pay taxpayers a royalty for mining on public lands, which is currently not required.



Q21. How important do you think it is to update the Mining Act of 1872?

Even when we bring in the context of foreign competitors, voters strongly agree we must update the mining law – particularly when reminded that the industry is currently hurting taxpayers

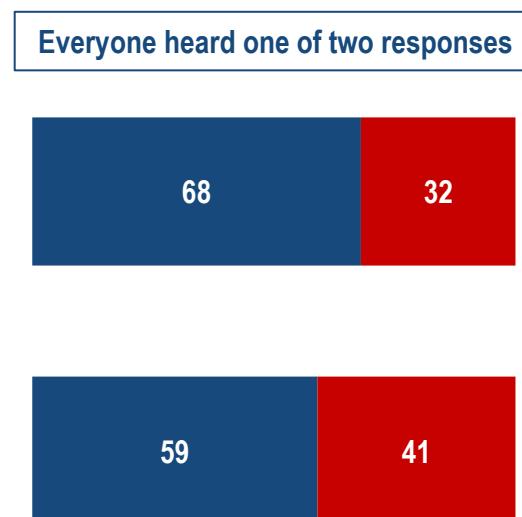
Corporate accountability vs. Clean energy focus

Which of the following comes closer to your view of mining regulations?

Opposition argument: The U.S. has some of the strongest environmental and labor protections in the world, especially compared to other top mining countries like China and Russia.
We shouldn't be adding new regulations and laws that will just outsource mining and make us more dependent on foreign countries.

Corporate Accountability: We must modernize the 150-year-old mining law so it works for everyone, not just the mining industry. Currently, corporations can dump toxic mining waste on federal land without penalty, leaving taxpayers to clean up the mess. And corporations pay no royalties for minerals extracted from taxpayer-owned lands, unlike oil and gas companies.

Clean Energy Focus: The mining industry is integral to the future of clean energy. But we must modernize the 150-year-old mining laws to ensure mining companies don't make the same mistakes of the past. Mining companies are working to weaken protections and stop modernizing laws that oversee mining on federal land.



Outdoor Voter	Dem	Ind	Rep
73 / 27	76 / 24	75 / 25	53 / 47
72 / 28	67 / 33	67 / 33	43 / 57

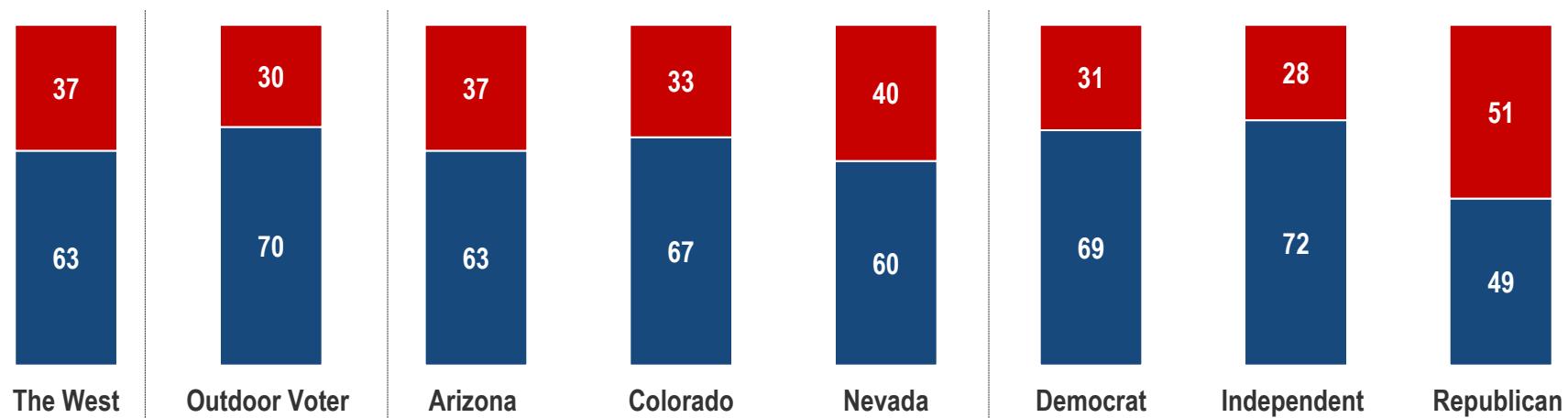
Voters are not blind to the fact that mining regulations haven't been updated because of national lobbyists, with only a third believing the Act doesn't need any modernizing

Mining Act of 1872 explanation

Which of the following do you think explains why the General Mining Act of 1872 hasn't been updated?

