



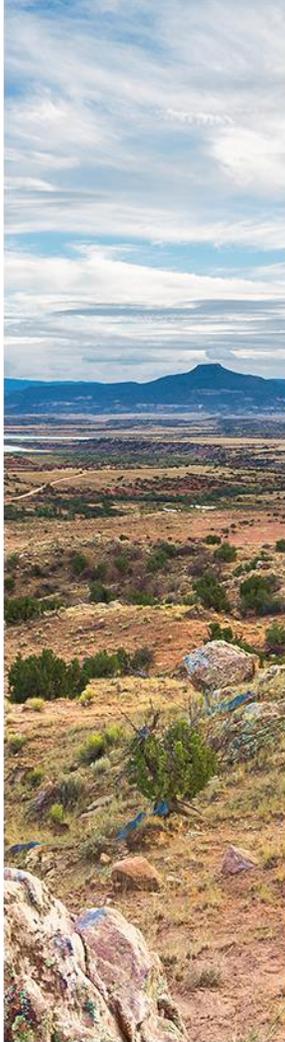
ARIZONA



COLORADO



MONTANA



NEW MEXICO



NEVADA



GOTTLIEB STRATEGIC RESEARCH

Key Findings

October 3, 2019

Prepared for:



Center for
Western Priorities



Methodology

Center for Western Priorities

Public Lands Issues

Online Survey Among Likely Voters

Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2019

SAMPLE SIZES

ALL / LIKELY VOTERS = 2800

AZ = 600

CO = 600

MT = 500

NM = 500

NV = 600

OVERSAMPLE OF LIKELY
PRIMARY VOTERS = 1200

DEMOCRAT PRIMARY N=600

AZ = 200

CO = 200

NV = 200

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY N=600

AZ = 200

CO = 200

NM = 200

The margin of error (MOR) for the full sample of 2800 completed interviews is +/- 2%. The MOR for states with 600 interviews is +/- 4%. The MOR for states with 500 interviews is +/- 4%. These calculations are based on the 95% confidence interval. Some charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

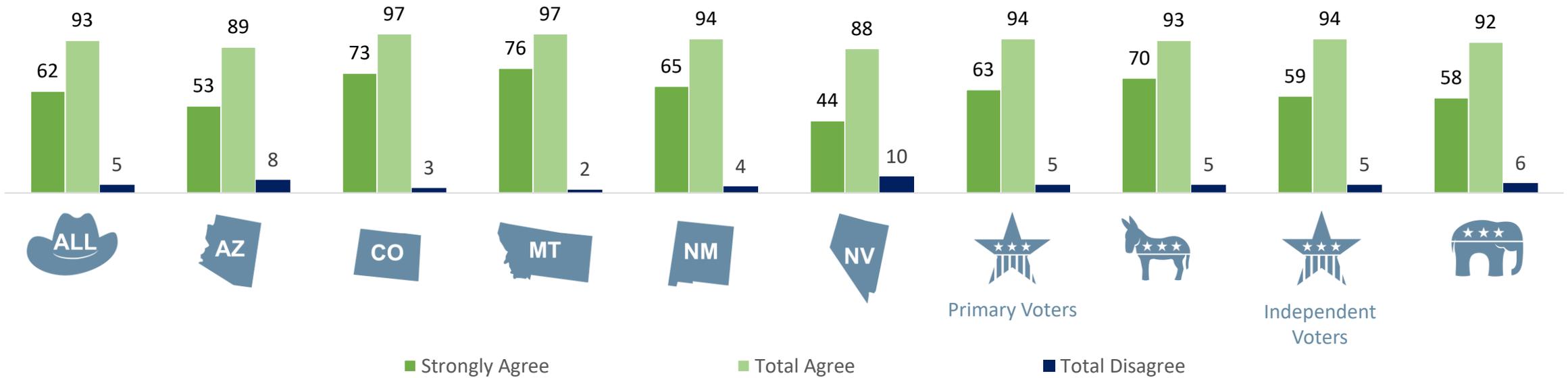


- Western voters believe the mountains and the outdoors are what make the West special and are an important part of the Western way of life; a majority of Western voters consider themselves to be conservationists
- The current administration's approach to managing our nation's public lands is largely unpopular among Western voters; Independent voters disapprove of the Administration's job performance on issues related to public lands
- There is overwhelming, bipartisan support for increased conservation funding, including full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Voters in these key states have strong support for limiting oil and gas development and voters are weary of bans on development as well as unchecked and unregulated development
- When given the choice between a candidate with a balanced conservation-minded approach to public lands and a candidate that supports deregulating the energy industry over conservation, the balanced, conservation candidate wins by a large margin
- Western voters reject extreme positions on issues related to public lands in favor of a balanced approach to protection and development



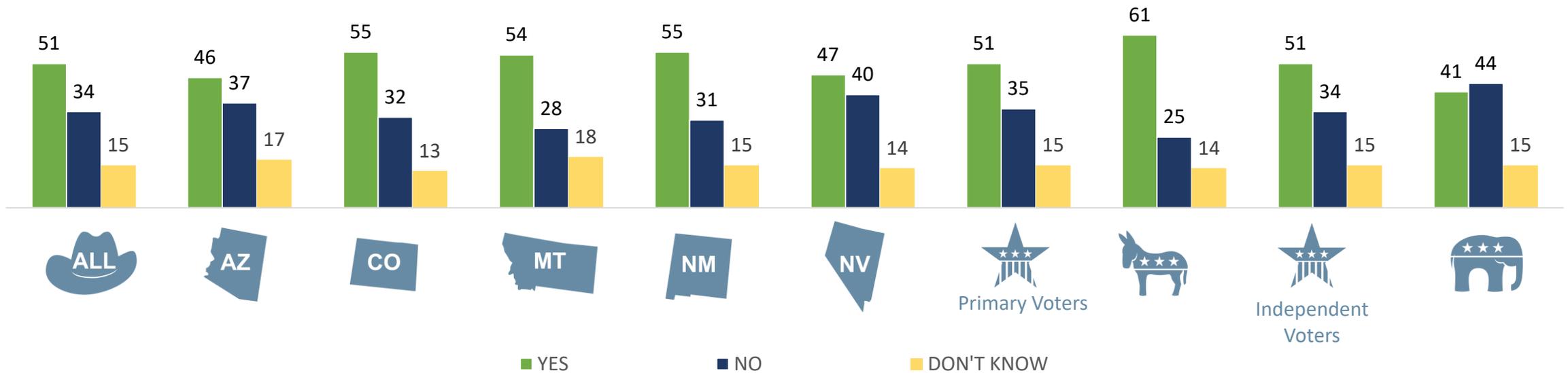
The mountains and the outdoors are what make living in the West special

And do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements?
The mountains and outdoors are what make living in [NAME OF STATE] special



A majority of Western voters are self described conservationists

Do you consider yourself a conservationist?





Favorable Ratings & Issues

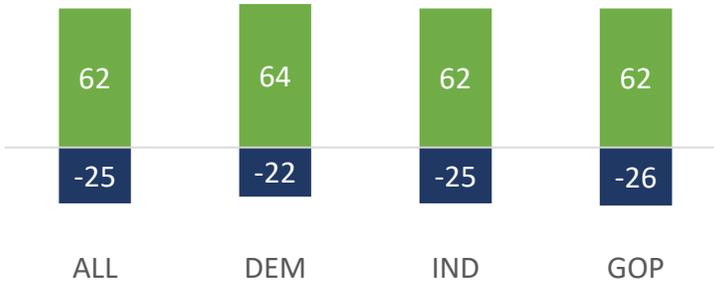


GOTTLIEB STRATEGIC
—RESEARCH—

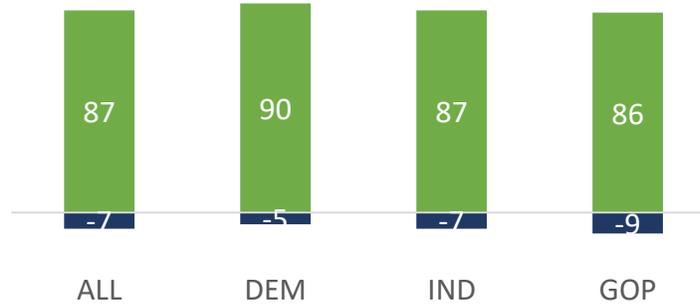
Voters of all political parties have high regard for the people who manage public lands and the groups dedicated to promoting and using them responsibly

Do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable impression of [INSERT NAME]? If you have never heard of the group or organization, or if you don't know enough about the group or organization to have an impression, just say so and we'll move on.

