

NEW MEXICO



Voters in the Land of Enchantment truly do seem spellbound by the state. They cite the environment and the healthy, outdoor lifestyle as the most significant factors why they choose to live and stay there. New Mexico voters also frequently take advantage of the public lands in the West, with over half saying they have visited public lands six or more times in the last year.

Clear majorities of New Mexico voters say clean air, clean water and the environment (66% significant factor) and the healthy, outdoor lifestyle (57% significant factor) are two of the primary reasons they have decided to live and stay there. One half (50%) of voters also say the cost of living is a significant factor for them.

“ I think the mountains are one of the most important things and the weather. ”

“ I moved here because the economy is cheaper than California. I can afford to live here because I'm retired. ”

<i>Top Reasons for Living in the West Ranked By Significant Factor</i>	<i>Significant Factor</i>	<i>A Factor</i>
Clean air, clean water and environment	66%	87%
Healthy, outdoor lifestyle	57%	85%
Cost of living	50%	80%



New Mexico voters also often make use of the public lands in the West, with 56% saying they visited public lands at least six times in the past year. Only 7% of residents did not visit public lands at all. When asked how they think of these public lands, 68% of voters say they think of them as belonging more to ALL Americans, while just 24% say they think of them as belonging more to New Mexico.

When given a list of a few priorities for national public lands, voters in New Mexico overwhelmingly say that the most important priorities are protecting and conserving these lands for future generations (85% very important), and protecting and conserving the habitats of wildlife (75% very important).

<i>Ranked By Very Important</i>	<i>Very Important</i>	<i>Total Important</i>
Protecting and conserving natural areas for future generations	85%	96%
Making sure that rangers have the resources they need to take care of public lands and provide services to visitors	76%	94%
Protecting and conserving wildlife habitat	75%	94%

As the graph details, New Mexico voters also place a high priority on making sure that rangers have the resources they need to take care of public lands as well as to provide services to visitors. It is clear that voters are concerned that rangers do NOT have the resources they need, as 71% of voters say the lack of resources to properly maintain national public lands is a serious problem in their state.

Lack of resources to properly maintain and take care of national parks, forests and other public lands

Extremely/Very Serious

34%

Total Serious





71%

Voters in the state also have major concerns about the water supply in the state.

Eighty-five percent (85%) say inadequate water supplies are a serious problem in the state, with 62% saying the problem is extremely or very serious. Residents also worry about the low levels of water in the state's rivers, with 89% saying this is a serious problem.



What's Unique About New Mexico?

	62%	Highest of any state – view the wind, solar, and renewable energy industries as one of the most or very important to the state's future economy.
	85%	Highest of any state – see protecting and conserving natural areas for future generations as a very important priority for public lands.
	76%	Highest of any state – view making sure rangers have the resources they need to do their job as a very important priority.
	62%	Highest of any state – say inadequate water supplies are an extremely or very serious problem