The National Mining Association has spent millions of dollars lobbying the government and donating to political campaigns to prevent updates.

The U.S. has some of the strongest environmental and labor protections in the world and doesn't need additional updates to this law.



The strongest arguments to update the Mining Act tap into concerns about contamination – and the costs it entails

Reasons for updating Mining Act of 1872

Showing % Total Convincing

There are at least 22,500 abandoned hardrock mines on federal lands, which can leak toxic chemicals into waterways. Abandoned hardrock mines have contributed to the contamination of 40 percent of the country's rivers and 50 percent of all lakes.

Mining companies have frequently abandoned mines on federal lands for the last 150 years. That leaves taxpayers on the hook for billions of dollars in cleanup costs.

Right now, there are almost no protections for the public when it comes to ensuring mines are not causing harm to the environment or local water supplies.

The law is simply out of date. It was written in 1872, **long before electric vehicles (or any cars) and lithium batteries.**

The law is simply out of date. It was written in 1872 **and hasn't kept pace with the scope and scale of modern industrial mining.**

The mining industry gives nothing back to U.S. taxpayers while they rake in billions, profiting off of lands owned by the American public. Oil, gas, and coal industries all pay for the resources they extract from public lands.

Current laws allow mines to operate on lands that are not suitable for mining and destroy lands that are sacred to Native American Tribes.

The National Mining Association has spent over \$25 million dollars lobbying the government and making campaign donations to politicians in their efforts to stop updates to the 1872 law.

Current laws allow anyone to stake a mining claim on almost any federal public land not currently being used for mining, which is the majority of federal land in the West.

	The West	Outdoor Voter	AZ	CO	NV	Dem	Ind	Rep
There are at least 22,500 abandoned hardrock mines on federal lands, which can leak toxic chemicals into waterways. Abandoned hardrock mines have contributed to the contamination of 40 percent of the country's rivers and 50 percent of all lakes.	68	83	69	68	67	80	70	54
Mining companies have frequently abandoned mines on federal lands for the last 150 years. That leaves taxpayers on the hook for billions of dollars in cleanup costs.	68	82	69	67	67	80	69	53
Right now, there are almost no protections for the public when it comes to ensuring mines are not causing harm to the environment or local water supplies.	66	82	67	68	62	79	69	50
The law is simply out of date. It was written in 1872, long before electric vehicles (or any cars) and lithium batteries.	66	81	66	66	65	76	67	53
The law is simply out of date. It was written in 1872 and hasn't kept pace with the scope and scale of modern industrial mining.	65	78	65	65	64	77	68	49
The mining industry gives nothing back to U.S. taxpayers while they rake in billions, profiting off of lands owned by the American public. Oil, gas, and coal industries all pay for the resources they extract from public lands.	63	78	67	60	63	76	63	51
Current laws allow mines to operate on lands that are not suitable for mining and destroy lands that are sacred to Native American Tribes.	62	80	63	62	62	77	62	48
The National Mining Association has spent over \$25 million dollars lobbying the government and making campaign donations to politicians in their efforts to stop updates to the 1872 law.	59	73	59	59	60	74	60	44
Current laws allow anyone to stake a mining claim on almost any federal public land not currently being used for mining, which is the majority of federal land in the West.	53	68	56	53	52	68	52	40

Q24. Here are some reasons people want to update the General Mining Act of 1872. Indicate how convincing each is on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 means it's not convincing at all and 7 means it's an extremely convincing reason to update the law. | *Bolded data represents the most overall convincing messages outside the margin of error*



