

2026 WESTERN STATES SURVEY

Interview Schedule – TREND

New Bridge Strategy / FM3 Research

January 2-18, 2026

At least N=400 Voters per state; 3,419 total

(AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT & WY)

Margin of Error: At most $\pm 4.9\%$ per state

Margin of Error: $\pm 2.42\%$ effective overall sample



In this document:

- *An asterisk (*) in a response category means that less than 0.5% of respondents chose that response category and a dash (-) represents no response.*
 - *A carrot (^) denotes rounding. Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half of one percent.*
 - *2026 trend is shown among the states that were interviewed in the first trend point.*
 - *2011 States: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY*
 - *2012-2015 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, UT & WY*
 - *2016-2017 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY*
 - *2018-2025 States: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY*
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Next, **ONLINE:** please read / **PHONE:** I'm going to read you a list of issues some people say are problems in **(INSERT STATE)**. For each one, please **ONLINE:** indicate/ **PHONES:** tell me if you think it is **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)** an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in **(STATE)**.

	EXT/VERY SERIOUS	EXTREMELY SERIOUS	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT A PROBLEM	DK/REF (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
The (first/next) one is... (RANDOMIZE)						
1.	Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife (ASKED OF SAMPLE A, N=1,726)					
2011	38%	15%	23%	38%	23%	2%
2020	43%	15%	28%	32%	24%	1%
2021	55%	23%	32%	29%	15%	1%
2022	55%	25%	30%	33%	11%	1%
2023	52%^	24%	27%	30%	17%	1%
2024	58%^	23%	34%	30%	11%	2%
2025	54%^	27%	28%	31%	14%	1%
2026	56%	23%	33%	30%	12%	2%
2.	Inadequate water supplies (ASKED OF SAMPLE B, N=1,693)					
2011	40%	15%	25%	35%	24%	1%
2020	45%	17%	28%	34%	20%	1%
2021	51%	24%	27%	34%	14%	2%
2022	70%	35%	35%	19%	9%	2%
2023	61%	32%	29%	25%	13%	--
2024	62%	32%	30%	23%	15%	--
2025	63%^	34%	30%	25%	11%	1%
2026	65%^	34%	30%	22%	13%	*
3.	Uncontrollable wildfires that threaten homes and property (ASKED OF SAMPLE A, N=1,726)					
2016	32%	11%	21%	45%	22%	1%
2020	47%	18%	29%	35%	18%	*
2021	60%	30%	30%	30%	10%	*
2022	63%	30%	33%	28%	9%	--
2023	53%	25%	28%	31%	15%	1%
2024	57%	27%	30%	31%	11%	1%
2025	60%	31%	29%	30%	9%	1%
2026	62%^	27%	36%	28%	10%	*
4.	Pollution of rivers, lakes and streams (ASKED OF SAMPLE B, N=1,693)					
2011	42%	19%	23%	39%	18%	1%
2020	52%^	21%	32%	31%	15%	1%
2021	55%^	26%	30%	31%	12%	1%
2022	54%	23%	31%	35%	10%	1%
2024	58%	25%	33%	28%	13%	1%
2025	59%	29%	30%	29%	12%	--
2026	56%	25%	31%	30%	13%	1%

