KEY FINDINGS

THE 2013 SURVEY OF THE ATTITUDES OF VOTERS IN SIX WESTERN STATES

JANUARY 2013

CONDUCTED BY: LORI WEIGEL / PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
DAVE METZ / FAIRBANK, MASLIN, MAULLIN, METZ & ASSOCIATES
METHODOLOGY

- 2,400 telephone (cell and landline) interviews with 400 registered voters in each of 6 states: Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

- Interviews conducted January 5-10, 2013, in Spanish and English.

- The margin of overall sampling error is ± 2.0% at the 95% confidence interval for the total sample; and ± 4.9% for each state.

- The total numbers have been statistically weighted to reflect the true geographic distribution of voters throughout the region. Interviews within each state were distributed proportionally by region and each sample is demographically representative of their electorate.

- Bi-partisan research team of Public Opinion Strategies (R) and Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D).
Four-in-five Western voters view public lands as beneficial for their state’s economy and quality of life, rather than detrimental for their state.

“Next, please tell me which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion, even if neither one matches your opinion exactly.”

Public lands like national parks and national forests in your state support our economy; provide opportunities to hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors; and enhance our overall quality of life.

79%

Public lands like national parks and national forests in your state take land off the tax rolls, cost government to maintain them, and prevent opportunities for logging and oil and gas production that could provide jobs.

15%
This positive perception of public lands is evident throughout each state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Arizona</th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>New Mexico</th>
<th>Utah</th>
<th>Wyoming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support Economy/</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance Quality of</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Life</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Off Tax Roll/</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent Opportunities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>for Jobs</td>
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</table>
The value of public lands is recognized by voters of all political stripes.

Impact of Public Lands By Party

- Republican (36%): 72% Support Econ/Enhance Quality of Life, 20% Land Off Tax Rolls/Prevent Opps for Jobs
- Independent (31%): 78% Support Econ/Enhance Quality of Life, 17% Land Off Tax Rolls/Prevent Opps for Jobs
- Democrat (31%): 88% Support Econ/Enhance Quality of Life, 9% Land Off Tax Rolls/Prevent Opps for Jobs
Western voters are nearly unanimous that public lands are essential to their state’s economy.

“Our national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas are an essential part of your state’s economy.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Total Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And, three-quarters say that public lands attract high quality employers to their state.

“Our national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas help to attract high quality employers and good jobs to your state.”
Majorities in each state oppose selling off public lands as a way to reduce the budget deficit.

“And some Members of Congress have proposed selling off some public lands, such as National Forest or Bureau of Land Management lands, as a way to help reduce the budget deficit. Would you support or oppose the sale of public lands?”
Voters clearly believe that selling off public lands will hurt their state’s economy and quality of life.

“And please tell me which point of view comes closest to your own, even if neither matches your point of view exactly.”

Those who oppose selling off public lands say that public lands are essential to the strength of our state’s economy. Public lands in your state generate billions of dollars from attracting tourists; hunters and anglers; high quality businesses, and skilled workers. Selling off these public lands to corporations for development will hurt our economy and quality of life.

Those who support selling off public lands in your state say government should not be in the business of owning and managing land. We can sell millions of acres of these publicly owned lands to private corporations and individuals, raising millions of dollars to bring more money to the government to fund vital services.
Most voters say they don’t know whether oil and gas development is taking place on public lands.

“Oil and gas drilling is taking place on some public lands, like…”

- **34%** Probably True
- **19%** Probably Untrue
- **47%** Don’t Know/Haven’t Heard Enough

National Forests/Parks

Combined Sample
Voters assume there is “very careful oversight” of oil and gas by the federal government - although many admit not knowing.

“There is very careful oversight of oil and gas drilling by the federal government.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Probably True</th>
<th>Probably Untrue</th>
<th>Don’t Know/Haven’t Heard Enough</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A majority say environmentally sensitive areas should be permanently protected from drilling.

“Actually, the federal government does allow oil and gas drilling to take place on public lands, like some national parks and forest land. Which of the following comes closest to your point of view...”