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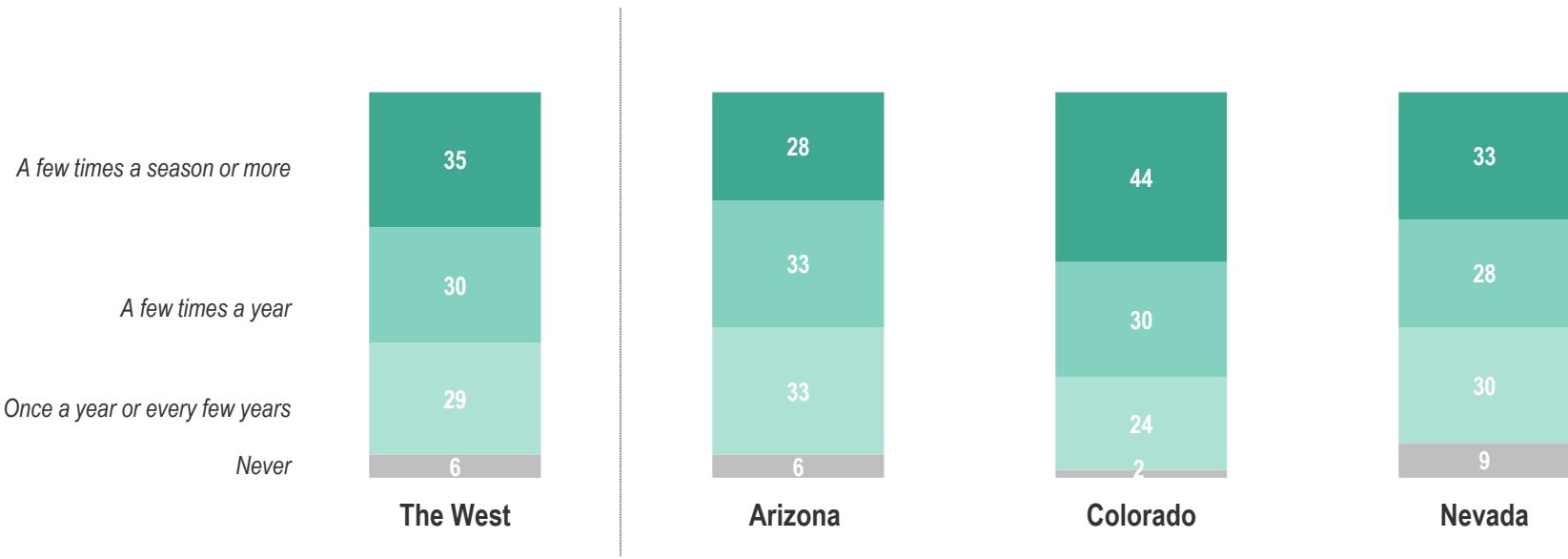


Appendix

2 out of 3 Western voters visit public lands at least a few times a year, most in Colorado

Frequency of visiting public lands

How often do you visit public lands such as national recreation areas, parks, national forests, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, or other public land in the West?



