

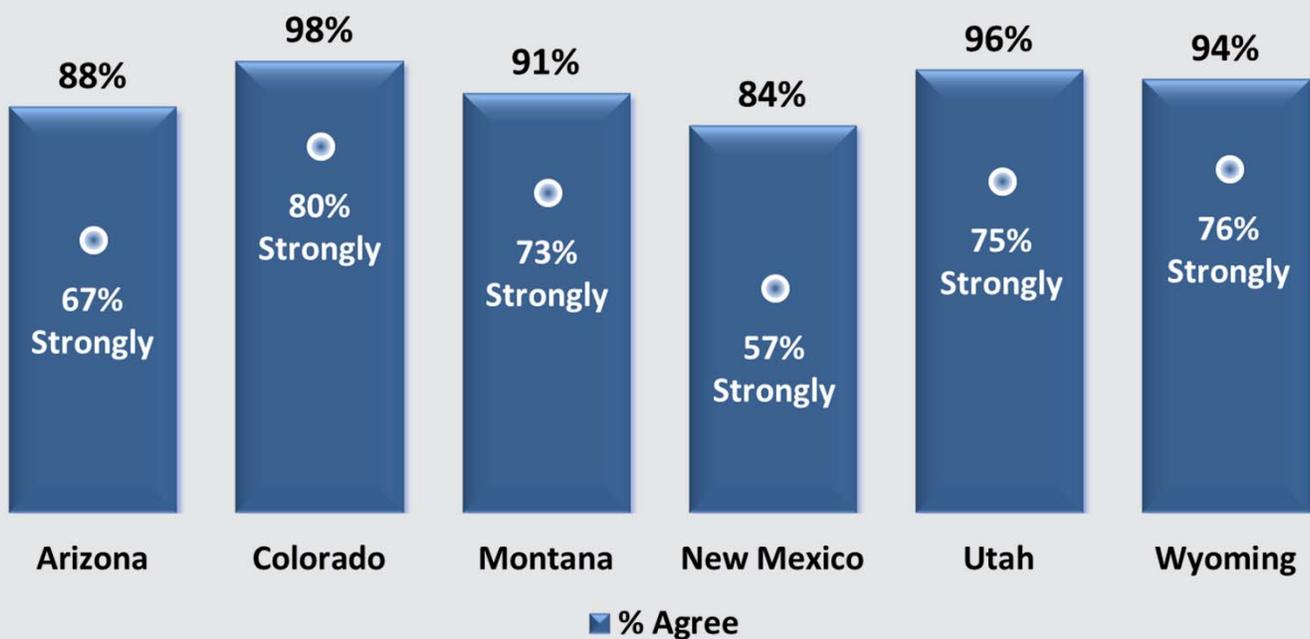
# Public Lands

*Personal connection and perceived benefits of public lands permeates attitudes in the West; Drives desire to hold onto and safeguard protected lands in their state*

Positive attitudes toward public lands – and a strong desire to see them safeguarded – are consistent and widespread among the Western electorate. Voters demonstrate a personal connection to these places. For example, more than two-thirds in every state say that they plan to visit a national park in 2013.

Westerners tell us that public lands have immense benefits for their state – both for them personally and for the economy of their state. A majority of 52 percent perceive public lands to be a job creator in their state, and almost no one perceives those lands as holding their state back economically (just 7 percent believe having public lands costs jobs). Three-quarters (74%) believe our national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas help to attract high quality employers and good jobs to their state. And, there is near unanimity - 91 percent agreeing - that public lands like national parks, forests, monuments and wildlife areas are an “essential part” of their state’s economy. This view is evident in every single state.

## Agreement that Public Lands Essential to their State’s Economy



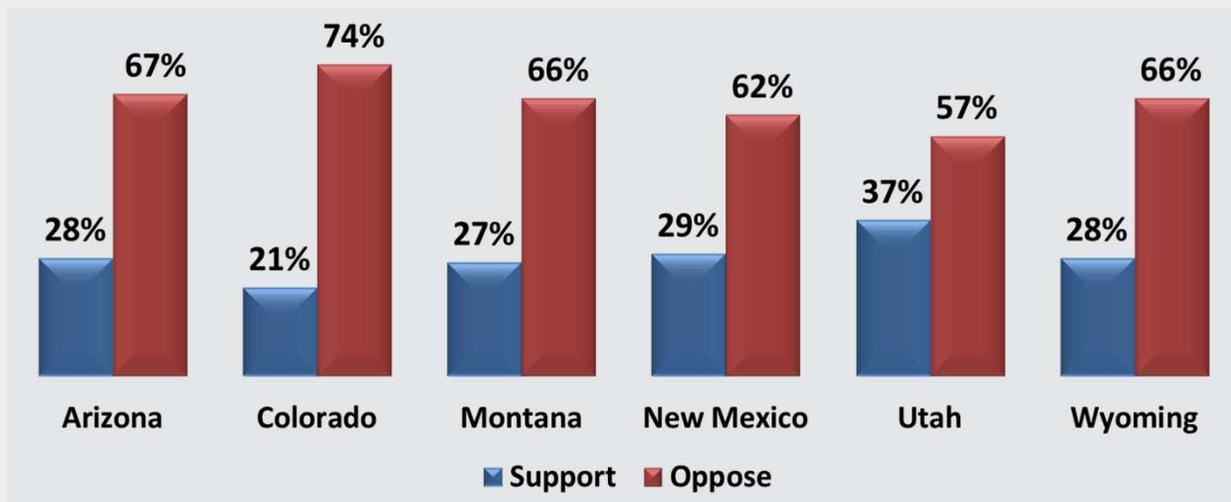
Any sense of public lands being a burden or problem in their state is rebuffed by the electorate consistently and strongly.

- When provided with two viewpoints about public lands, 79% side with a statement saying that public lands support their economy and enhance their overall quality of life, rather than being an economic and fiscal burden to their states.
- A small minority – 14 percent – say too much public land is a very serious problem in their state; while the vast majority reject this concern.

	West
<b>Public lands like national parks and national forests in your support our economy; provide opportunities to hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors; and enhance our overall quality of life.</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Public lands like national parks and national forests in your state take land off the tax rolls, cost government to maintain them, and prevent opportunities for logging and oil and gas production that could provide jobs.</b>	<b>15%</b>

- 67% oppose proposals to sell off public lands, with a majority opposed in every state. In fact, 50% strongly oppose selling some public lands. Only 27% support selling some public lands.

**Opposition to Selling Public Lands**





Voters across the political spectrum and representing every single demographic group are more likely to oppose than support the sale of some public lands. Voters who participate in outdoor recreation activities, including off-road vehicle use, are most strongly opposed to the sale of public lands.

Voters also overwhelmingly reject arguments for the sale of public lands - instead agreeing that doing so would hurt their state's economy and quality of life.

**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.**

**71%**

**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.**

**23%**