

UTAH



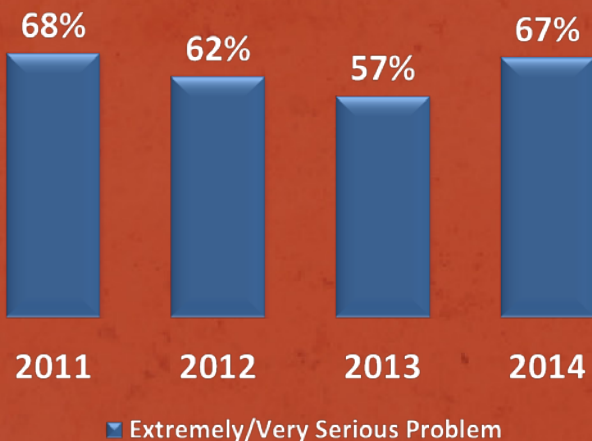
Beehive State voters continue to worry about air quality, oppose river diversions as a solution to water woes, and demonstrate a strong connection to public lands and candidates that support them.

- Utah voters stand out from the rest of the Western region due to their significant and sustained concern about air quality. Voters in Utah have consistently stated that “air pollution and smog” are extremely or very serious problems facing their state, with two-thirds (67%) today qualifying it as such, and virtually everyone classifying it as at least a somewhat serious problem (95%). This stands in stark contrast to the perceptions of the rest of the region (32% extremely or very serious problem region-wide).

Consistently throughout the data, Utah voters demonstrate their strong connection to public lands...

- They are the most likely to say that the closure of public lands during the federal shutdown hurt small businesses and the economy of communities near public lands (89% agree, only 8% disagree).
- One-in-three (33%) say the closures of public lands left them “annoyed” and another quarter (24%) were outright “angry.”
- 96% of voters report having visited public lands in the last year.
- Two-thirds (66%) say they are more likely to vote for a Congressional candidate who supports protection of public lands.
- Conversely, 63% say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who proposes the sale of federal lands.

Smog and Air Pollution Trend



Voters in Utah have the most positive reaction to the use of Master Leasing Plans by the Bureau of Land Management of any state.

- Two-thirds (67%) register their support after hearing a brief explanation of the concept, and only 20% oppose it. These views remain solid after voters hear a pro and con discussion of the issue as well.

Master Leasing Plan Views By State

Those who support master leasing plans say that some places are appropriate for drilling, but on some public lands drilling could negatively affect our rivers, wildlife, or opportunities for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. These plans will resolve conflicts in advance so that wildlife habitats, air quality and water quality are protected, and leasing can move forward in appropriate areas with fewer delays.

60%

Those who oppose master leasing plans say that the government already takes years planning for whether or not oil and gas drilling can occur in specific sites. Master leasing plans are yet another layer of red tape that will slow down responsible energy production on public lands, making it take even longer for oil and gas companies to develop our country's energy resources.

28%

The vast majority reject river diversions as a way to deal with water shortage issues in Utah.

- 81% say that low levels of water in rivers is a serious problem facing the state – the only state in the region to register more concern today than last year.

- When provided with two paths that state resource officials could take in dealing with water shortage problems, Utah voters strongly prefer a conservation-based approach over diversions of river water, much as those in neighboring states facing the same issue.

Using our current water supply more wisely, by encouraging more water conservation, reducing use, and increasing recycling of water

<u>Colorado</u>	<u>Utah</u>	<u>Wyoming</u>
78%	76%	75%

Diverting more water from rivers in less populated areas of the state to communities where more people live

14%	12%	13%
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