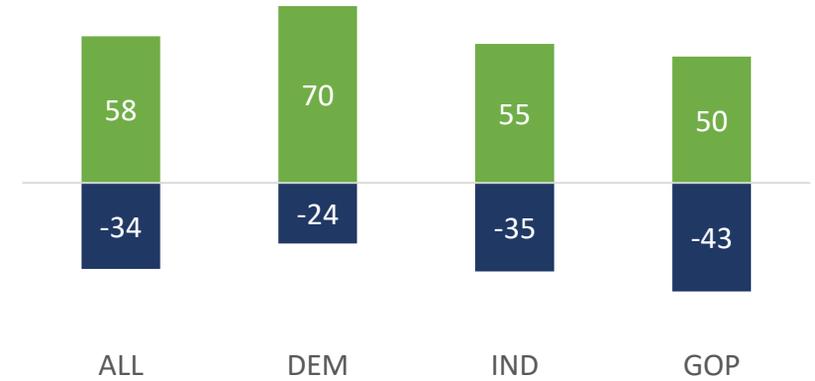
Bureau of Land Management



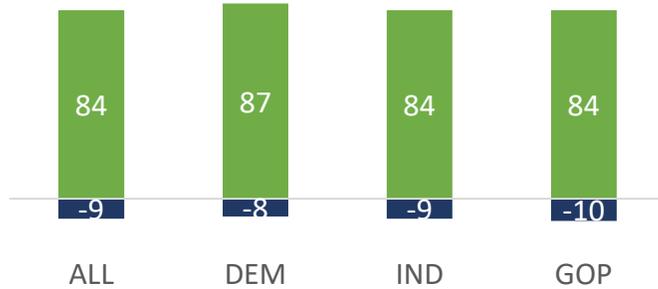
National Park Service



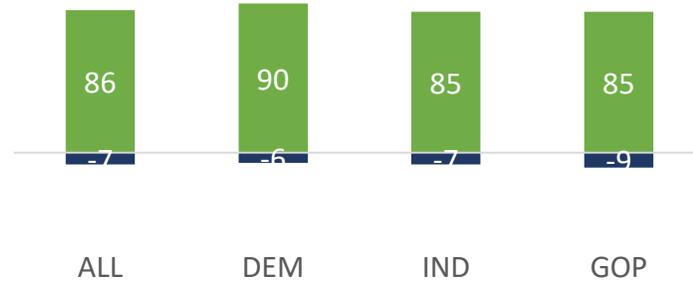
Environmental Protection Agency



National Forest Service



State Parks and Wildlife

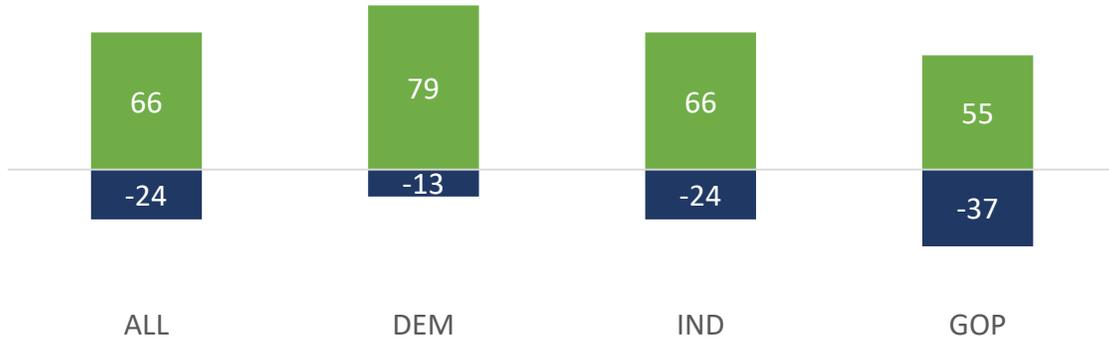


■ Total Favorable ■ Total Unfavorable

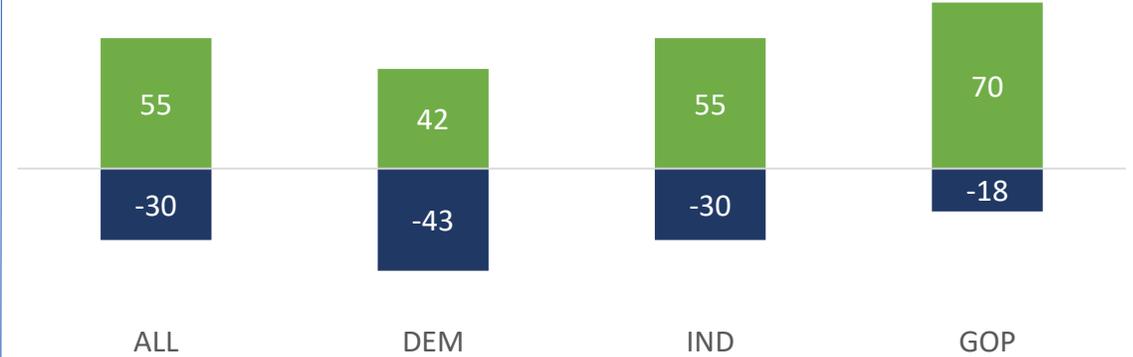


Voters of all political parties have high regard for the people who manage public lands and the groups dedicated to promoting and using them responsibly – Slide 2 of 3

Conservation Groups



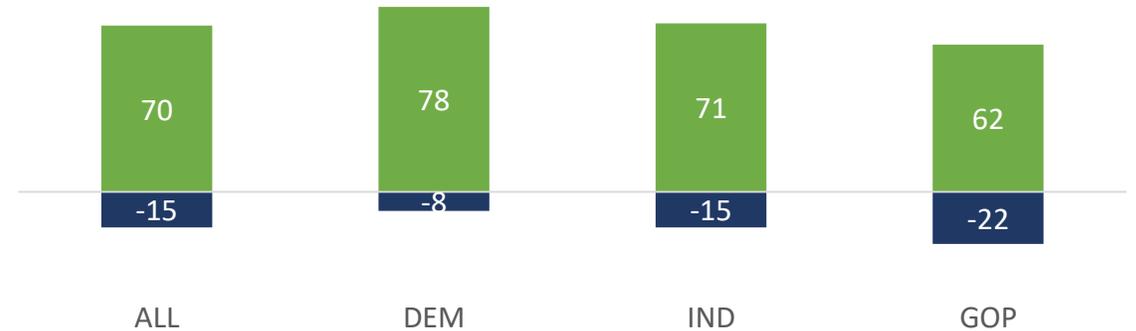
Sportsmen Groups that represent hunters and anglers



Environmental Groups



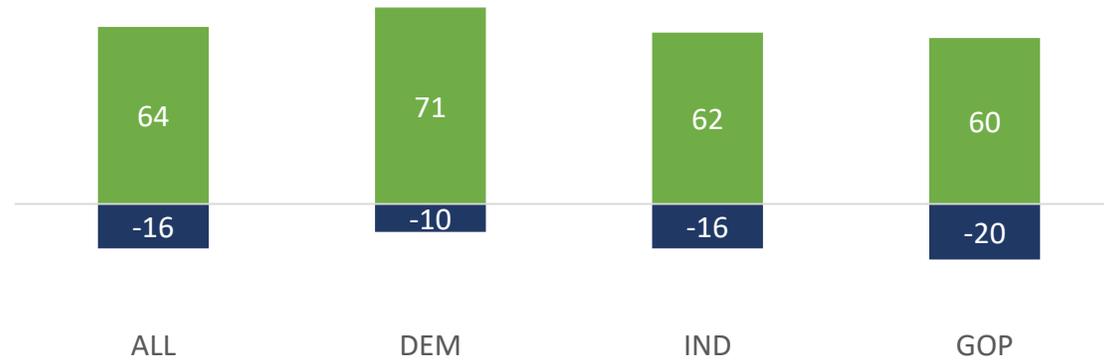
Groups that represent outdoor recreationists like hikers, bikers, and paddlers



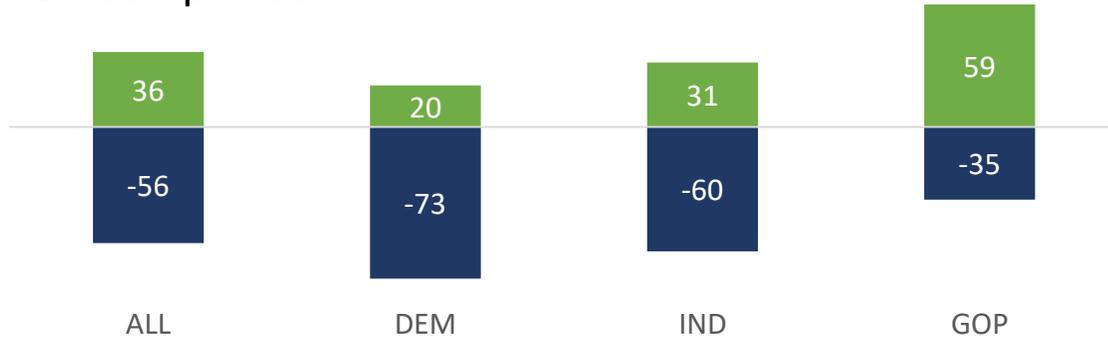
Voters of all political parties have high regard for the people who manage public lands and the groups dedicated to promoting and using them responsibly – Slide 3 of 3

