Center for Western Priorities
Public Lands Survey
Nevada Voters
May 2016

METHODOLOGY

Purple Insights conducted 700 telephone interviews of likely 2016 voters in Nevada, between May 2nd and 5th, 2016. Respondents were randomly selected from a voter file and language of choice interviewing was available to Spanish-speaking voters. Fifty-two percent (52%) of the interviews were completed with voters on landlines and 48% were completed with voters on their cell phones. The margin of error is +/-3.7%.

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

FAVORABILITY

1. Do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable impression of [INSERT NAME]? *Showing Total Favorable / Total Unfavorable*	**NV Voters**
The National Park Service	84 / 6
Nevada's outdoor tourism and recreation industry	80 / 5
Nevada's gaming industry	74 / 16
Solar energy companies	66 / 21
SPLIT A: The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	63 / 9
Sportsmen groups that represent hunters and fishermen	61 / 16
Nevada ranchers	59 / 13
The Bureau of Land Management, or BLM	43 / 29
SPLIT A: Oil companies	39 / 40
SPLIT B: Coal companies	38 / 28
SPLIT B: The Nevada Public Utilities Commission	35 / 41

PRIORITIES AND IMPACTS

2. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements?	NV Voters					
	Strongly Agree	Smwt Agree	Smwt Disagree	Strongly Disagree	TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE
The desert landscapes, mountains and valleys, recreation areas, and other outdoor spaces that make up our public lands are an important part of what makes Nevada a good place to live.	80	16	1	2	**96**	**3**
Our deserts, mountains, valleys, recreation areas and other outdoor spaces that make up our public lands are an important part of Nevada's economy.	69	22	4	3	**91**	**7**
As Nevadans, we should prioritize collaboration on public lands issues over conflict with the federal government.	45	27	7	7	**72**	**14**
There is too much public land in Nevada.	19	12	21	35	**31**	**57**

ENERGY/MINING ISSUES

3. Now you'll hear some positions a candidate may take. Would you be more or less likely to support a candidate who wants to [INSERT STATEMENT], or would it not make a difference in your vote?	NV Voters			
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference	Don't Know
Invest in the development of renewable energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal	73	10	14	3
Reinstate policies that allow Nevada residents to install solar panels and allow any excess energy to be sold to the electric utility company	71	10	14	5
SPLIT B: Require mining companies to pay taxpayers a royalty for extracting minerals on public lands, like oil and gas companies pay for drilling on public lands	65	11	19	5
SPLIT A: Require mining companies to pay taxpayers a royalty for extracting minerals on public lands	56	17	20	7
SPLIT B: Block the storage of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain	51	23	19	7
Increase oil drilling in the US to access America's vast energy resources	49	26	20	5
Keep oil, gas and minerals in the ground	36	34	26	4
SPLIT A: Store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain	21	55	19	6

4. What energy source or sources should we prioritize in the American West over the next ten years?	NV Voters
Solar	61
Wind	40
Natural Gas	21
Geothermal	15
Oil	11
Nuclear	9
Coal	4
Something else	2
Don't know	4

NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS AWARNESS

5. Over the past year, how many times do you think you have visited public lands such as national recreation areas, parks, national forests, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, or other public land in Nevada? These include places like Red Rock National Conservation Area and Great Basin National Park.	NV Voters
Once or twice	22
3-5 times	21
6-10 times	18
11-20 times	10
More than 20 times	18
Never	10
I'm not sure	2

6. I'm now going to read a list of public land sites in Nevada. Using a scale of 0 to 10, please tell me how important each is to Nevada's economy and cultural heritage, with 0 meaning not at all important and 10 meaning extremely important. *Showing Very Important (9 to 10)*	NV Voters
Grand Canyon National Park	78
Lake Tahoe	75
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area	65
Lake Mead Recreation Area	58
Mount Charleston	57
Great Basin National Park	47
Tule Springs National Monument	28

PUBLIC LANDS PROPOSALS

7. Which of the following is the best use of Nevada's public lands to help the state's economy?	NV Voters
Increasing the number of solar, wind and geothermal energy developments	43
Building outdoor recreation opportunities to increase tourism	26
Expanding mining operations	9
Increasing the amount of land available for ranching and grazing	9
I'm not sure	13

8. Now you'll hear some proposals regarding public lands. Would you be more or less likely to support a candidate who wants to [INSERT STATEMENT], or would it not make a difference in your vote?	NV Voters			
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference	Don't Know
SPLIT B: Protect access to outdoor spaces for camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation	82	8	9	1
SPLIT B: Help create outdoor tourism jobs	80	4	13	3
SPLIT A: Help promote and expand our outdoor tourism economy	78	5	15	1
Increase protection of wildlife	76	9	13	2
SPLIT A: Promote outdoor tourism to help rural economic development	74	6	16	4
Encourage the development of solar, geothermal and wind energy projects on public lands	74	12	12	3
SPLIT A: Protect access to outdoor spaces	71	6	19	4
SPLIT B: Diversify our tourism economy beyond Las Vegas	69	9	19	4
Increase protection of public lands	65	12	19	4
Continue mining and oil and gas drilling on public lands, but with additional environmental protections in place	55	24	15	5
Open up more wilderness areas to motorized vehicle use	37	38	21	4
Open up public lands to more private development	31	45	19	4
Sell public lands to reduce the national budget deficit	28	50	17	5
SPLIT A: Prohibit energy development of any kind on public lands	23	52	20	5
SPLIT B: Prohibit energy development of any kind on public lands, including large-scale solar or wind projects	21	61	13	5