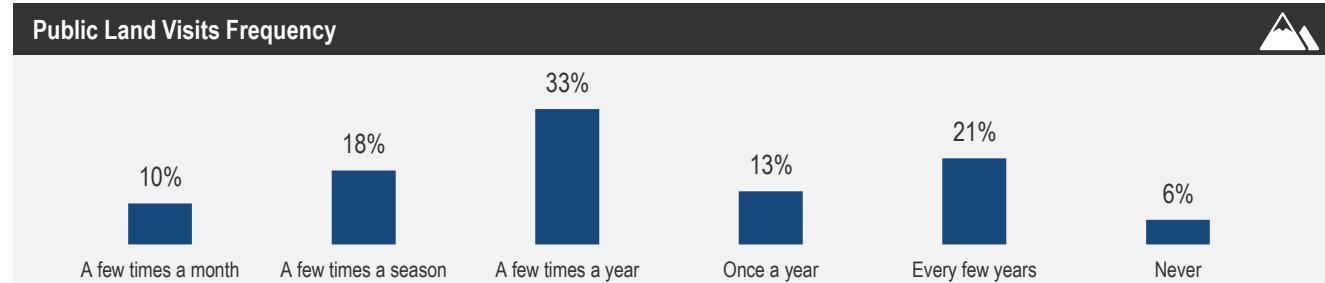
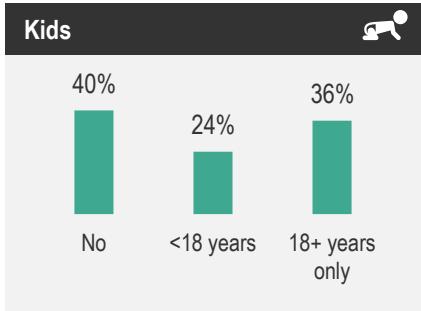
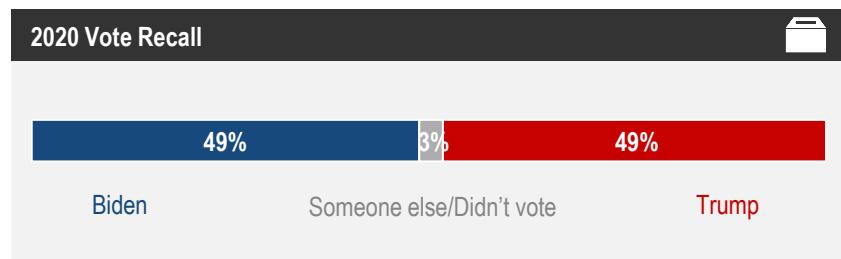
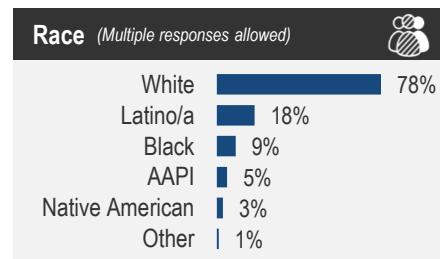
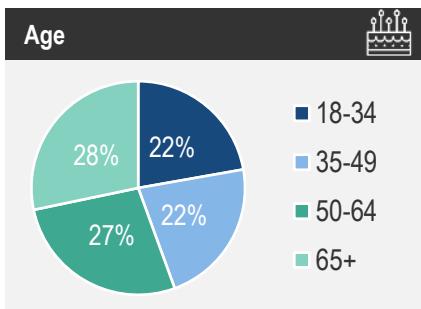
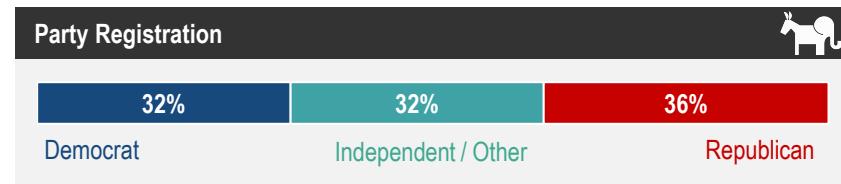
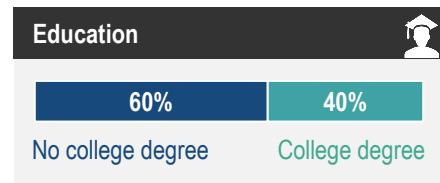
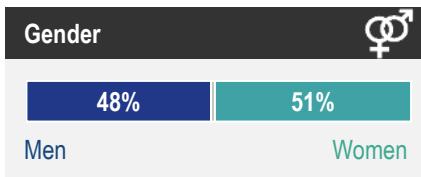
Western voters are heavily influenced by companies' environmental practices