Oil and coal companies have unfavorable ratings with Western voters

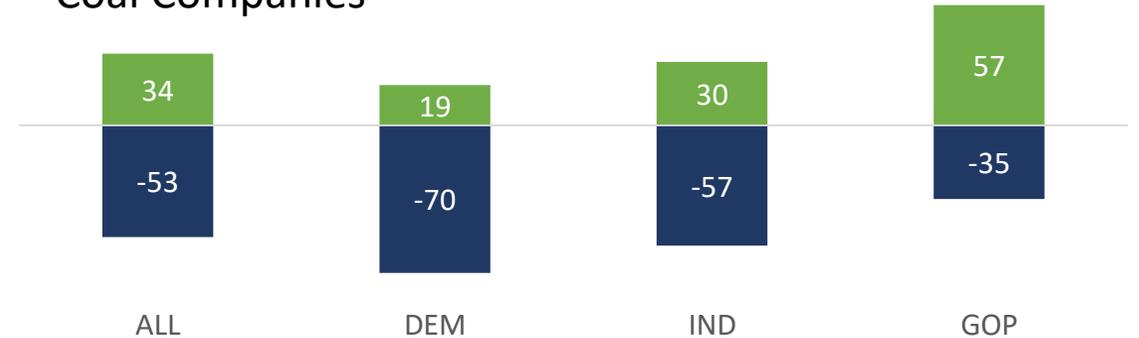
Outdoor recreation companies like REI and Patagonia



Oil Companies



Coal Companies



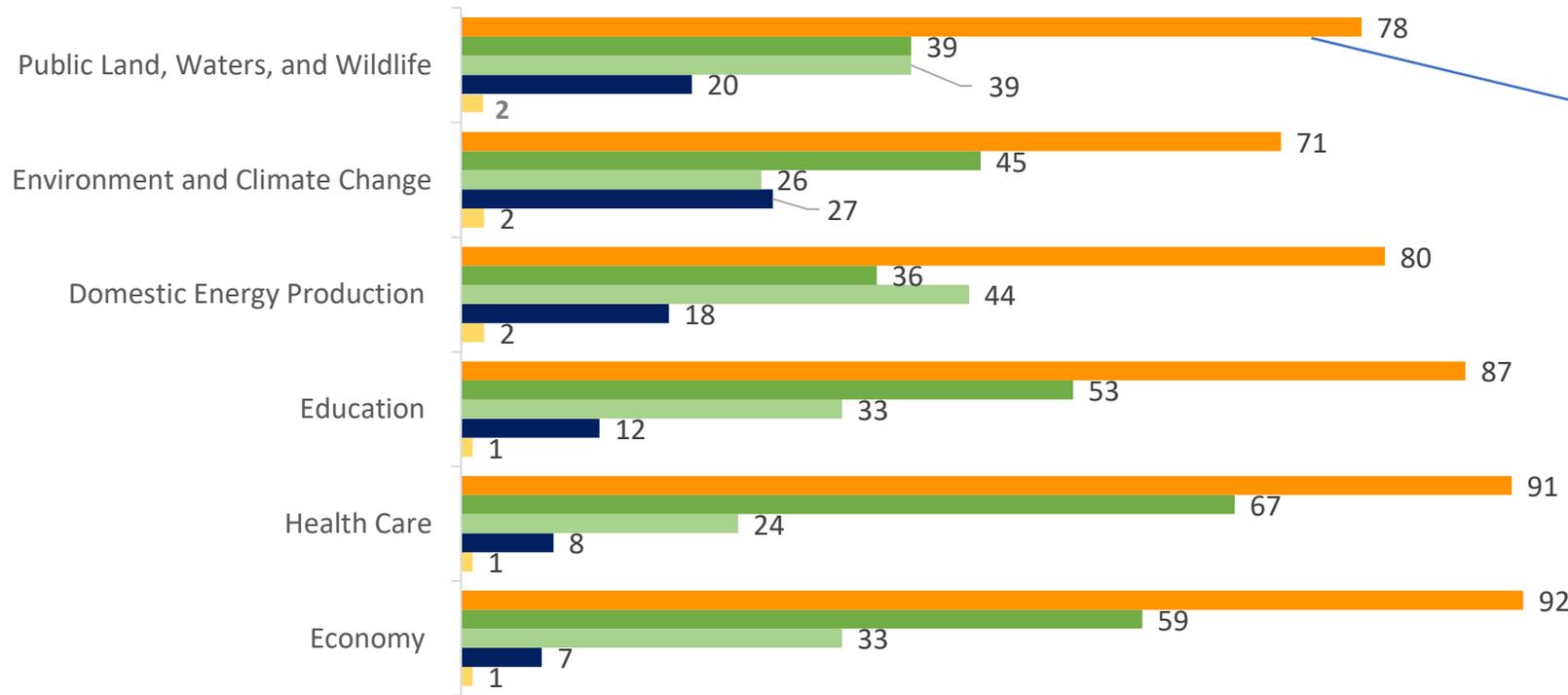
■ Total Favorable ■ Total Unfavorable



Public Lands Issues are Very Important to Western Voters

Public Lands Issues more important than climate change to western voters

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 [NAME OF STATE]?



**PUBLIC LAND ISSUE
PARTISAN IMPORTANT
SCORES:**

DEM: 87
GOP: 69
IND: 79

■ TOTAL IMPORTANT
 ■ VERY IMPORTANT
 ■ SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT
 ■ NOT IMPORTANT
 ■ DON'T KNOW





Western attitudes towards general public lands issues and Administration public lands proposals

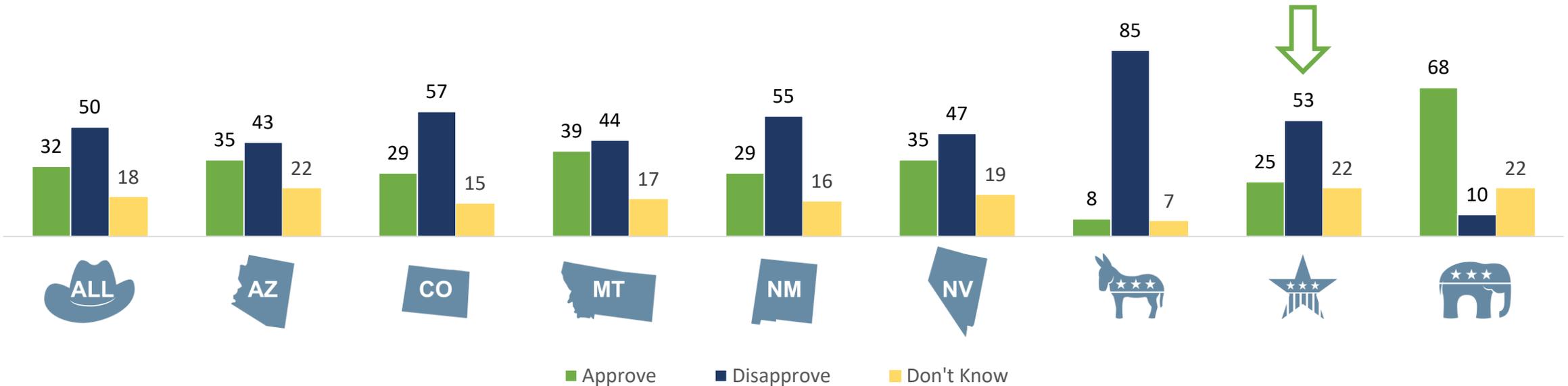


GOTTLIEB STRATEGIC
— RESEARCH —

A majority of voters in the West disapprove of the Administration's job on public lands issues

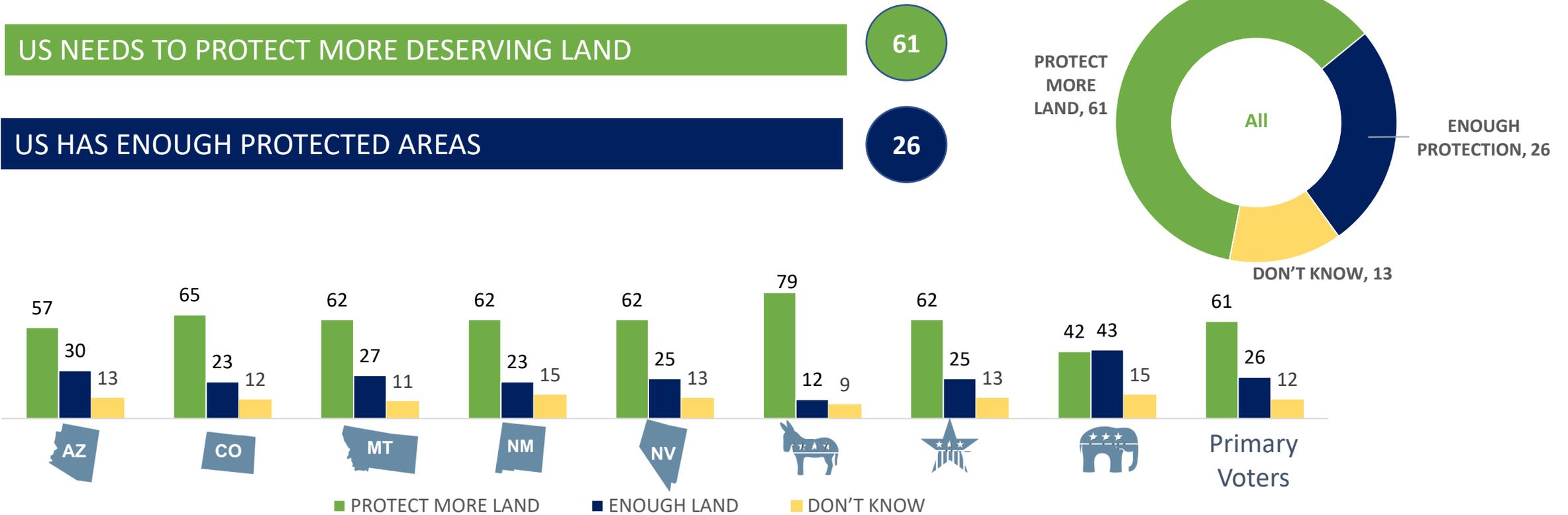
A majority of independent voters disapprove of the Administration's job on public lands

And thinking about issues related to public lands, parks and wildlife in the West, do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump and his administration is doing on these issues?



Western voters believe the US needs to protect new deserving lands

As you may know, some land in [NAME OF STATE] and other states is protected as national parks, national monuments, or wilderness areas. Do you believe the United States needs to protect new deserving land in the future as parks and national monuments, or do you believe we have enough protected areas?



Western voters give priority to protecting open spaces, even at the risk of closing some land to future development

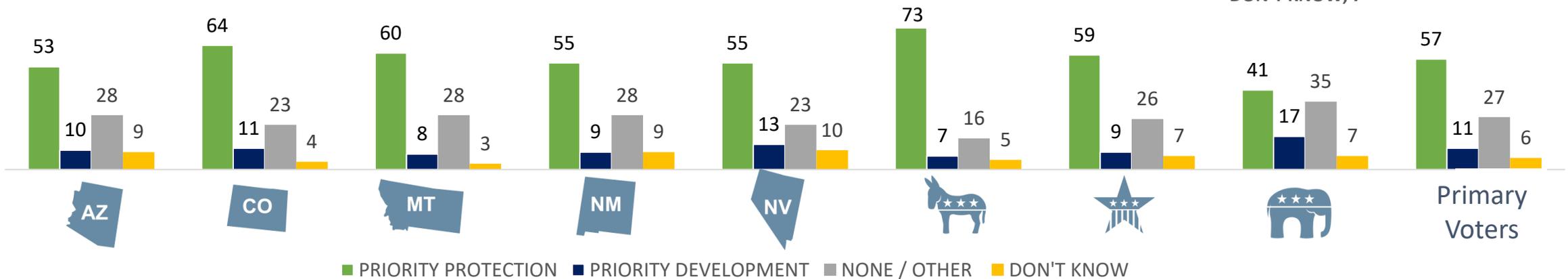
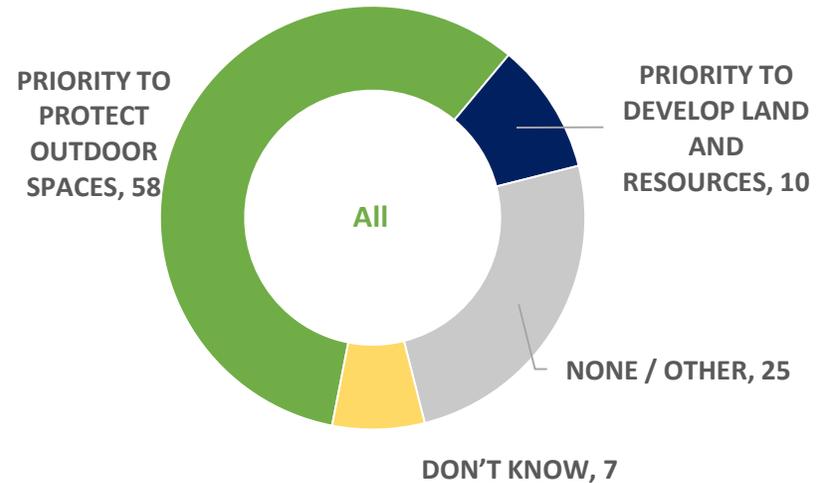
When it comes to [NAME OF STATE]'s land and outdoor spaces, which one of these statements about the environment and the economy do you most agree with?

Protecting our outdoor spaces should be given priority, even at the risk of closing some land to future development

Development of the land and resources should be given priority, even at the risk of closing some outdoor spaces to camping, hunting, fishing, and hiking

58

10



■ PRIORITY PROTECTION ■ PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ■ NONE / OTHER ■ DON'T KNOW



Western voters choose strict limits on oil and gas development over expansion or keeping it in the ground

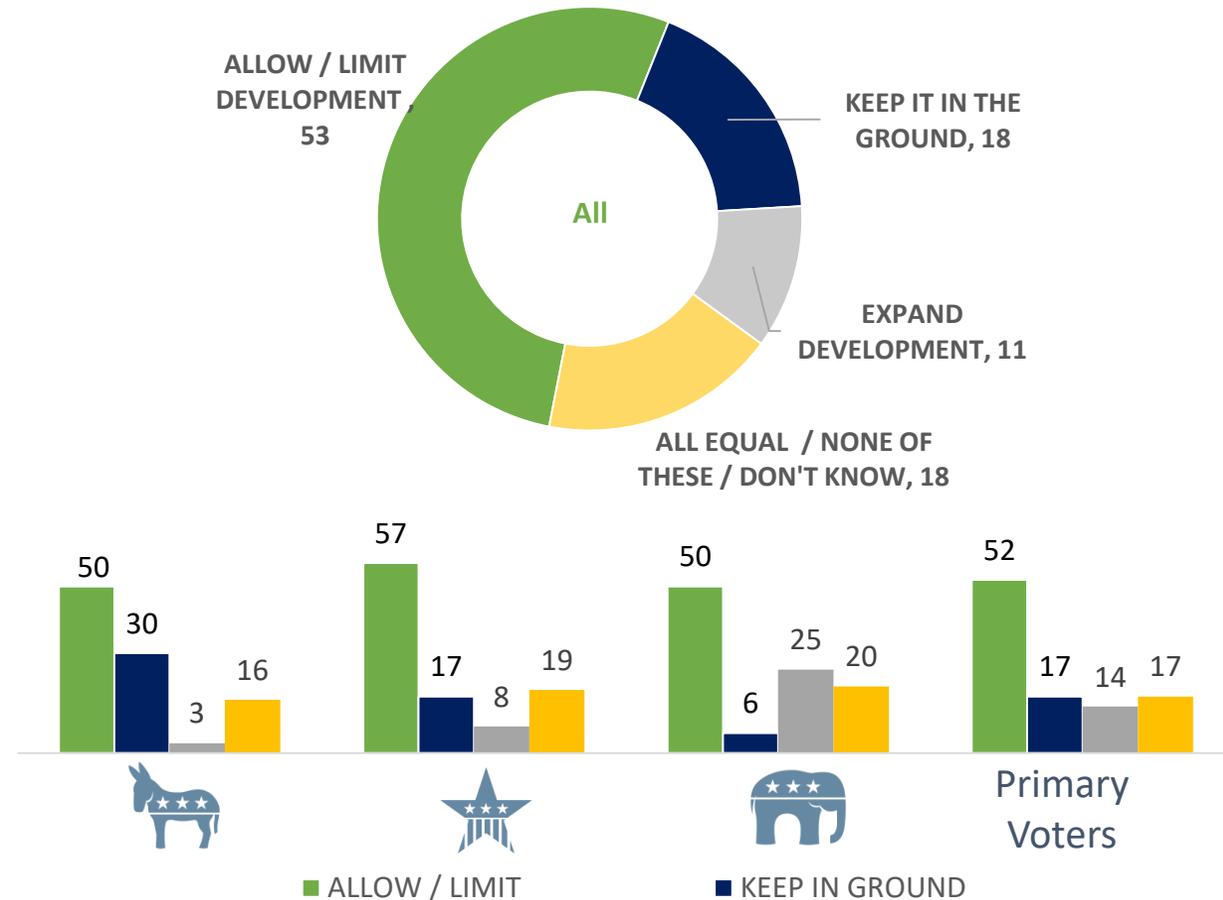
And between the following three statements, which one is closest to your point of view on oil and gas development:
[RANDOMIZE]

- Oil and gas development on public land should be allowed within strict limitations and regulations to ensure that the land, wildlife, water and public safety are protected first and foremost.
- Oil and gas should be kept in the ground on public lands and companies should be prohibited from drilling on public land.
- Oil and gas development should be expanded on public land to help the U.S. become energy independent as soon as possible.

