COLORADO COLLEGE’S STATE OF THE ROCKIES PROJECT
2023 CONSERVATION IN THE WEST POLL

COLORADO RIVER

- **83%** believe the Colorado River is critical to the state’s economy.
- **78%** believe the Colorado River is in need of urgent action.

CONSERVATION

- **63%** consider themselves to be conservationists.
- **32%** consider themselves a hunter or angler.
- **89%** support constructing wildlife crossing structures across major highways.

PROTECTING 30X30

- **75%** support a national goal of conserving 30% of America’s land and waters by the year 2030.
- **73%** support presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments.
- **78%** support creating new national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, and tribal protected areas to protect historic sites or areas for outdoor recreation.

WATER & DROUGHT CONCERNS

- **95%** describe the current shortage of water supplies in the West as a problem.
- **88%** support requiring local governments to determine whether there is enough water available before approving new residential development projects.
- **88%** support providing financial incentives to homeowners and businesses to replace lawns and grassy areas with water-saving landscaping.

ENERGY ON PUBLIC LANDS

- **77%** support only allowing oil and gas companies the right to drill in areas where there is high likelihood to actually produce oil and gas.
- **64%** 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.
- **91%** 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.

Bob Wick | Bureau of Land Management

[Visit coloradocollege.edu/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewest for more information]