	EXT/VERY SERIOUS	EXTREMELY SERIOUS	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT A PROBLEM	DK/REF (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
5.	Population declines of fish and wildlife (ASKED OF SAMPLE A, N=1,726)					
2021	48%	21%	27%	32%	17%	3%
2022	51%	21%	30%	31%	16%	2%
2023	47%^	18%	28%	36%	14%	3%
2024	54%	22%	32%	32%	13%	1%
2025	52%	24%	28%	30%	14%	4%
2026	50%^	20%	31%	36%	12%	2%
6.	Loss of natural areas (ASKED OF SAMPLE B, N=1,693)					
2011	36%	15%	21%	35%	27%	2%
2020	44%	18%	26%	33%	21%	2%
2022	55%^	23%	33%	32%	12%	1%
2023	49%^	21%	29%	32%	17%	1%
2024	57%	24%	33%	28%	15%	*
2025	55%	26%	29%	30%	15%	*
2026	57%	26%	31%	27%	15%	1%
7.	The rising cost of living (ASKED OF SAMPLE A, N=1,726)					
2022	75%^	40%	34%	23%	2%	--
2023	78%	46%	32%	19%	3%	--
2024	83%	54%	29%	14%	3%	--
2025	81%	51%	30%	17%	2%	*
2026	85%^	49%	35%	13%	2%	--
8.	Climate change (ASKED OF SAMPLE B, N=1,693)					
2011	27%	11%	16%	28%	43%	2%
2020	46%	23%	23%	20%	33%	1%
2021	54%^	33%	22%	20%	25%	--
2022	52%	31%	21%	25%	22%	1%
2023	49%	28%	21%	25%	25%	1%
2024	54%	32%	22%	21%	25%	--
2025	56%	32%	24%	21%	22%	1%
2026	54%	33%	21%	22%	23%	1%
9.	The impact of oil and gas drilling on our land, air and water (ASKED OF SAMPLE A, N=1,726)					
2011	31%	15%	16%	30%	35%	3%
2020	40%	19%	21%	27%	32%	1%
2021	37%	19%	18%	28%	33%	2%
2022	41%^	18%	24%	29%	29%	1%
2023	38%	16%	22%	30%	29%	3%
2026	42%	20%	22%	31%	25%	2%

	EXT/VERY SERIOUS	EXTREMELY SERIOUS	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT A PROBLEM	DK/REF (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
11. Rollbacks of laws that protect our land, water, and wildlife (ASKED OF SAMPLE A, N=1,726)						
2018	40%	16%	24%	28%	25%	7%
2019	49%	23%	27%	26%	16%	8%
2026	59%	29%	30%	26%	14%	1%
14. Air pollution and smog (ASKED IN UTAH ONLY AND OF SAMPLE B, N=1,693)						
2011	68%	26%	42%	27%	5%	--
2020	68%^	26%	41%	28%	5%	--
2021	65%	36%	29%	26%	9%	--
2022	69%	34%	35%	21%	9%	1%
2024	77%	45%	32%	19%	4%	--
2025	76%	34%	42%	19%	5%	--
2026	68%	36%	32%	25%	8%	--

Switching topics –

15. Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving public lands, waters, and wildlife for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official? Are they... (ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)						
<u>2016</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2026</u>		
31%	44%	41%	38%	36%	Very important, they are a primary factor in deciding whether to support an elected public official	
44%	36%	45%	47%	50%	Somewhat important; they are one of several issues you consider	
15%	10%	9%	9%	10%	Not too important; they are not a significant factor considering in deciding whether to support an elected public official	
9%	8%	4%	5%	4%	...OR... Not at all important for you in deciding whether to support an elected official	
1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR/NOT ONLINE)	
75%	80%	86%	85%	85%^	TOTAL IMPORTANT	
24%	18%	14%^	14%	14%	TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	

16. When you think about these issues involving public lands, waters, and wildlife in your state – do you think those are more – **(ROTATE :1-2)**

2016 2026

85%	64%	Issues where people have more in common and we should be able to find common ground in order to get things done ...OR...
10%	34%	Issues where there are more partisan or other differences and that will make it very hard to get things done
1%	1%	BOTH (DNR/NOT ONLINE. PHONE PROMPT: But if you had to choose just one which one comes closer to your view?)
1%	*	NEITHER (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
3%	1%	UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR/NOT ONLINE)

Thinking about national public lands in **STATE** such as national parks, national forests, national monuments, or national wildlife refuges –

27. Which one would you prefer your Member of Congress place more emphasis on in upcoming decisions regarding national public lands – **(ROTATE :1-2)**

2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026

65%	67%	69%	67%	68%	70%	72%	76%	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 ...OR...
24%	25%	27%	28%	26%	26%	24%	21%	Ensuring we produce more domestic energy by maximizing the amount of national public lands available for responsible oil and gas drilling and mining
6%	4%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	BOTH (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	NEITHER/OTHER (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
4%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	UNSURE/REF (DNR/NOT ONLINE)

Still thinking now about our national public lands, there are a number of actions which have or could be taken. Please **ONLINE**: indicate / **PHONES**: tell me if you would (**ROTATE**) support or oppose each one.

