



**Center for Western Priorities**  
**Public Lands Survey**  
**Colorado Voters**  
**January 2016**

**METHODOLOGY**

*Purple Insights conducted 1,083 telephone interviews of likely 2016 voters in Colorado, including oversamples of Latino voters and in Arapahoe, Jefferson and Larimer counties, between January 20th and 26th, 2016. Respondents were randomly selected from a voter file and language of choice interviewing was available to Spanish-speaking voters. The margin of error for Colorado voters is +/-3.6% and higher for subgroups.*

*Note: All numbers are percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

**FAVORABILITY**

<b>1. You will now see a list of companies, groups and organizations. For each one, please tell me if you are very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable toward it. Showing Total Favorable/Total Unfavorable</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	93 / 3
National Park Service	90 / 4
United States Forest Service	83 / 5
Groups that represent outdoor recreationists like hikers, bikers, and paddlers	79 / 7
Sportsmen groups that represent hunters and fishermen	75 / 10
<b>SPLIT A:</b> Outdoor recreation companies like REI and Patagonia	72 / 4
<b>SPLIT A:</b> Conservation groups	72 / 14
<b>SPLIT B:</b> Local recreation companies, like outfitters and guides	68 / 3
<b>SPLIT B:</b> Environmental groups	63 / 25
The Bureau of Land Management	59 / 19
The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA	58 / 32
<b>SPLIT A:</b> Oil companies	47 / 41
<b>SPLIT B:</b> Coal companies	45 / 34

**PRIORITIES AND IMPACTS**

**2. What do you like most about living in Colorado?**

3. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements?	CO Voters					
	Strongly Agree	Smwt Agree	Smwt Disagree	Strongly Disagree	TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE
The mountains and outdoors are what make living in Colorado special	84	15	1	0	<b>99</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SPLIT B:</b> National parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife refuges are an essential part of Colorado's quality of life	79	17	2	1	<b>96</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SPLIT A:</b> National parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife refuges are an essential part of Colorado's economy	70	23	2	1	<b>93</b>	<b>4</b>
We need to get federal bureaucrats out of the way when it comes to managing our lands and resources	43	24	12	11	<b>67</b>	<b>23</b>
There is too much public land in Colorado	8	10	22	51	<b>18</b>	<b>73</b>

4. How important is a candidate's position to you personally on each of the following issues when deciding whether or not to support a candidate for public office in Colorado?	CO Voters	
	Very Important	TOTAL IMPORTANT
The economy and jobs	79	97
Education	75	95
Health care affordability and coverage	69	92
The federal budget	63	92
Issues involving public lands, waters, and wildlife	59	93
Taxes	59	91
Agriculture	56	91
Immigration	53	85
Domestic energy production	49	88
Climate change	42	68
Transportation	38	80

#### ENERGY ISSUES

5. Would the following positions a candidate may take make you more or less likely to support that candidate, or would it not make a difference in your vote?	CO Voters			
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference	Don't Know
Expand the use of energy sources like wind and solar	70	13	16	2
Make traditional energy sources like oil, gas, and coal cleaner burning and more efficient	66	15	15	4
Give local communities more authority to regulate drilling and fracking operations	56	24	16	4
Increase royalties that oil companies pay to taxpayers for oil drilling on public lands	48	21	24	7
Keep oil and gas in the ground to protect our climate and air	46	31	19	4
Allow more drilling in the US to access America's vast energy resources	45	32	17	6
Expand the use of energy sources like oil and gas	44	31	20	4
Build the Keystone XL pipeline	38	35	18	9

6. What energy source or sources should we prioritize in Colorado and the American West over the next ten years?	CO Voters
Solar	58
Wind	48
Natural Gas	28
Oil	16
Nuclear	10
Coal	9
Something else	1
Don't know	2

7. As you may know, fracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, is the process of extracting natural gas or oil by injecting a high-pressure mixture of water, sand, and chemicals into shale rock. Do you support or oppose the practice of fracking to extract natural gas or oil in Colorado?	CO Voters
Strongly support	32
Somewhat support	17
Somewhat oppose	13
Strongly oppose	29
Don't know	10
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	<b>41</b>

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

8. When it comes to Colorado's land and outdoor spaces, which one of these statements do you most agree with?	CO Voters
Protecting our outdoor spaces should be given priority, even at the risk of closing some land to future energy development	62
Economic growth should be given priority, even at the risk of closing some outdoor spaces to hunting, fishing, and hiking	18
I'm not sure	20

## COLORADO PUBLIC LANDS

9. As you may know, some land in Colorado and other states is protected as national parks, national monuments, or wilderness areas. Do you believe Colorado should protect new land as parks, national monuments or wilderness, or do you believe we already have enough protected areas?	CO Voters
Needs to protect new land	58
Already have enough protected areas	34
Don't know	9

