Colorado College’s State of the Rockies Project
2023 Conservation in the West Poll

BLK
VOTERS

CONSERVATION
61% consider themselves to be conservationists.
27% consider themselves a hunter or angler.
75% support constructing wildlife crossing structures across major highways.

COLORADO RIVER
74% believe the Colorado River is critical to the state’s economy.
81% believe the Colorado River is in need of urgent action.

WATER & DROUGHT CONCERNS
82% describe the current shortage of water supplies in the West as a problem.
82% support requiring local governments to determine whether there is enough water available before approving new residential development projects.
82% support providing financial incentives to homeowners and businesses to replace lawns and grassy areas with water-saving landscaping.

PROTECTING 30X30
88% support a national goal of conserving 30% of America’s land and waters by the year 2030.
84% support presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments.
84% support creating new national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, and tribal protected areas to protect historic sites or areas for outdoor recreation.

ENERGY ON PUBLIC LANDS
74% support only allowing oil and gas companies the right to drill in areas where there is high likelihood to actually produce oil and gas.
74% prefer that leaders place more emphasis on protecting water, air, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities over maximizing the amount of land available for drilling and mining.
89% support requiring oil and gas companies, rather than federal and state governments, to pay for all of the clean-up and land restoration costs after drilling is finished.

coloradocollege.edu/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewest