

Outdoor Recreation in the West

Seven-in-ten Westerners identify as an outdoor recreation enthusiast.

Voters throughout the West say the stereotype of a region full of skiers, backpackers and mountain bikers is actually true. Seven in ten voters consider themselves an outdoor recreation enthusiast – including at least three in five in every state, reaching a high of 80% in Montana.

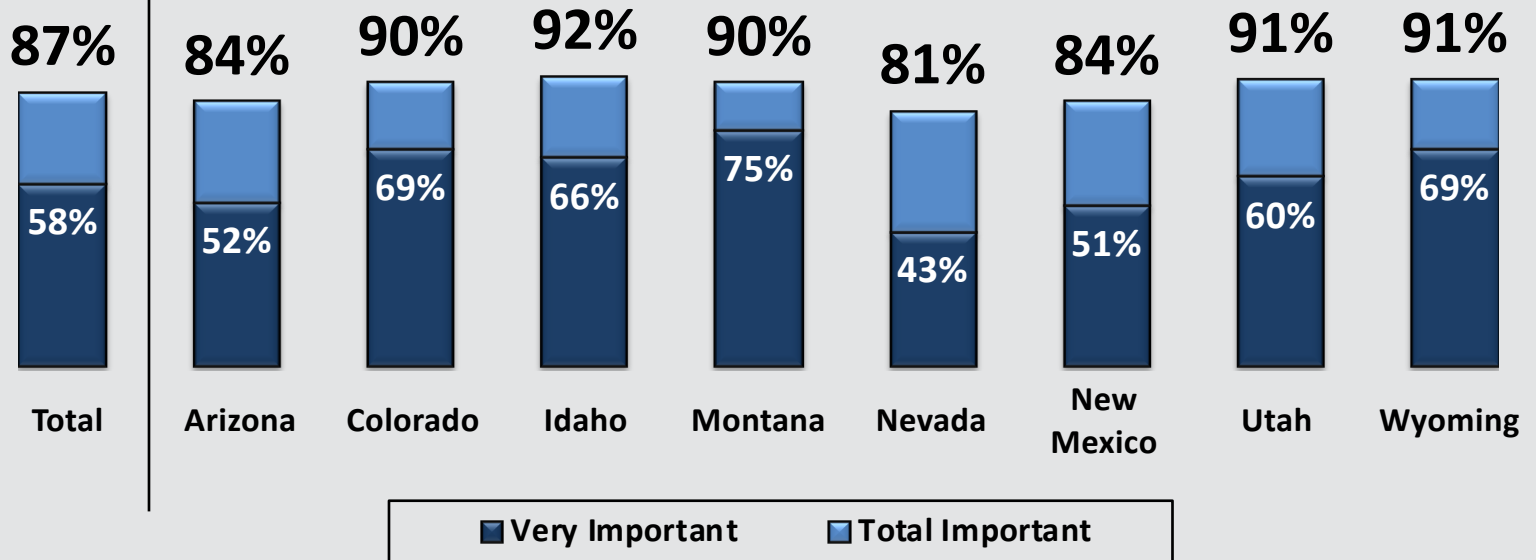


Very Important	58%
Somewhat Important	29%
Total Important	87%
Total Not Important	10%
A Little Important	6%
Not Important At All	4%

An overwhelming majority of respondents say that the outdoor recreation economy will be important to the future of their state and the West.

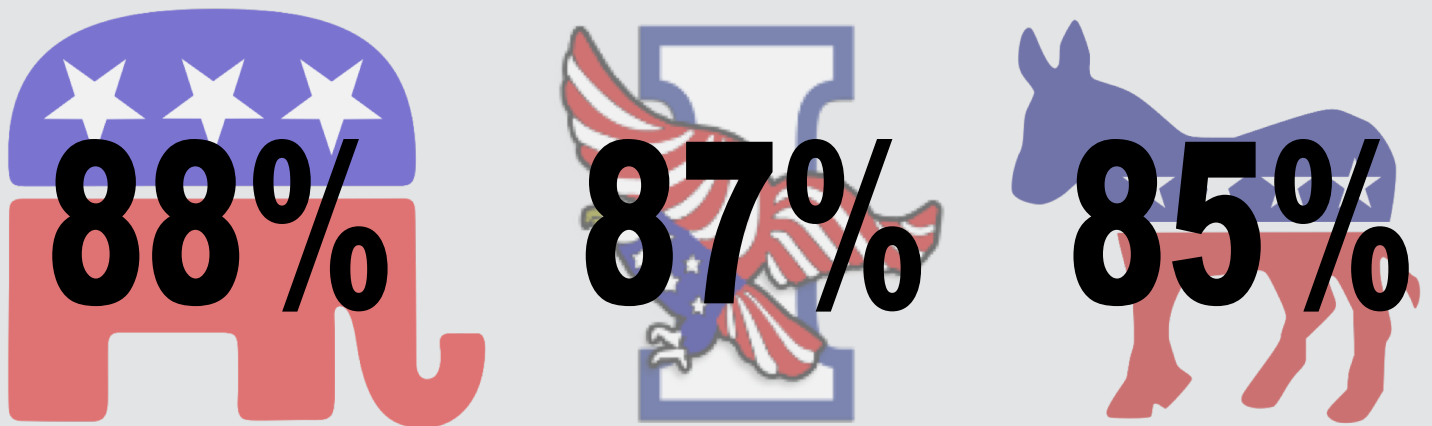
The vast majority of voters throughout the West view the outdoor recreation economy as important to the future of their state, with the strongest sense that it is “very important” in Montana, Wyoming and Colorado.