Participation in conservation activities – Multi-select

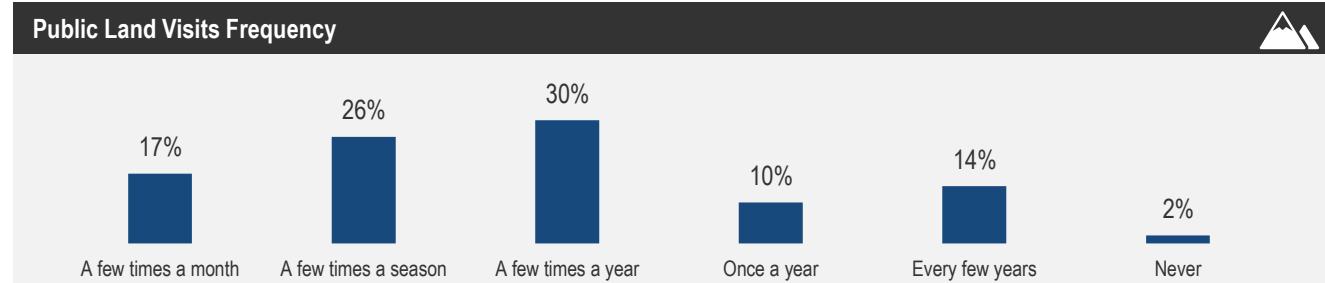
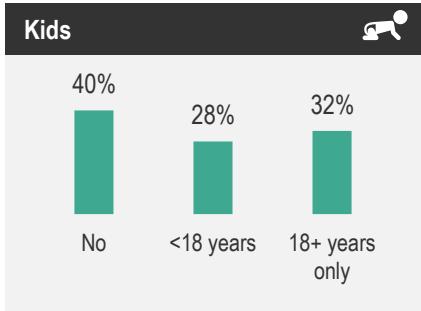
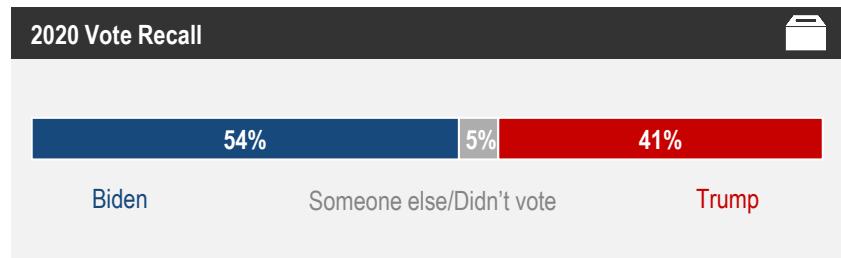
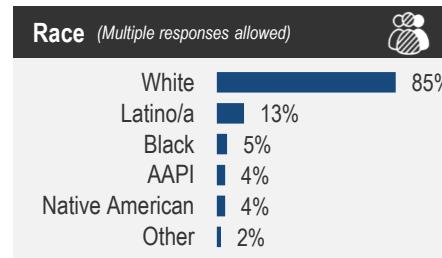
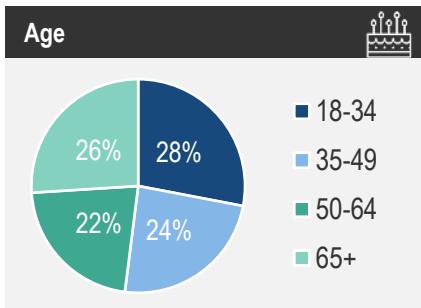
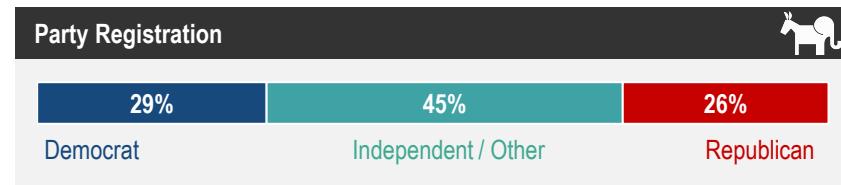
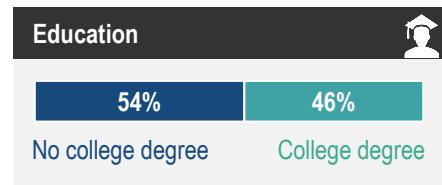
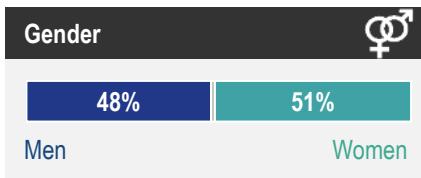
Showing % Participated	The West	Outdoor Voter	Arizona	Colorado	Nevada	Dem	Ind	Rep
Bought a company's products or services specifically because of the company's dedication to helping lands or the environment	31	62	31	34	28	39	31	23
Stopped buying a company's products or using its services specifically because the company was having an unnecessarily negative impact on the lands or natural environment	27	54	25	30	26	34	28	20
Donated money to an environmental, conservation, or outdoor group in the last 12 months	23	45	21	23	24	31	20	17
Donated money to a political candidate or party in the last 12 months	15	23	17	13	15	20	9	16
Volunteered for an environmental, conservation, or outdoor group	14	29	15	13	14	18	14	11
Volunteered for a political campaign or party	9	19	8	10	10	15	7	5
None of the above	42	--	41	40	46	34	45	48

Q27. Which of the following activities have you participated in? Please select all that apply.

Snapshot of the Arizona voter



Snapshot of the Colorado voter



Snapshot of the Nevada voter

