

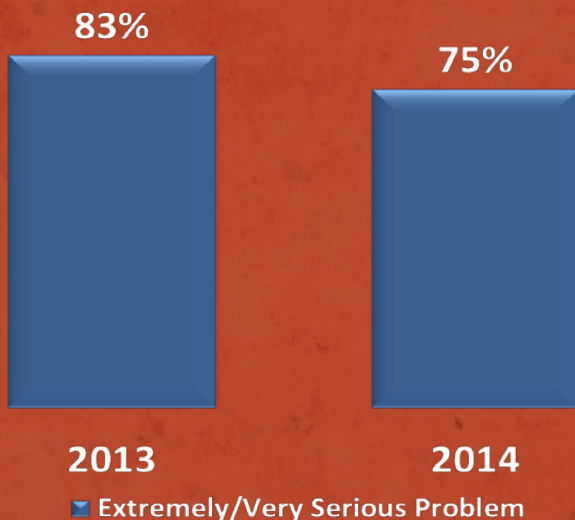
NEW MEXICO



The Land of Enchantment, with its significant Latino voting bloc, indicates that conservation has the power to sway voters there positively, as they continue to be concerned about water and express a strong affinity to public lands.

- New Mexico voters continue to be the most concerned about water and rivers after a prolonged drought in the state. Three-quarters (75%) of state residents regard “the low level of water in rivers” as an extremely or very serious problem, eclipsing the level of concern in every other state (region-wide, 50% regard this as an extremely or very serious problem). This concern is down only slightly from 2013, when 83% rated the low level of water in rivers in the same manner.

Low Levels of Water in Rivers



New Mexico voters underscore that public lands are important to them ...

- They are the most likely to reject the sale of public lands as a means to reducing the federal budget deficit (78% oppose).
- 94% of voters report having visited public lands in the last year.
- Over two-thirds (68%) say they are more likely to vote for a Congressional candidate who supports protection of public lands.
- One-in-four (26%) say the closures of public lands left them “annoyed” and an equal number (25%) were “angry.”
- Fully 82% say that funding for public lands should not be cut, as it provides a big return for a small investment.”
- 75% say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who proposes the sale of federal lands and 61% have the same reaction for a candidate who reduces funding for federal land management agencies.

New Mexico Latinos express equally strong pro-conservation views:

- 62% identify as a conservationist
- 76% agree that “funding for national parks, national forests and other public lands should not be cut, as it provides a big return for a small investment.”
- 62% are strongly opposed to selling off public lands to reduce the deficit.



Two-thirds of New Mexico voters give the use of Master Leasing Plans by the Bureau of Land Management in their state a thumbs up.

- Sixty-four percent (64%) register their support after hearing a brief explanation of the concept, and only 22% oppose it. These views remain solid after voters hear a pro and con discussion of the issue as well.

Master Leasing Plan Views By State

Those who support master leasing plans say that some places are appropriate for drilling, but on some public lands drilling could negatively affect our rivers, wildlife, or opportunities for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. These plans will resolve conflicts in advance so that wildlife habitats, air quality and water quality are protected, and leasing can move forward in appropriate areas with fewer delays.

59%

Those who oppose master leasing plans say that the government already takes years planning for whether or not oil and gas drilling can occur in specific sites. Master leasing plans are yet another layer of red tape that will slow down responsible energy production on public lands, making it take even longer for oil and gas companies to develop our country's energy resources.

26%