53

18

11

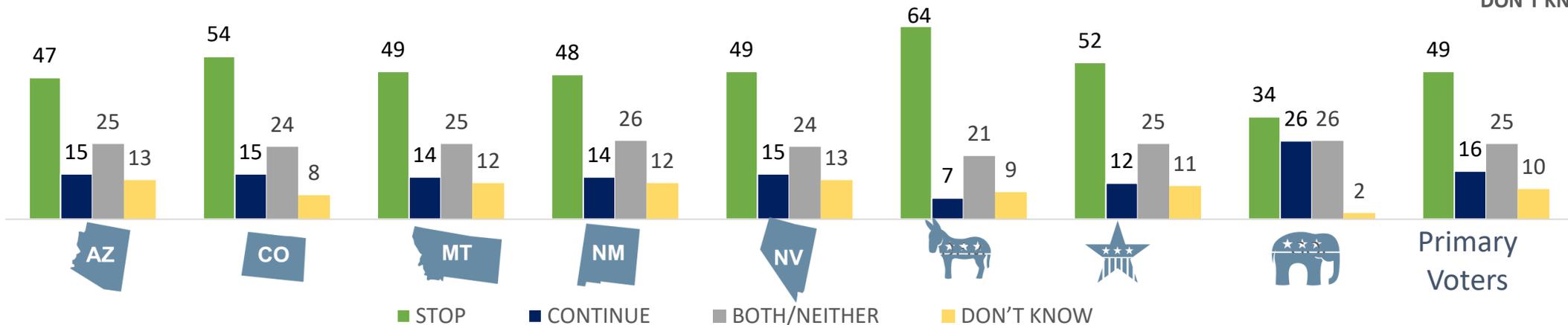
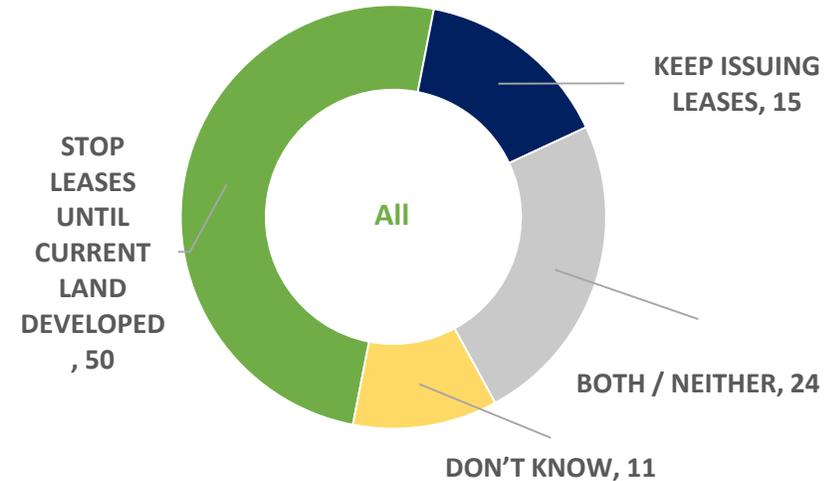


Voters agree that we should stop issuing new leases until the lands currently leased are being used for the development of oil and gas

Currently, oil and gas companies lease more than 25 million acres of public land from the U.S. Government. Nearly 12 million of these acres do not have a well in use but could still be developed for energy. Between the following two statements which one is closest to your view on this issue:

We should stop issuing new leases until the lands currently leased are being used for the development of oil and gas. We need to restore balance to the process by requiring companies to use their leased and unused land before leasing new land.

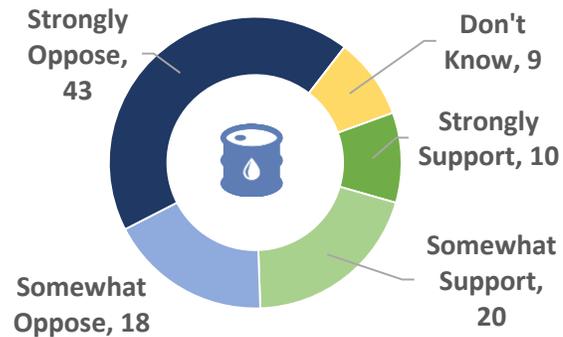
We should keep issuing oil and gas leases at the same level because the country needs the energy.



Drilling close to parks and reducing conservation efforts to increase public land available for oil and gas development are unpopular with Western voters

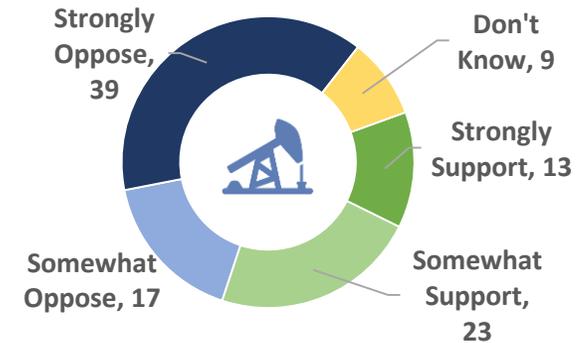
Independents oppose increasing drilling at the expense of conservation by more than 2 to 1.

Increasing public land available for oil and gas development by reducing conservation efforts on behalf of potentially endangered wildlife, like the sage-grouse



	ALL	DEM	IND	GOP
Support	30	13	26	54
Oppose	61	80	66	36
Don't Know	9	6	9	10

Open up new lands to oil and gas development, including lands close to, but not inside, national parks and monuments



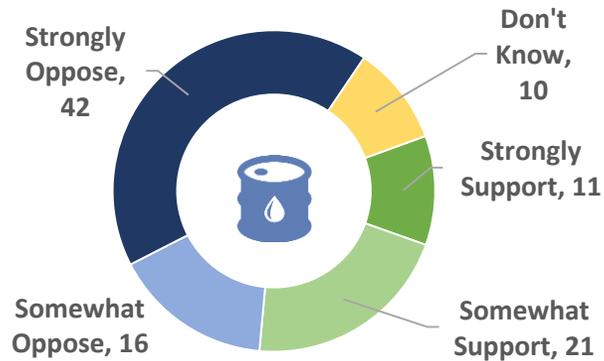
	ALL	DEM	IND	GOP
Support	36	15	33	61
Oppose	55	79	58	29
Don't Know	9	6	9	10



Proposals to roll back emissions regulations are opposed by Westerners

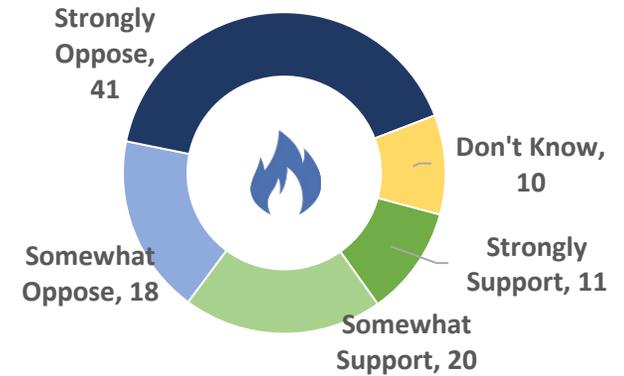
Independent voters oppose rolling back regulations on oil and gas development. GOP voters support the rollbacks

Rolling back environmental regulations on oil and gas development, including rules designed to reduce natural gas leaks from drilling on public lands



	ALL	DEM	IND	GOP
Support	32	16	29	52
Oppose	59	78	61	37
Don't Know	10	6	10	12

Rolling back regulations designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from development on public lands



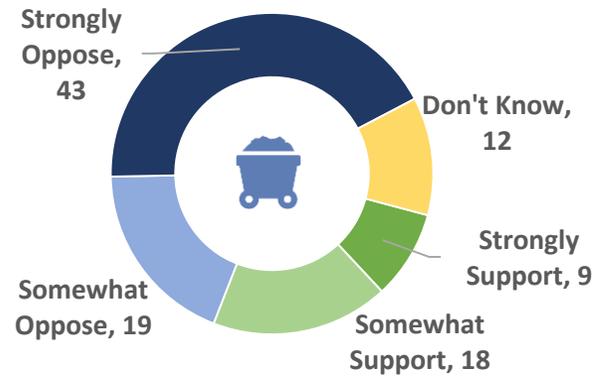
	ALL	DEM	IND	GOP
Support	31	16	28	52
Oppose	59	77	63	35
Don't Know	10	7	10	13



Opposition to mining on public lands near the Grand Canyon and to reducing the size of national monuments is strong

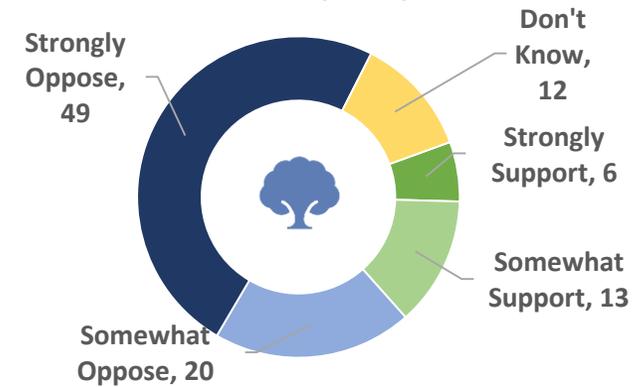
GOP and Independent voters oppose reducing the size of monuments

Remove restrictions on uranium mining on public lands near the Grand Canyon



	ALL	DEM	IND	GOP
Support	26	14	22	44
Oppose	62	79	65	41
Don't Know	12	14	22	44

Significantly reducing the size of national monuments, including shrinking Utah's Bears Ears by more than 80 percent and Grand Staircase-Escalante by 50 percent