(PHONE IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE) And, do you **STRONGLY** (choice) or just **SOMEWHAT** (choice)?

TOTAL SUPPORT	TOTAL OPPOSE	STR SUPPORT	SMWT SUPPORT	SMWT OPPOSE	STR OPPOSE	(DNR/NOT ONLINE) DK	REF
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The (first/next) one is... **(RANDOMIZE)**(DO NOT SHOW ONLINE)

30. Keeping the requirement that oil and gas companies, rather than taxpayers, pay for all of the clean-up and land restoration costs after drilling is finished. **(ASKED OF SAMPLE A, N=1,726)**

2021	93%	6%	77%	16%	4%	2%	1%	--
2022	91%	7%	74%	17%	4%	3%	1%	1%
2023	91%	8%	69%	22%	4%	4%	1%	--
2024	90%	9%	69%	21%	6%	3%	1%	--
2025	92%^	7%	75%	18%	4%	3%	1%	--
2026	89%	10%^	74%	15%	5%	6%	*	--

35. Managing public lands to ensure there are more outdoor places free of light pollution to see the stars at night. **(ASKED OF SAMPLE B, N=1,693)**

2024	89%^	10%	50%	38%	8%	2%	1%	--
2025	89%	9%	53%	36%	6%	3%	1%	1%
2026	89%	10%	55%	34%	7%	3%	1%	*

36. Remove current protections to allow new oil and gas drilling on public lands around the Chaco Culture National Historical Park in northern New Mexico. **(ASKED IN NEW MEXICO ONLY, N=443)**

2025	28%^	70%^	11%	16%	21%	50%	2%	--
2026	28%	71%	12%	16%	17%	54%	1%	--

**2021-2024 language read – “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.”*

38. And, do you think that existing national monument designations for some public lands protected over the last decade (**ROTATE**) should be kept in place OR should they be removed?

(ON PHONES IF CHOICE) And would you DEFINITELY (keep in place/remove) or just PROBABLY (keep in place/remove) the protections?

<u>2017</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	
60%	57%	58%	Definitely keep in place
20%	31%	33%	Probably keep in place
6%	6%	5%	Probably remove
7%	3%	3%	Definitely remove
7%	3%	2%	UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
80%	88%	91%	TOTAL KEEP IN PLACE
13%	9%	7%^	TOTAL REMOVE

Switching topics and thinking about energy -

45. Which two of the following sources of energy would you want to encourage the use of here in (INSERT STATE)? (READ AND RANDOMIZE - ACCEPT 2 RESPONSES. RECORD 1st CHOICE, 2nd CHOICE)

First Choice

<u>2017</u>	<u>2026</u>	
49%	42%	Solar power
7%	17%	Nuclear
16%	13%	Wind power
10%	11%	Natural gas
7%	9%	Energy efficiency efforts
3%	4%	Oil
4%	2%	Coal
2%	1%	ALL/COMBINATION (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
*	*	NONE OF THESE (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
1%	*	UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR/NOT ONLINE)

Combined Choice

****PERCENTAGES ADD UP TO GREATER THAN 100% BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE ALLOWED****

<u>2017</u>	<u>2026</u>	
71%	64%	Solar power
48%	40%	Wind power
22%	26%	Natural gas
13%	25%	Nuclear
19%	24%	Energy efficiency efforts
8%	9%	Oil
8%	7%	Coal
3%	1%	ALL/COMBINATION (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
1%	*	NONE OF THESE (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
2%	*	UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR/NOT ONLINE)

46. Which of the following do you think should be the highest priority for meeting America's energy needs: **(ROTATE :1-2)**

<u>2012</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2026</u>	
30%	31%	26%	Drilling and digging for more coal, oil and gas wherever we can find it in the US
			...OR...
65%	65%	73%	Reducing our need for more coal, oil and gas by expanding our use of clean, renewable energy that can be generated in the US
3%	1%	*	BOTH (DNR/NOT ONLINE) (Prompt: but if you had to choose which one would you prefer?)
2%	3%	1%	UNSURE/DON'T KNOW (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
1%	--	*	REFUSED (DNR/NOT ONLINE)