10. Would the following proposal regarding public lands that a candidate may offer make you more or less likely to support that candidate, or would it not make a difference in your vote?	CO Voters			
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference	Don't Know
Help create outdoor recreation jobs	78	6	14	2
<b>SPLIT A:</b> Protect access to outdoor spaces	74	9	11	6
Increase protection of wildlife	71	11	16	2
<b>SPLIT B:</b> Protect access to outdoor spaces for hunters and anglers	70	9	19	3
Increase protection of public lands	67	12	17	4
Encourage the development of solar and wind energy projects on public lands	67	16	13	4
Increase funding for the National Park Service	66	13	17	3
Increase access to lands for mountain bikers, paddlers, and other outdoor enthusiasts	65	15	17	3
Continue oil and gas drilling on public lands, but with additional environmental protections in place	52	29	13	6
Reduce over time the amount of coal mining allowed on public lands	48	25	20	7
Ban new coal, oil, and gas leases on public lands	41	35	16	7
<b>SPLIT A:</b> Prohibit energy development of any kind on public lands	32	42	15	11
<b>SPLIT B:</b> Prohibit energy development of any kind on public lands, including large scale solar and wind projects	24	54	16	6
Open up more wilderness areas to motorized vehicle use	22	55	19	4
Open up public lands to more private development	20	63	11	5
Sell public lands to reduce the budget deficit	19	62	12	6

11. SPLIT A: Now I am going to read you a couple of descriptions of potential political candidates. Between the following two candidates, which would you be more inclined to vote for?	CO Voters
A Democratic candidate who believes that the outdoors are what define Colorado; who will make protecting and providing public access to our land, water, and wildlife a top priority; who will support our recreation economy and ranching; and who believes that we can have energy development on Colorado lands if we manage it in a balanced way and prioritize wind and solar power.	54
A Republican candidate who believes states should be able to manage their own public lands, not federal bureaucrats; who supports selling some public lands to close the budget deficit; and who prioritizes expanding domestic oil and gas production to spur economic development and create jobs.	33
Neither of them	7
Don't know	6

<b>12. SPLIT B: Now I am going to read you a couple of descriptions of potential political candidates. Between the following two candidates, which would you be more inclined to vote for?</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
A Democratic candidate who will make protecting our land, water, and air a top priority and increase funding for environmental programs; who believes oil, gas, and coal should stay in the ground and be replaced by renewable sources, like wind and solar; and who says together we can create a cleaner future for generations to come.	44
A Republican candidate who believes that the outdoors are what define Colorado; who will make protecting and providing public access to our land, water, and wildlife a top priority; who will support our recreation economy and ranching; and who believes that we can have energy development on Colorado lands if we manage it in a balanced way and prioritize wind and solar power.	45
Neither of them	6
Don't know	5

## DEMOGRAPHICS

<b>13. Gender</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Male	49
Female	51

<b>14. Age</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
18 to 34	20
35 to 49	26
50 to 64	32
65+	21

<b>15. Do you consider yourself a hunter, an angler, both, or neither?</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Hunter only	8
Angler only	15
Both	20
Neither	61
Prefer not to say	2

<b>16. Do you consider yourself a conservationist?</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Yes	67
No	29
Don't know	4

<b>17. Do you regularly participate in outdoor activities, camping, biking or rock climbing?</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Yes	74
No	26
Don't know	1

<b>18. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Strong Democrat	23
Not so strong Democrat	6
Independent, lean Democrat	7
Independent	28
Independent, lean Republican	7
Not so strong Republican	6
Strong Republican	20
Don't know	2
<b>TOTAL DEMOCRAT</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>TOTAL REPUBLICAN</b>	<b>34</b>

<b>19. In the last several state and national elections, which of the following best describes the way you have voted?</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Straight Democrat	18
Mostly Democrat	16
More Democrats than Republicans	10
About equal	15
More Republicans than Democrats	9
Mostly Republican	15
Straight Republican	14
For some other party	1
I typically don't vote	0
Don't know	3

<b>20. Do you consider yourself a liberal, conservative, or moderate?</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Liberal	23
Moderate	42
Conservative	30
Don't know	5

<b>21. Are you the parent of a child under the age of 18 living in your household?</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Yes	29
No	70
Prefer not to say	2

<b>22. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Less than high school	2
High school graduate	13
Some college	21
Trade or professional school	6
College graduate	39
Post-graduate work or degree	18
Prefer not to say	1

<b>23. What is your racial or ethnic background?</b>	<b>CO Voters</b>
Black/African-American	2
White	76
Hispanic/Latino	14
Asian	0
Native American	1
Multi-Racial	3
Some other race	1
Prefer not to say	3