	ALL	DEM	IND	GOP
Support	19	12	17	30
Oppose	69	81	70	56
Don't Know	12	8	13	15





Western Voters Want Public Land Protected, Funded and Used Responsibly

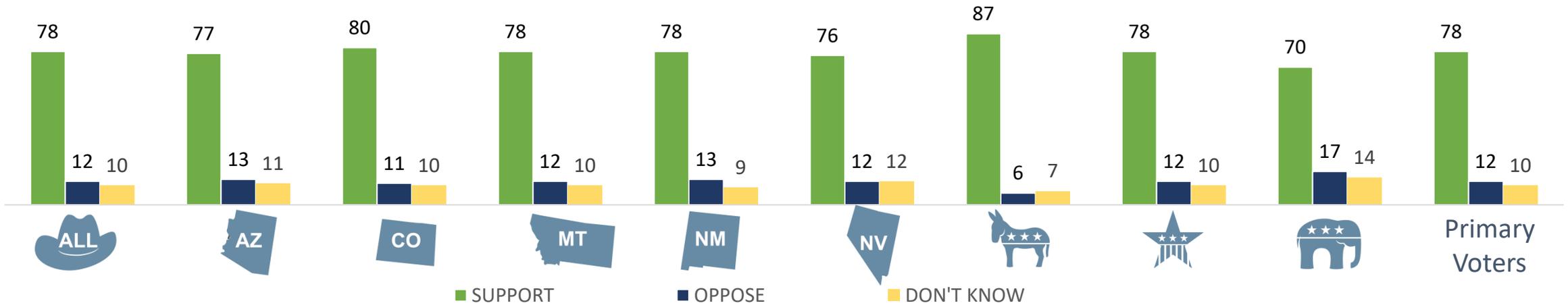
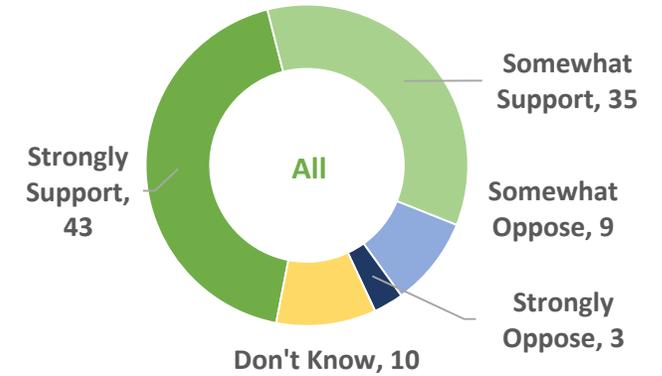


GOTTLIEB STRATEGIC
—RESEARCH—

There is strong bipartisan support for fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund

For each of the following proposals, please indicate whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each one:

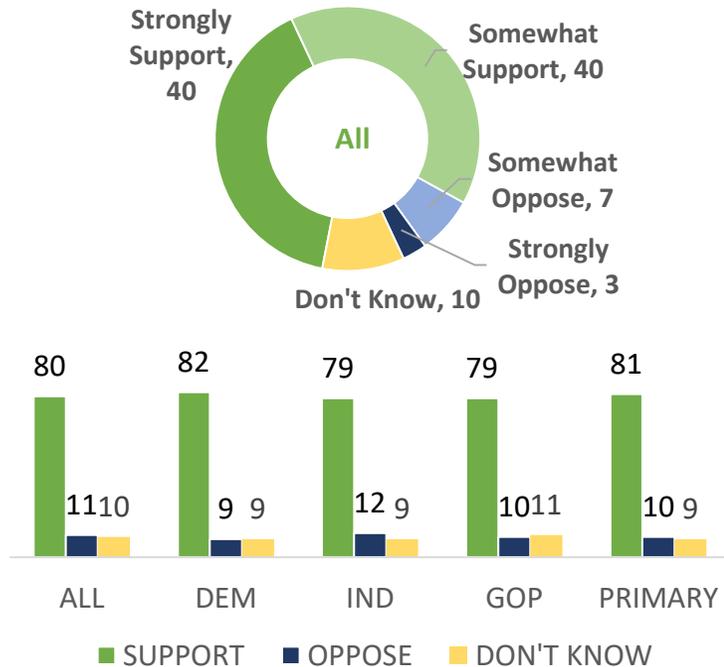
Provide full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the federal program established by congress in 1965 to ensure that people have access to recreation on public land and that public land is purchased and protected for the benefit of the public



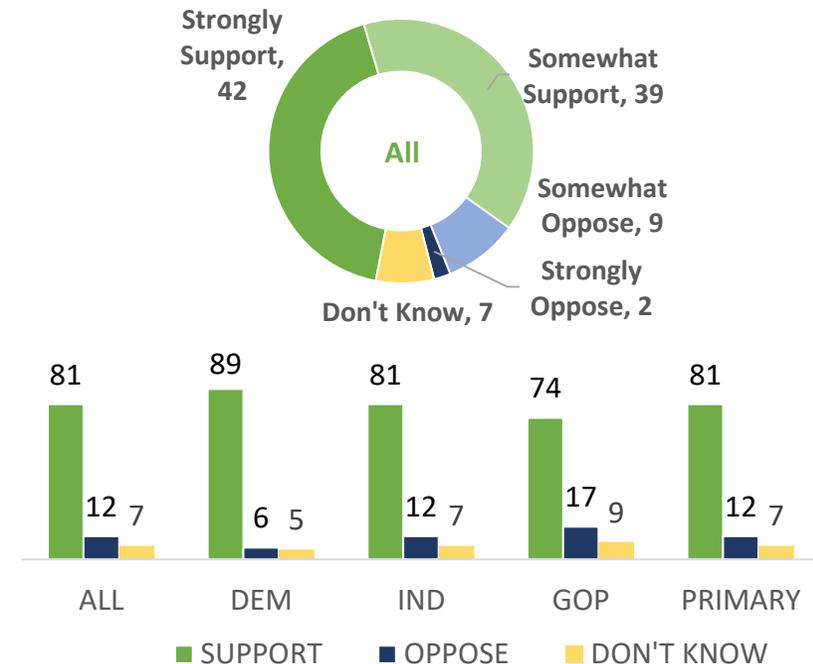
There is widespread support for reinvesting energy and mining royalties back into the public lands from which they came

For each of the following proposals, please indicate whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each one:

Reinvest oil, gas, mining and renewable energy royalties collected from public land use back into the public lands themselves



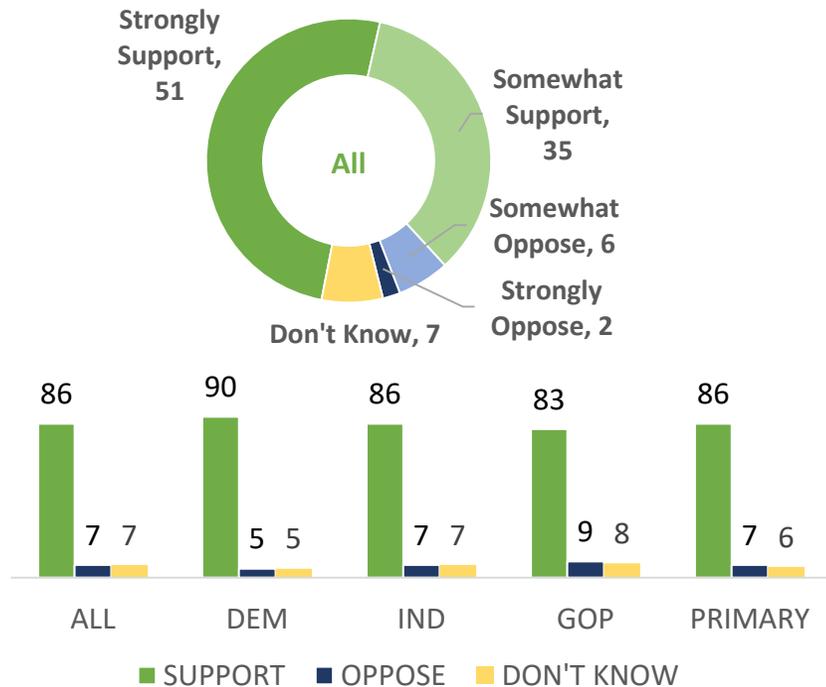
Increase spending on public lands to ensure that our national parks, wildlife refuges, monuments and other lands have the necessary funding for access and maintenance



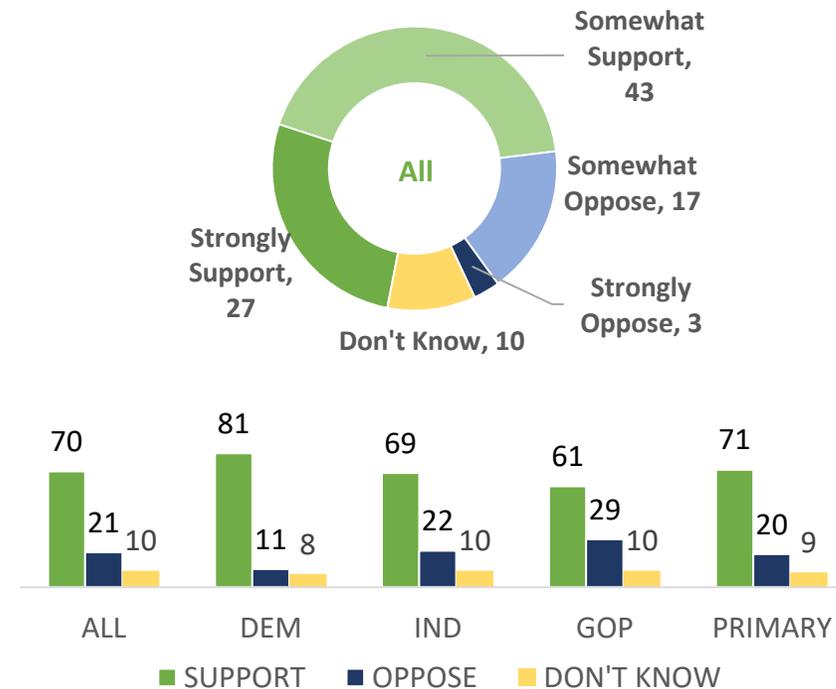
Western voters want an investment in forest management to protect public lands, restore forests and protect communities from wildfire

