

# Sportsmen & Conservation

*Sportsmen in six Western states register strong support for continued funding of conservation; view regulations as positive for outdoor recreation and their sport.*

Across these states, two-in-five (39%) voters identify themselves as a hunter or angler. One-in-five say they are both a hunter and an angler (21%), while the rest are one of the two (hunter only 5%; angler only 13%). These voters are significant proportions of the electorate in virtually every one of these Western states (percentages are total identification and therefore can exceed 100%):

	<i>Total Hunter</i>	<i>Total Angler</i>
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Montana</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Utah</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>54%</b>



- 69% of anglers and 66% of hunters describe themselves as a conservationist – one of the highest proportions of any sub-group analyzed in the survey.
- 51% of sportsmen consider themselves to be conservative politically; 38% identify as supporters of the Tea Party movement. They are twice as likely to be Republicans (45%) as Democrats (21%), with the remainder Independents (32%).
- Sportsmen are twice as likely to be male than female (52% of men and 27% of women identify as a hunter or angler).

### On Prioritizing Conservation:

- 85% of sportsmen in the West say that “even with state budget problems, we should still find money to protect and maintain” their state’s “land, water and wildlife;” 81% say the same about state parks.
- 75% consider cuts to funding for state parks, protection of natural areas and water quality as a serious problem.

### On Jobs:

- 75% say that we can protect land and water and have a strong economy at the same time.
- 92% agree that “Our national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas are an essential part of their state’s economy.”

### On Regulation:

- By a 20 point margin, sportsmen are more likely to view environmental laws more as “important safeguards to protect private property owners, public health and taxpayers from toxic pollution and costly clean-ups” (56%) than to view them as “burdensome regulations that tie up industry in red tape, hurt them too much financially, and cost jobs” (36%).



75% consider cuts to funding for state parks, protection of natural areas and water quality as a serious problem

- 68% say that their state should maintain protections for land, air and water in the state rather than reduce them in an effort to create jobs as quickly as possible.
- 62% say that environmental regulations have a positive impact on opportunities to hunt and fish in their state; a solid majority says the same about opportunities for outdoor recreation (56%). Majorities of sportsmen also ascribe positive benefits to environmental regulations for the natural beauty of their state (78% positive impact), public safety (70% positive impact), their quality of life (69% positive impact), and public health (60% positive impact).
- 65% agree that “We should NOT allow private companies to develop our public lands when their doing so would limit the public's enjoyment of - or access to - these lands.”
- 62% support the EPA “continuing to implement the Clean Air Act by updating the standards for air quality, including for smog, dust, and emissions from power plants, factories and cars,” with 43% strongly in support. Just over one-third (36%) oppose this.
- Views of the necessity of suspending environmental protections along the border in order to help stop the flow of illegal immigration are similar to voters overall in these states. One-in-four (25%) think suspension is necessary, while two-thirds (66%) of sportsmen do not.



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For the complete 2012 Conservation in the West Poll findings and more information visit: [www.stateoftherockies.com](http://www.stateoftherockies.com).

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