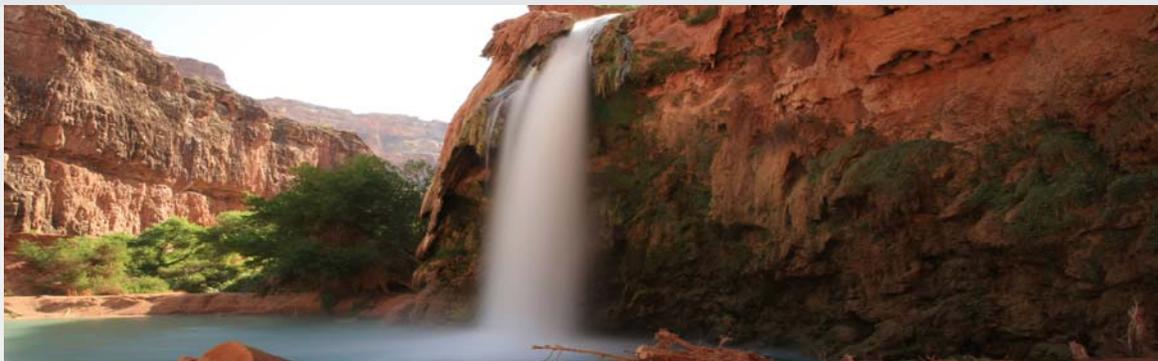
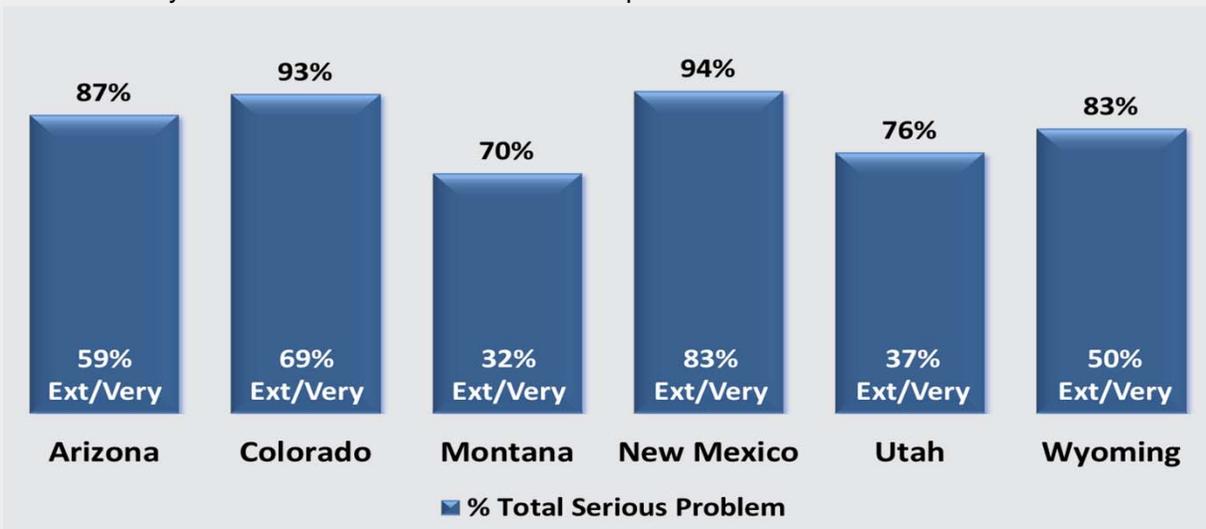