For each of the following proposals, please indicate whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each one:

Invest in forest management to protect public lands, restore Western forests, and protect communities from wildfire

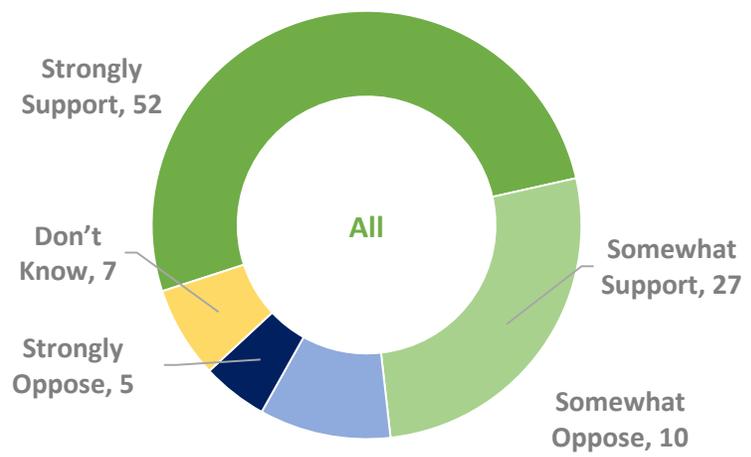


Increase funding to build new public trails, campgrounds and access points on public lands

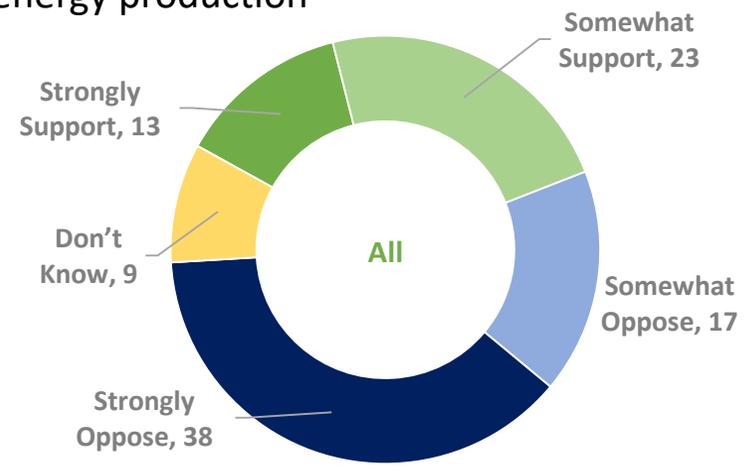


Voters support investing in renewable energy and oppose reduced regulations on oil and gas companies

Increase the investment in the development of renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and geothermal



Reduce environmental regulations on oil and gas companies to boost energy production



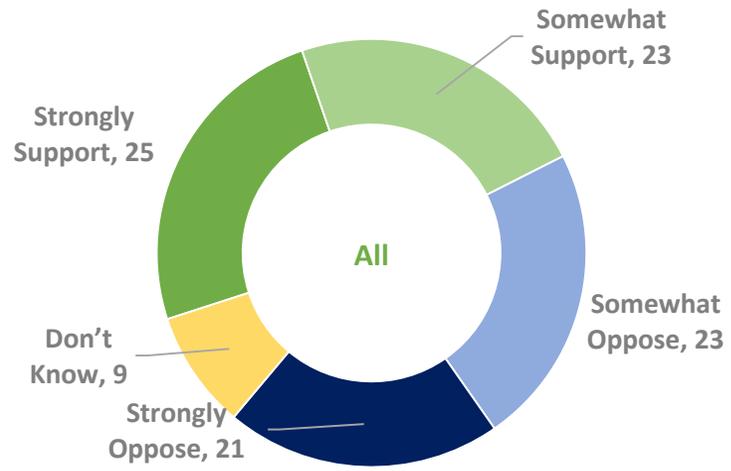
	ALL	AZ	CO	MT	NM	NV	DEM	IND	GOP	PRIMARY
SUPPORT	78	78	78	78	81	79	89	81	65	78
OPPOSE	15	16	16	18	13	12	6	13	27	17
DON'T KNOW	7	7	6	6	6	9	5	6	8	6

	ALL	AZ	CO	MT	NM	NV	DEM	IND	GOP	PRIMARY
SUPPORT	35	39	33	36	32	40	21	33	58	39
OPPOSE	55	52	59	56	60	50	73	59	33	53
DON'T KNOW	9	9	8	8	8	10	7	9	9	8



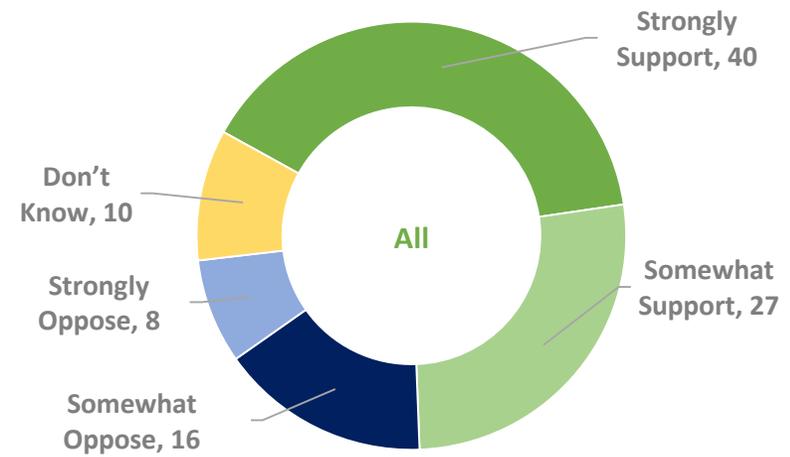
When it comes to oil and gas extraction on public lands, voters prefer to limit it rather than to prohibit it

VERSION A: **Prohibit** all oil, gas, and coal extraction on public lands



	ALL	AZ	CO	MT	NM	NV	DEM	IND	GOP	PRIMARY
SUPPORT	48	48	47	39	50	51	73	46	26	48
OPPOSE	44	41	46	52	44	41	20	44	65	44
DON'T KNOW	9	11	7	9	6	9	6	10	9	8

VERSION B: **Limit** oil, gas, and coal extraction on public lands

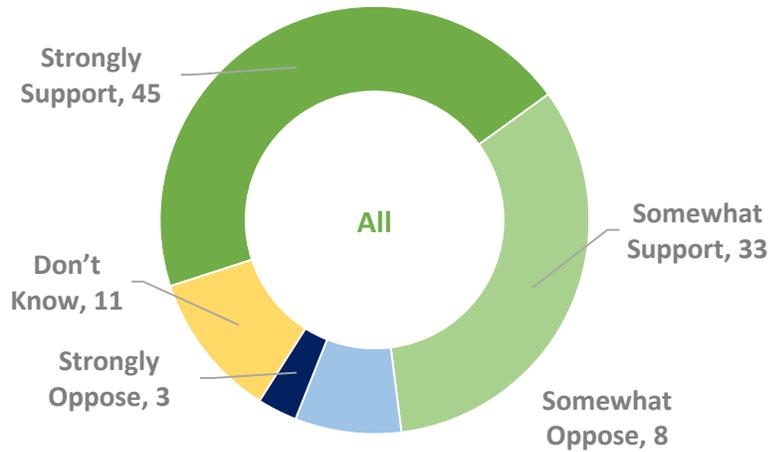


	ALL	AZ	CO	MT	NM	NV	DEM	IND	GOP	PRIMARY
SUPPORT	67	67	68	66	65	67	83	69	48	65
OPPOSE	23	24	23	27	25	21	9	23	40	27
DON'T KNOW	10	9	9	7	10	12	7	8	12	9

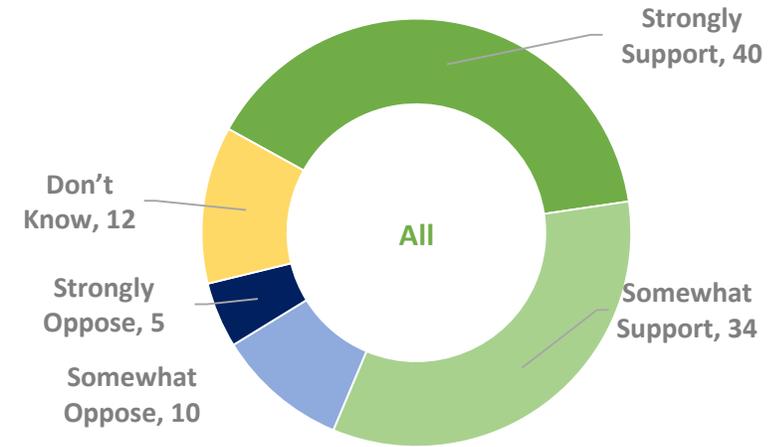


Western voters support requiring new or increased royalties on companies for extracting minerals, oil and gas on public lands

Require mining companies to pay taxpayers a royalty for extracting minerals on public lands



Increase the royalties that companies pay to taxpayers for extracting oil, gas, and coal on public lands



