

Sportsmen

Two-in-five Western voters are hunters or anglers. They value public lands; overwhelmingly oppose their sale; and want a balanced approach to energy development.

On Spending Time in Nature:

- Fully 39% of voters in the west say they are a hunter or angler. These voters are also more apt to take part in other outdoor recreation activities:

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Camping	66%
Hiking	60%
Bird watching/ viewing wildlife	35%
Riding an off-road vehicle or snowmobile	32%
Boating	32%
Mountain biking	25%
Other	20%

- Despite their own activities, Sportsmen worry that children do NOT spend enough time outdoors. Fully 85% say children not spending enough time outside is a serious problem, and 53% say it is an extremely or very serious problem – a higher proportion than among non-hunters or anglers (48% extremely or very serious problem).

- Three-quarters of sportsmen say loss of fish and wildlife habitat is a serious problem in their state.

More than six-in-ten sportsmen (63%) describe themselves as a conservationist.



On Water:

- Nearly six-in-ten regard the “low levels of water in the state's rivers” (59%) as an extremely serious or very serious problem.
- Almost one-in-three (30%) say “inadequate water supplies” is a very serious problem, with three quarters saying it is at least somewhat a serious problem (72%).
- Similarly, 76% register concern about pollution of rivers, lakes and streams (at least somewhat serious problem).
- A majority (56%) of sportsmen agree that the increasing number of extreme weather events such as wildfires and droughts is the result of global warming.

On Energy Development:

- Sportsmen prioritize cleaner, renewable sources of energy as the way to power their state. When asked for the two energy sources they want to see encouraged, they say their state should primarily encourage solar (51%) and wind (43%), followed by natural gas (33%).
- Conversely, they would discourage the use of nuclear (44%) and coal (43%).
- A majority of sportsmen say environmentally sensitive places on public lands should be permanently protected from drilling (55%). Equal numbers prefer to limit drilling entirely on public lands (22%) or prefer opening more areas to energy development (22%).



On Public Lands:

- Sportsmen are avid supporters of public lands, with 77% believing public lands in the state support the economy, provide recreation opportunities and enhance quality of life, rather than being a fiscal burden and preventing creation of jobs in traditional industries (16%) – that’s a 61 point margin.
- They are nearly unanimous that public lands are an essential part of the state’s economy (94% agree) and seven-in-ten agree that the presence of these lands help attract high quality employers and good jobs (72%).
- An overwhelming majority of sportsmen oppose selling some federal public lands as a way to reduce the nation’s budget deficit (31% support / 64% oppose). When presented with two viewpoints about the issue, they are even more likely to side with opponents of selling public lands:

Those who oppose selling off public lands say that public lands are essential to the strength of our state's economy. Public lands in your state generate billions of dollars from attracting tourists; hunters and anglers; high quality businesses, and skilled workers. Selling off these public lands to corporations for development will hurt our economy and quality of life.

69%

Those who support selling off public lands in your state say government should not be in the business of owning and managing land. We can sell millions of acres of these publicly owned lands to private corporations and individuals, raising millions of dollars to bring more money to the government to fund vital services.

24%