- Oil and gas drilling on public lands should be strictly limited. 25%
- Some public lands should be drilled, while environmentally sensitive places should be permanently protected. 56%
- Public lands should generally be open to oil and gas drilling. 17%
Majorities across the political spectrum agree that some lands should be permanently protected.

**Drilling on Public Lands By Party**

- **Republican (36%)**
  - 13% Limited
  - 25% Open
  - 60% Allow Some

- **Independent (31%)**
  - 26% Limited
  - 18% Open
  - 54% Allow Some

- **Democrat (31%)**
  - 37% Limited
  - 6% Open
  - 54% Allow Some
Voters in the West are more likely to agree that stronger standards needs to be in place before more drilling on public lands takes place.

“Let me read you two points of view about the issue of oil and gas drilling on public lands like national forest land and please tell me which one comes closer to your own even if neither matches it exactly.”

More than 38 million acres of public lands - including land in six national parks - are currently leased by oil and gas companies, and oil production on public lands has been steadily climbing. Public lands that are drilled are often closed for other uses - like hunting or hiking - and the effects of contamination on the land can linger for generations. We need to ensure strong standards are in place and that drilling is not allowed in critical locations near recreation areas, water sources, and wildlife.

Bureaucratic red tape, burdensome federal regulations, and government policies that block access to federal lands have stood in the way of the West reaching its full energy and jobs potential and our country gaining energy independence. Energy production on public lands has declined, while increasing by double digits on private lands. We need to allow more public lands to be opened to responsible energy development.
Even in the most conservative states, more agree with a statement advocating stronger standards for energy development on public lands.

Drilling View By State

- Arizona: 59% Strong Standards, 35% Allow More
- Colorado: 62% Strong Standards, 33% Allow More
- Montana: 56% Strong Standards, 36% Allow More
- New Mexico: 62% Strong Standards, 31% Allow More
- Utah: 51% Strong Standards, 43% Allow More
- Wyoming: 49% Strong Standards, 43% Allow More

Conservation in the West Poll
Energy independence is still a major concern, but intensity has declined in the last year.

“Our dependence on foreign oil”

2012

- 94%
- 74% Extremely/Very

2013

- 89%
- 62% Extremely/Very

% Total Serious Problem
There is a strong preference for renewable energy in the West.

“Which one of the following sources of energy would you want to encourage the use of here in your state?”

Combination of Top Two Responses

- Solar power: 57%
- Wind power: 48%
- Natural gas: 27%
- Energy efficiency efforts: 17%
- Oil: 13%
- Nuclear*: 12%
- Coal: 11%

* Nuclear added to 2013 questionnaire
Republican candidates benefit slightly more from espousing pro-conservation views.

“Now, let's say that a Republican / Democrat elected official spoke out in support of protecting public lands, would that give you a more favorable or less favorable impression of that person or not make a difference in your views either way?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>More Favorable</th>
<th>Less Favorable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Key swing voter sub-groups also tend to be favorably impressed by a candidate who espouses these views, including...

Elected Officials Supporting Public Lands (Combined) Among Key Sub-Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suburban Women</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderates</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18-34</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Tea Party GOP</td>
<td>45%</td>
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</table>
However, most Westerners acknowledge they are not aware of the record of their Member of Congress on protecting land, air and water.

“Would you say that your Member of Congress probably…”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Places a <strong>HIGHER</strong> priority on protecting land, air and water than you do</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places the <strong>SAME</strong> priority on protecting land, air and water that you do</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places a <strong>LOWER</strong> priority on protecting land, air and water than you do</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really sure of the positions your Member of Congress has taken</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Westerners worry about the next generation. Half view kids’ lack of time in the outdoors as a very serious problem.

“Children not spending enough time in the outdoors”

Arizona: 52%  
Colorado: 49%  
Montana: 42%  
New Mexico: 57%  
Utah: 43%  
Wyoming: 43%

% Extremely/Very Serious Problem
A concern about children not being in nature more is shared by Westerners and all Americans.  

“Children not spending enough time in the outdoors and in nature”  

83% 82% 50% 50%  50% 50%  
West National  

% Total Serious Problem
Conservation in the West Poll
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