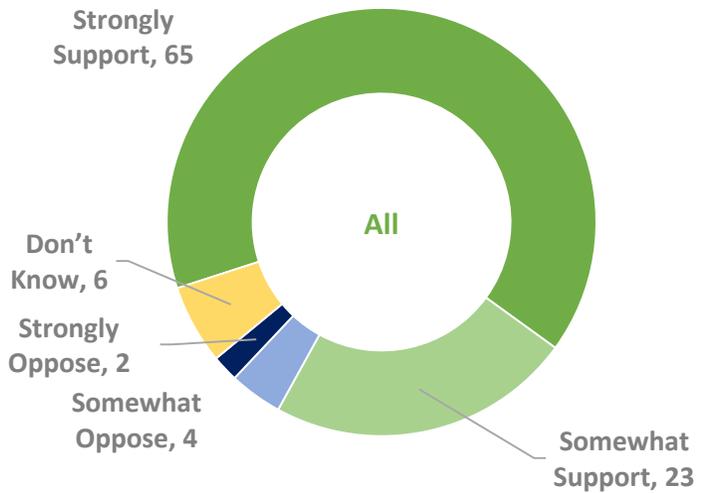
	ALL	AZ	CO	MT	NM	NV	DEM	IND	GOP	PRIMARY
SUPPORT	78	76	78	78	80	77	83	78	73	77
OPPOSE	12	12	12	13	10	10	7	12	15	13
DON'T KNOW	11	12	11	9	10	13	10	10	13	11

	ALL	AZ	CO	MT	NM	NV	DEM	IND	GOP	PRIMARY
SUPPORT	74	71	74	78	74	75	77	77	70	72
OPPOSE	15	17	15	12	15	12	13	12	17	16
DON'T KNOW	12	13	11	10	11	13	10	11	13	12



Western voters strongly support requiring oil and gas companies to detect and repair gas leaks in drilling equipment on public lands

Require oil and gas companies operating on public lands to detect and repair natural gas leaks in drilling equipment



	ALL	AZ	CO	MT	NM	NV	DEM	IND	GOP	PRIMARY
SUPPORT	88	87	89	89	90	87	89	89	87	89
OPPOSE	6	6	6	5	5	6	5	6	6	6
DON'T KNOW	6	7	6	6	5	7	6	5	7	6





Messaging



GOTTLIEB STRATEGIC
—RESEARCH—

Voters are moved by messages about respecting and protecting public lands, not by deregulation and drilling

The following are some statements about the future of public lands based on what the 2020 presidential candidates might say, on a scale of 0 through 10, indicate how likely you would be to vote for a candidate who made this statement. 0 means you are extremely unlikely to vote for a candidate like this and a 10 means you are extremely likely to vote for a candidate like this

	ALL	DEM	IND	GOP	
TOP MESSAGES	Protecting our public lands, waters and wildlife is part of our western way of life. Hunters, hikers and families expect these lands to be protected -- from soaring mountains to our deepest valleys. That's what makes the West a special place to live	7.1	7.7	7.0	6.6
	Our public lands and natural resources transcend politics. Republicans and Democrats have protected and ensured access to treasured lands, mountains and deserts since the days of Teddy Roosevelt. We can't let our current dysfunctional politics stop what America does best, creating parks and monuments, ensuring public lands stay public	6.9	7.4	6.8	6.4
	Energy and mining companies are leasing public lands for pennies on the dollar to explore for energy and minerals. The U.S. should charge them the fair market value for these leases to give taxpayers a fair return on their investment and help reduce the national debt	6.9	7.8	6.8	6.0
MIDDLE MESSAGES	It's time for us to manage our public lands and natural resources for the future, transitioning our energy development to renewable energy like wind and solar and encouraging our outdoor recreation economy to grow. This is the path forward for our Western and rural communities to thrive in the years ahead	6.7	7.9	6.6	5.5
	We must restore the balance in how our public lands and natural resources are managed. America has a tradition of protecting our most valuable lands and allowing multiple uses of land under the right protections. But in recent years oil and mining development have spread in an unprecedented way. We should restore the balance	6.5	7.5	6.5	5.6
	Our national public lands are under attack. In recent years, national monument protections have been repealed and oil and mining companies have been given a free hand to develop on valuable land without health and safety standards in place. This election is about keeping our public lands public	6.4	7.8	6.4	5.2



Voters are moved by messages about respecting and protecting public lands, not by deregulation and drilling

The following are some statements about the future of public lands based on what the 2020 presidential candidates might say, on a scale of 0 through 10, indicate how likely you would be to vote for a candidate who made this statement. 0 means you are extremely unlikely to vote for a candidate like this and a 10 means you are extremely likely to vote for a candidate like this

BOTTOM MESSAGES

	ALL	DEM	IND	GOP
We must address the threat of climate change on day one of a new administration, we should stop new oil and gas drilling on public land. We have to put the public interest over corporate profits	6.0	8.0	6.0	3.8
We need to pursue energy dominance for America by opening up our vast national resources, including those in the West. We can produce more, export more, and grow our economy and create jobs with oil, gas, and mining expansion	4.6	3.4	4.4	6.2
Too much of the West is federally owned and controlled in an unaccountable way, leaving taxpayers without local control or access to use our natural resources to grow our economy. We must remove the regulations on land, and prioritize private property, and remove the ability of future presidents to unilaterally create national monuments	4.6	3.9	4.6	5.4





Candidate Descriptions

Respect for Public Lands Still Critical to Winning the West



GOTTLIEB STRATEGIC
—RESEARCH—

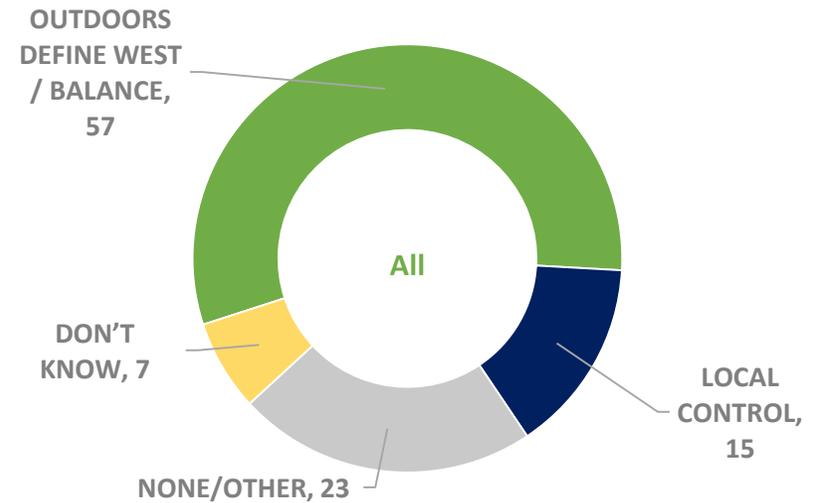
Western voters support balanced, pro conservation candidates

Now I am going to read you a couple of descriptions of potential political candidates. Between the following two candidates, which one are you most likely to vote for?

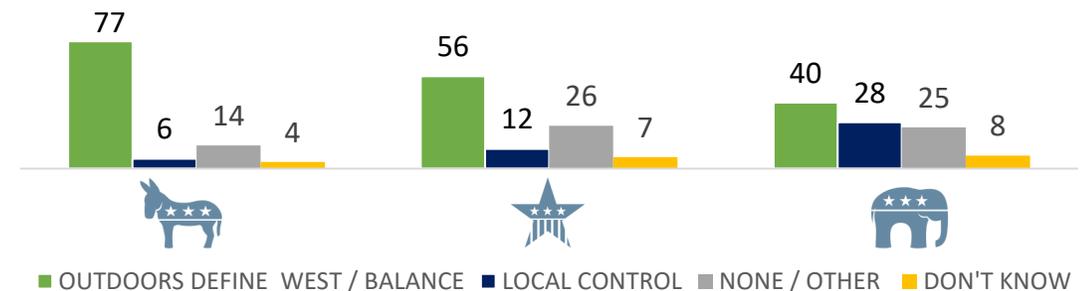
A candidate who believes that the outdoors are what define the west; who will make **protecting our land, water, and wildlife a top priority** to support our quality of life and our recreation economy; and who believes that we can have energy development on public lands if we manage it in a balanced way, with safeguards on oil and gas development and a preference toward approving clean wind and solar power

A candidate who says that federal bureaucrats overreach in their management of western public lands. This candidate will, if elected, prioritize local control on national public lands; is someone who believes that we need to **deregulate the energy and mining industries** to ensure that we are giving oil and gas companies the access they need to produce enough domestic energy to make America energy independent as soon as possible while creating good paying jobs in the west

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Western voters support balanced, pro conservation candidates

Now I am going to read you a couple of descriptions of potential political candidates. Between the following two candidates, which one are you most likely to vote for? ROTATE

A candidate who will make **protecting our land, water, and air a top priority**, and who believes that we need to keep oil, gas, and coal in the ground to protect our air and the climate for future generations. And says that together we can create a cleaner future by creating clean energy jobs and replacing fracking and coal with wind and solar

A candidate who wants to make domestic energy and jobs a high priority but also **understands that we have to protect outdoor spaces** that make the west special. This candidate will make it a high priority to give access to public lands to hunters and fishermen, help ranchers and farmers, and stand up for the western way of life.

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