

# Wyoming

*A survey of Wyoming voters regarding conservation demonstrates a strong conservation ethic and support for continuing to fund conservation and maintain protections.*

Like their fellow Westerners, Wyoming voters overwhelmingly identify as conservationists (71%) – a label that bridges partisan lines, as well as many other factors in the state.



Sub-group	Identify as Conservationist
Rural resident	76%
Tea Party Supporter	76%
Occupy Wall St. Supporter	88%
GOP	70%
Independent	69%
Democrat	79%
Hunter	75%
Angler	74%
Not Sportsmen	67%

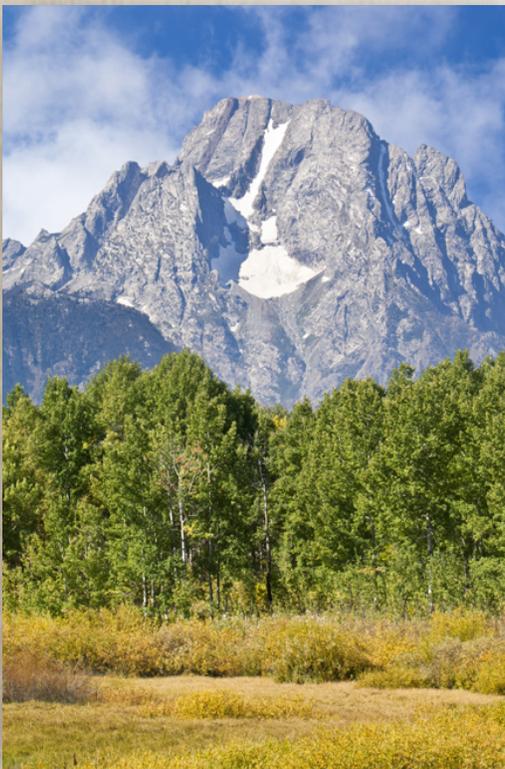
Wyoming voters prioritize conservation goals throughout the survey, in regard to energy, regulation, and public lands. Among the select findings from the survey:

### On Jobs:

- 80% say that we can protect land and water and have a strong economy at the same time.
- 97% agree that “Our national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas are an essential part of Wyoming’s economy” – the highest of any of the six states. Virtually all – 99% - say they are essential the “the quality of life” in Wyoming.
- When asked whether environmental regulations have a positive or negative impact on jobs in their state, Wyoming voters are more likely to say they have a positive impact (47%) rather than a negative impact (35%).

## On Regulation:

- 62% of Equality state voters 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” than to view them as “burdensome regulations that tie up industry in red tape, hurt them too much financially, and cost jobs” (27%).
- 79% say that Wyoming 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.
- 69% reject suspending environmental protections along both borders by saying it is not necessary to help stem the flow of illegal immigrants into the country. Only 22% feel this is a necessary step.
- Wyoming voters are more divided on whether or not “One of the best ways to create jobs is to cut back environmental regulations that are weighing down Wyoming’s businesses” (48% agree, 49% disagree).
- 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 a plurality (37%) strongly in support.



## On Prioritizing Conservation:

- 87% say that “Even with state budget problems, we should still find money to protect and maintain Wyoming’s land, water and wildlife;” 88% say the same about state parks.
- 75% support the State Legislature fully funding the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust to preserve fish and wildlife, ranchlands, natural areas and water in the state, while only 22% oppose this. Support is broad-based and wide-spread throughout the state, including among...

Men (77% support) and women (73%); Voters of all age groups including seniors (69%); Republicans (69%), Independents (87%) and Democrats (82%); Anglers (78%) and hunters (77%); and More than 69% in every major area of the state.

## On Energy:

- 56% say increasing the use of renewable energy will create jobs in Wyoming.
- A majority of Wyoming voters say the highest priority in meeting America’s energy needs is to reduce the need for more coal, oil and gas by expanding the use of clean, renewable energy that can be generated in the U.S. (51%) rather than drilling and digging for more of these traditional energy sources (41%).
- That said, Wyoming voters are unique from other states in that they would be most apt to encourage the use of wind power (42%) and natural gas (40%) in their state over other sources, and are disinclined from discouraging any particular energy sources.

87% say that “Even with state budget problems, we should still find money to protect and maintain Wyoming’s land, water and wildlife;” 88% say the same about state parks.



---

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

To contact the Survey Firms: Lori Weigel/Public Opinion Strategies:: [lori@pos.org](mailto:lori@pos.org)  
Dave Metz/Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Assoc.: [dave@fm3research.com](mailto:dave@fm3research.com)

For information about The State of the Rockies Project and Colorado College contact: [Leslie.Weddell@ColoradoCollege.edu](mailto:Leslie.Weddell@ColoradoCollege.edu)