9. Some have proposed designating a National Monument in Gold Butte, located in rural Southern Nevada, to protect a 350,000 acres of land with red sandstone canyons and cliffs, and cultural heritage sites. Do you support or oppose designating Gold Butte as a National Monument?	**NV Voters**
Strongly support	51
Somewhat support	19
Somewhat oppose	4
Strongly oppose	7
Don't know	19
TOTAL SUPPORT	**71**
TOTAL OPPOSE	**11**

10. 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?	**NV Voters**
A Democratic candidate who believes that the deserts and mountains help make Nevada special, and are an important part of the state's tourism economy; who believes recreation and renewable energy should be priorities on our pubic lands; and who believes that through collaboration with local communities, we can find balance in the management of our pubic lands.	55
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; who stands alongside Cliven Bundy and his family; who opposes new federal monuments and instead prioritizes the development of public lands to help grow our economy.	29
Neither of them	7
Don't know	8

11. 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?	**NV Voters**
A Democratic candidate who wants to protect our public lands from development and strengthen environmental protections; who believes oil, gas, and coal should stay in the ground and be replaced by renewable sources; and who wants to ban fracking to leave a cleaner future for generations to come.	46
A Republican candidate who believes that the deserts and mountains help make Nevada special, and are an important part of the state's tourism economy; who believes recreation and renewable energy should be priorities on our pubic lands; and who believes that through collaboration with local communities, we can find balance in the management of our pubic lands.	39
Neither of them	7
Don't know	8

CLIVEN BUNDY

12. How much have you heard about the dispute between Cliven Bundy and the federal government about public land use?	NV Voters
A great deal	42
Some	29
Not too much	12
Nothing at all	15
Don't know	2

13. IF HEARD ABOUT THE DISPUTE: Based on what you have heard, do you agree or disagree with Cliven Bundy and his supporters?	NV Voters
Strongly agree	18
Somewhat agree	16
Somewhat disagree	14
Strongly disagree	32
Don't know	20
TOTAL AGREE	**34**
TOTAL DISAGREE	**46**

I will read you statements from supporters and opponents about rancher Cliven Bundy's standoff with the federal government about public land use in Nevada.

Supporters of Cliven Bundy say that he is being unfairly persecuted by the federal government. They say that he's just a local rancher standing up to government overreach on how we can use our lands, and that he and the people who gathered on his ranch to confront federal authorities were justified to protect individual freedoms and our local Western way of life.

Opponents of Cliven Bundy say he has been grazing his cattle on public land, while refusing to pay grazing fees, which was clearly against the law. They also say that rather than working with authorities to come to a resolution on land use, he and his followers provoked a dangerous armed confrontation with rangers, sheriff's and our authorities, leading to felony charges.

14. Based on what you have heard, do you agree or disagree with Cliven Bundy and his supporters?	NV Voters
Strongly agree	18
Somewhat agree	15
Somewhat disagree	17
Strongly disagree	34
Don't know	16
TOTAL AGREE	**33**
TOTAL DISAGREE	**51**

15. If a candidate for office supported Cliven Bundy and his cause, would you be more or less likely to vote for that candidate, or would it not make a difference in your vote?	NV Voters
Much more likely	13
Somewhat more likely	7
Somewhat less likely	11
Much less likely	25
No difference	39
Don't know	6
TOTAL MORE LIKELY	**19**
TOTAL LESS LIKELY	**35**

DEMOGRAPHICS

16. Gender	NV Voters
Male	47
Female	53

17. Age	NV Voters
18 to 24	9
25 to 29	7
30 to 39	19
40 to 49	20
50 to 64	27
65+	17

18. Do you consider yourself a hunter, an angler, both, or neither?	NV Voters
Hunter only	6
Angler only	9
Both	15
Neither	67
Prefer not to say	3

19. Do you consider yourself a conservationist?	NV Voters
Yes	64
No	30
Don't know	6

20. Do you regularly participate in outdoor activities, like hiking, camping, biking or rock climbing?	NV Voters
Yes	68
No	31
Don't know	1

21. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?	NV Voters
Strong Democrat	27
Not so strong Democrat	7
Independent, lean Democrat	6
Independent	25
Independent, lean Republican	7
Not so strong Republican	5
Strong Republican	21
Don't know	3
TOTAL DEMOCRAT	**39**
TOTAL REPUBLICAN	**32**

22. In the last several state and national elections, which of the following best describes the way you have voted?	NV Voters
Straight Democrat	18
Mostly Democrat	14
More Democrats than Republicans	8
About equal	17
More Republicans than Democrats	6
Mostly Republican	15
Straight Republican	11
For some other party	2
I typically don't vote	2
Don't know	6

23. Do you consider yourself a liberal, conservative, or moderate?	NV Voters
Liberal	22
Moderate	41
Conservative	32
Don't know	5

24. Are you the parent of a child under the age of 18 living in your household?	NV Voters
Yes	32
No	65
Prefer not to say	3

25. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?	NV Voters
Less than high school	2
High school graduate	18
Some college	27
Trade or professional school	5
College graduate	32
Post-graduate work or degree	13
Prefer not to say	2

26. Just to ensure proper representation by race, what is your racial or ethnic background?	NV Voters
Black/African-American	9
White	62
Hispanic/Latino	18
Asian	2
Native American	1
Multi-racial	2
Some other race	2
Prefer not to say	4