

WYOMING

Voters in the Cowboy State strongly back a candidate who seeks to protect natural areas and public lands while proceeding with energy development. Worried about the low level of water in rivers, they also flatly reject diversions.



Pro-conservation candidates are strongly supported by Wyoming voters.

- In this deep red state, voters support candidates who want to spur more oil and gas development while simultaneously expressing support for protections of public lands and tax incentives for working lands. Nearly as many are more supportive of a candidate backing wind and solar.
- On the opposite end of the spectrum, Wyoming voters are much LESS inclined to vote for a candidate who supports selling public lands in order to reduce the budget deficit. Fully 71% would be less likely to support a candidate who took this position.
- One possible reason for this intensely negative response? Fully 85% of Cowboy State voters say that the closure of public lands during last year's government shutdown hurt Wyoming small businesses and the economy of nearby communities.

More Likely

A candidate who wants to reduce government red tape so that there can be more oil and gas development in your state	67%
A candidate who wants to continue tax incentives for land owners who willingly agree to keep their land as working farms, forests or in a natural state	66%
A candidate who supports enhancing protections for some public lands like national forests	62%
A candidate who wants to promote more use of renewable energy-like wind and solar power	60%
A candidate who votes to increase funding for agencies like the U.S. Forest Service	48%



Voters in Wyoming support the use of Master Leasing Plans by the Bureau of Land Management in their state.

- Two-thirds (66%) register their support after hearing a brief explanation of the concept, and only 23% oppose it. These views remain solid after voters hear a pro and con discussion of the issue as well (58% side with supporters, while 31% side more with critics).
- Voters here are divided on hydraulic fracturing laws, as just under half of those aware of the practice say that there needs to be tougher laws on this practice (18%) or that the existing laws should be better enforced (28%). Three-in-ten (29%) feel the status quo works, and 19% say current standards are too tough.

Wyoming voters remain concerned about the low level of water in rivers, but fewer perceive it to be a very serious problem.

- Fully 68% of voters in Wyoming say that the low level of water in rivers is a serious problem, with 26% saying it is an extremely or very serious problem. This is down from 2013, when 83% of voters in the state said it was a serious problem, and half (50%) said it was an extremely or very serious problem.

There is overwhelming opposition to diversions of river water, with voters far preferring to focus resources and energy on conservation and recycling of water.

- When it comes to addressing water shortage situations, three-quarters (75%) of voters in Wyoming would prefer for state water officials to invest time and resources in finding ways to use the current water supply more wisely, rather than diverting more water from rivers in less populated areas of the state. The numbers are almost identical in both Colorado and Utah.

Using our current water supply more wisely, by encouraging more water conservation, reducing use, and increasing recycling of water

<u>Colorado</u>	<u>Utah</u>	<u>Wyoming</u>
78%	76%	75%

Diverting more water from rivers in less populated areas of the state to communities where more people live

14%	12%	13%
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