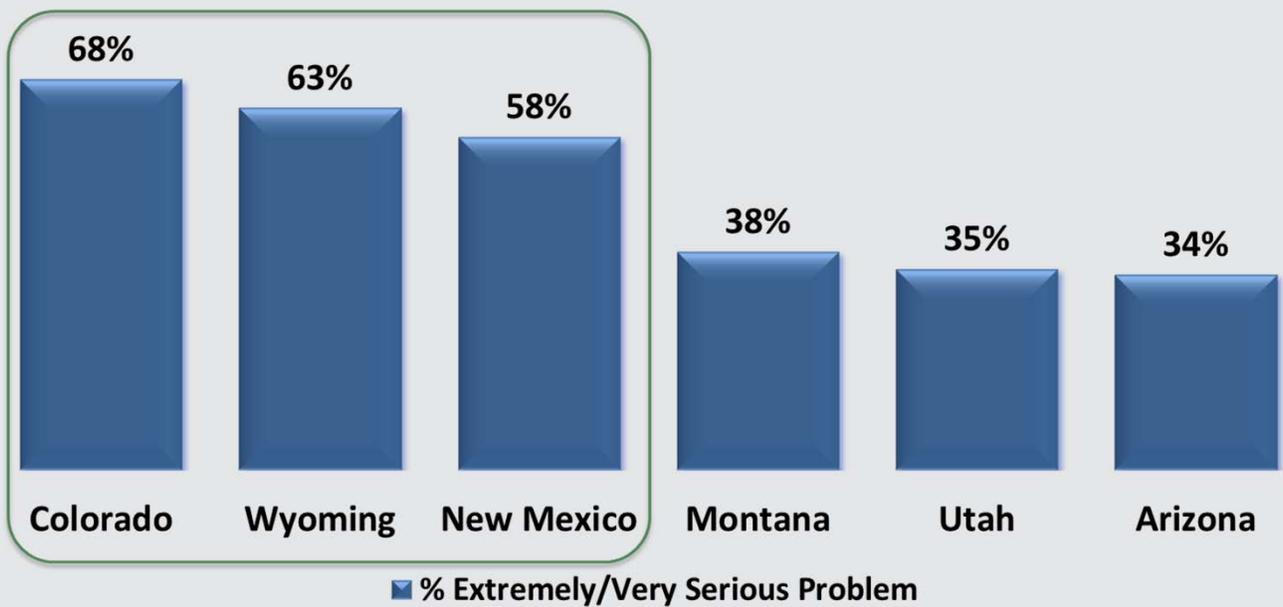
Water

Western voters are concerned about the low levels of water in their rivers, the low level of snowpack in the mountains, and, in certain states, a generally inadequate supply of water.

There is widespread concern about the low levels of water in rivers among voters in these Western States. Overall, 87% say that the low water level in rivers is a serious problem, with a significant majority (60%) saying it is an “extremely serious” or “very serious” problem. Worries about low levels of water in rivers are especially pronounced in New Mexico (83% extremely/very serious), Colorado (69%), and Arizona (59%). In fact, in what may be unprecedented concern about the state of rivers – voters in Colorado and Wyoming are more likely to say the state of rivers is a “very serious” problem than say the same for economic concerns (by 11 and 23 points, respectively). That said, throughout the region two-thirds or more say that low water levels in rivers are a problem.



Western voters are also worried about water levels at higher altitudes, especially in three states. When asked about the low level of snowpack in the mountains, more than three-fourths (77%) of voters say it is a problem, with 48% saying it is an “extremely serious” or “very serious” problem. Interestingly, there is a distinct split in the six states, with a majority in the easternmost states (Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico) seeing low snowpack as an “extremely” or “very serious” problem, and a majority in the westernmost states (Arizona, Utah, and Montana) far less concerned.



From a broader perspective, voters in these Western states also see inadequate water supplies overall as a problem. Fully 77% see it as a serious problem, with 46% saying it is an extremely serious or very serious problem – up six points in intensity from 2012. Concern over the state’s water supply is growing especially quickly in Colorado. One year ago, just one third (33%) of voters saw it as an extremely or very serious problem, but that number has grown to 51% in just the past year.

Colorado Water Supply (Extremely/Very Serious Problem)



Voters in the West point to climate change as contributing to these problems. They overwhelmingly agree that the increase in extreme weather events such as wildfires, droughts, and hurricanes is at least in part due to climate change. Sixty one-percent (61%) of voters say they agree that climate change is contributing to these ills in their state, while just 35% disagree. A majority in every single state agrees with a climate-caused explanation for extreme weather.

“The increasing number of extreme weather events like wildfires, droughts, and hurricanes is at least in part due to climate change.”

	<i>% Agree</i>
Arizona	59%
Colorado	63%
Montana	62%
New Mexico	67%
Utah	54%
Wyoming	56%