

Hopes for the Trump Administration

Voters provide clear direction for the new Administration to prioritize protection of national public lands over energy production. They also strongly support initiatives to promote the outdoor economy, improve access for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation, and improve infrastructure at national parks and other outdoor destinations. Westerners resoundingly approve of the performance in their states of the public lands agencies the new Administration will now run. These voters hope that Donald Trump will hold true to his promise to follow in the footsteps of Theodore Roosevelt when it comes to public lands.

Westerners are offering advice to the new Administration on where its emphasis should lie in its approach to national public lands. Voters squarely line up behind an emphasis on protection over one favoring energy production. Even in the most conservative states, like Wyoming, a plurality advised the Administration to place more emphasis on protection.

Ensuring we protect sources of clean water, our air quality and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities to visit and recreate on our national public lands

68%

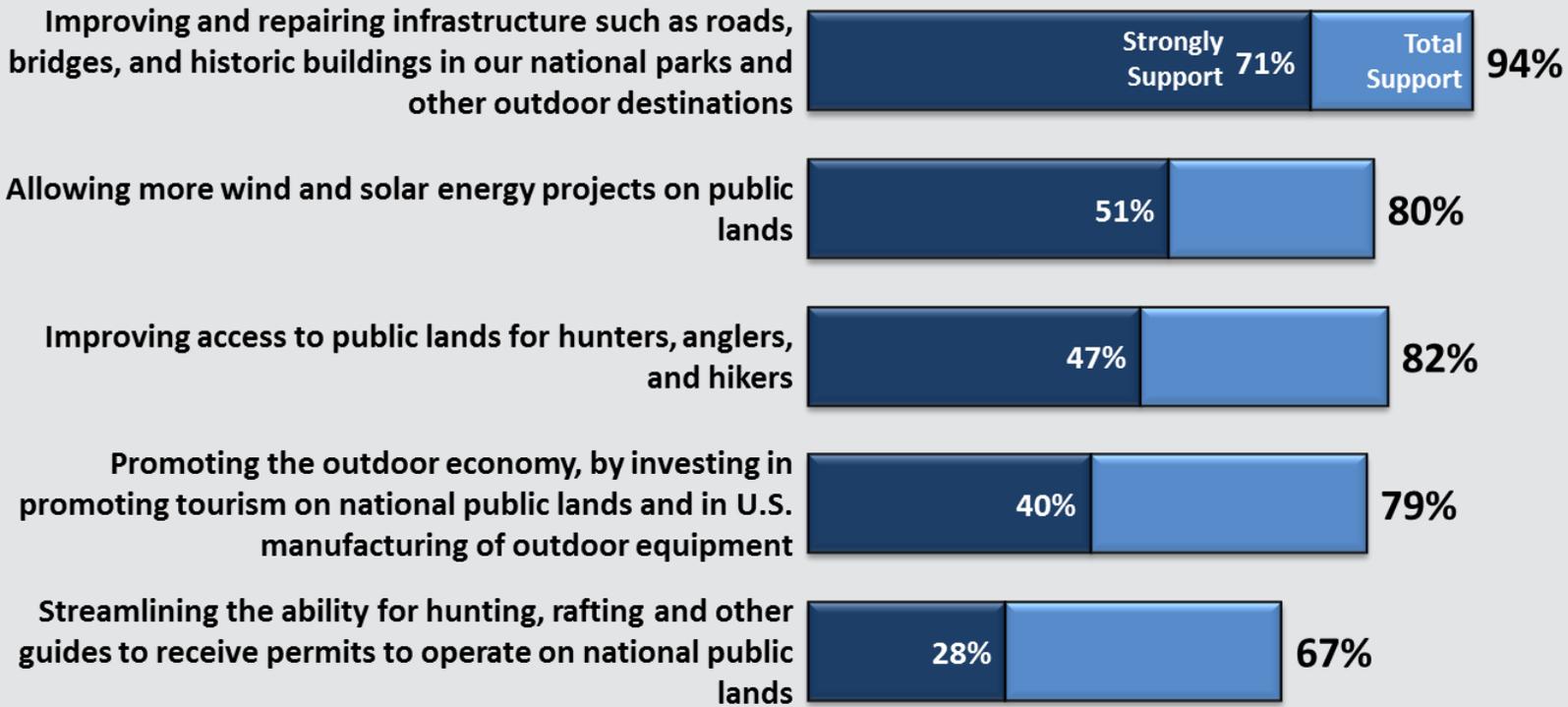
Ensuring we produce more domestic energy by increasing the amount of national public lands available for responsible oil and gas drilling and mining

22%

Asked to consider a number of specific actions the Trump administration may consider taking, voters in the West expressed overwhelming support for several possible actions. Leading the way was the close to unanimous support for improving and

repairing infrastructure in national parks and other outdoor destinations. Fully 94% of voters support this potential action, with 71% saying they strongly support it. That said, all of these potential initiatives garnered majority support in each state and across the partisan spectrum.

Trump Administration Actions Ranked by % Strongly Support



However, there is significant opposition to two energy-related potential Trump administration actions. Sixty-three percent (63%) of voters are opposed to allowing more coal mining on public lands, with 44% saying they are strong opposed. Only 33% of voters in the West support this potential policy.