Importance of Outdoor Recreation to Economic Future of West – By State



There is statistically no partisan distinction in perceptions of outdoor recreation’s importance to the economic future of the West and their state.

Importance of Outdoor Recreation to Economic Future of West – By Party



More than three-in-five Westerners say that living near public lands, parks and trails is a factor in their decision to live in the West.

Thinking about living in the Western United States - One reason some people say they live in the West is the ability to live near, recreate on and enjoy public lands like national forests, parks or trails. Is that a significant factor, somewhat of a factor or not really a factor in you living in the West?

Significant Factor

38%

Somewhat of a Factor

26%

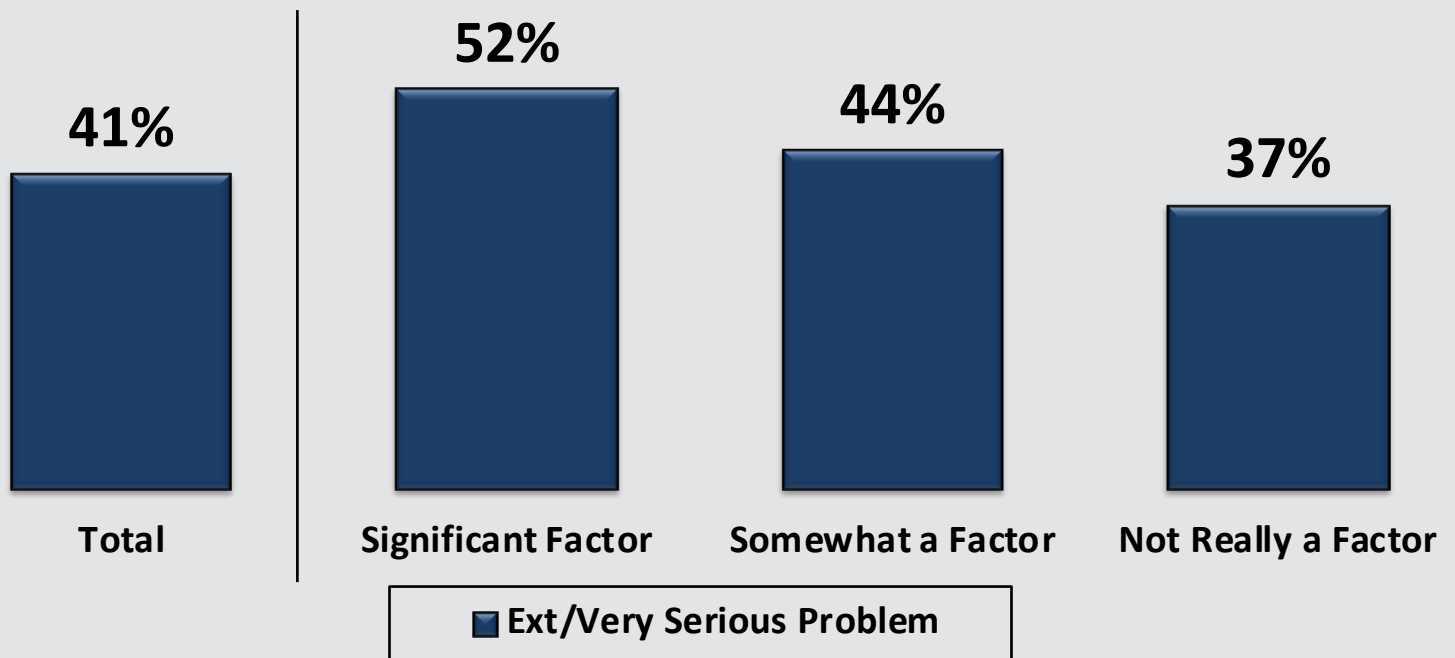
Not Really a Factor

35%

Voters across the West who say these outdoor amenities were a factor are far more likely to be hunters (72%), anglers (74%), have college or higher level degrees (68%), and be under age 35 (67%).



Those who say access to recreation on public lands is a factor in why they live in the West tend to be more concerned about the lack of resources to care for those lands.



Voters who say that access to public lands, parks and trails is a significant factor in why they live in the West are more likely to characterize recent policy changes affecting public lands as “bad changes” than are those for whom access to public lands is not really a factor in why they live in the West. For example, 71% of those who say public lands is significant in why they live in the West view removing national monument protections as a “bad change,” which is significantly more than among those for whom public lands is not a factor in why they live in the West (62%). The same dynamic is true for limits on public comment, as depicted below.

<i>% Bad Change by Role of Public Lands in Why they Live in the West</i>	Public Lands is Significant Factor in Living in the West	Public Lands is Somewhat a Factor in Living in the West	Public Lands is Not Really a Factor in Living in the West
Bad Change to Remove National Monuments	71%	69%	62%
Bad Change to Limit Public Comments	63%	60%	47%