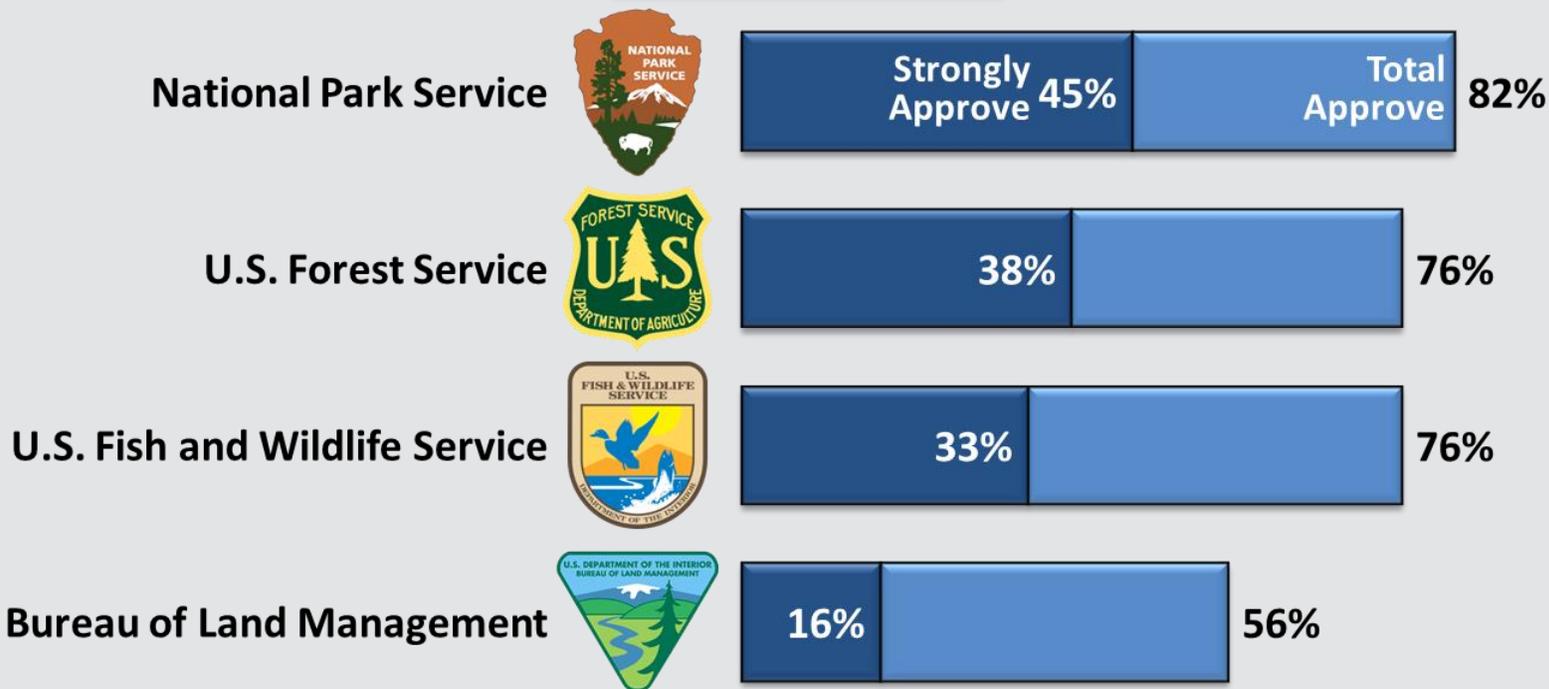
The reaction is similar to allowing oil and gas companies to purchase the right to drill in new areas of national public lands, with 62% of voters saying they are opposed to this, compared to 34% who support it. Again, the intensity of the opposition is strong, as 47% of voters say they would be strongly opposed.

A majority oppose both of these proposals in every state, with the exception of Wyoming.



The work of the federal agencies which deal with national public lands in the West is viewed quite positively at this time. More than three-quarters of voters in the West approve of the jobs being done by the National Park Service (82% approve), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (76% approve), and the U.S. Forest Service (76% approve). A clear majority also approve of the job the Bureau of Land Management is doing (56% approve). Again, the ratings for these agencies are not dictated by party - a majority of Trump voters and Republicans approve of the job that each of these four agencies is doing in their state.

Approval of Agencies



Western voters react very positively to Donald Trump saying that he will follow in the footsteps of President Theodore Roosevelt in his approach to national public lands. Respondents were told that Trump has stated that he opposes transferring public lands to state governments because “we have to be great stewards of this land.”

Having heard this, 63% of voters say they approved of the President-Elect’s stated approach to federal management of national public lands (37% strongly), while only 27% disapprove. This statement generates a positive response among every single sub-group we examined, including fully 72% of Trump voters who approve of him taking this approach. Even voters in the three Western states that Trump lost had a strongly positive reaction, with 67% of voters in Colorado approving, 64% in Nevada, and 62% in New Mexico.

Approval of Trump's Management of National Public Lands

