

WYOMING



“It's a western state, I need to live in a western state. I could sit here all night and talk about it.”

“I liked the area. The mountains, water quality, and the lifestyle.”

Wyoming voters are drawn to the state by its environment and outdoor lifestyle. Residents favor managing public lands to protect recreation and wildlife over commercial activities; see conservation as key to managing water concerns.

Wyoming residents are more likely to be non-natives and have moved into their state than anywhere else in the region.

When they think of their reasons for living in Wyoming, clean air and clean water top the list, followed by the healthy outdoor lifestyle that allows, just as others do across the West. More name access to public lands as a significant factor in their decision to live and stay in Wyoming than say the same for economic opportunities, the amount of taxes they pay, or the cost of living.

Top Reasons for Living in the West Ranked By Significant Factor	Significant Factor	A Factor
Clean air, clean water and environment	72%	94%
Healthy, outdoor lifestyle	67%	94%
Ability to live near, recreate on and enjoy public lands like national parks and forests	55%	87%
Amount of taxes	52%	86%
Cost of living	45%	80%
Economic opportunities	43%	81%

No wonder they name the outdoors as what keeps them in Wyoming – the people who live there are more likely to spend time using national public lands than anywhere else in the region.

Virtually everyone - 97% - say they have visited public lands managed by U.S. agencies in the last year, including 43% who have been more than twenty times. A majority in the state views these lands as American places belonging to everyone in the nation (54%), but they are more likely than other Westerners to claim the public lands in their state as primarily for Wyoming (37%).



Wyoming voters rate extractive industries, including oil and gas development (97%) and mining (97%), as the most important drivers of their state’s future economy.

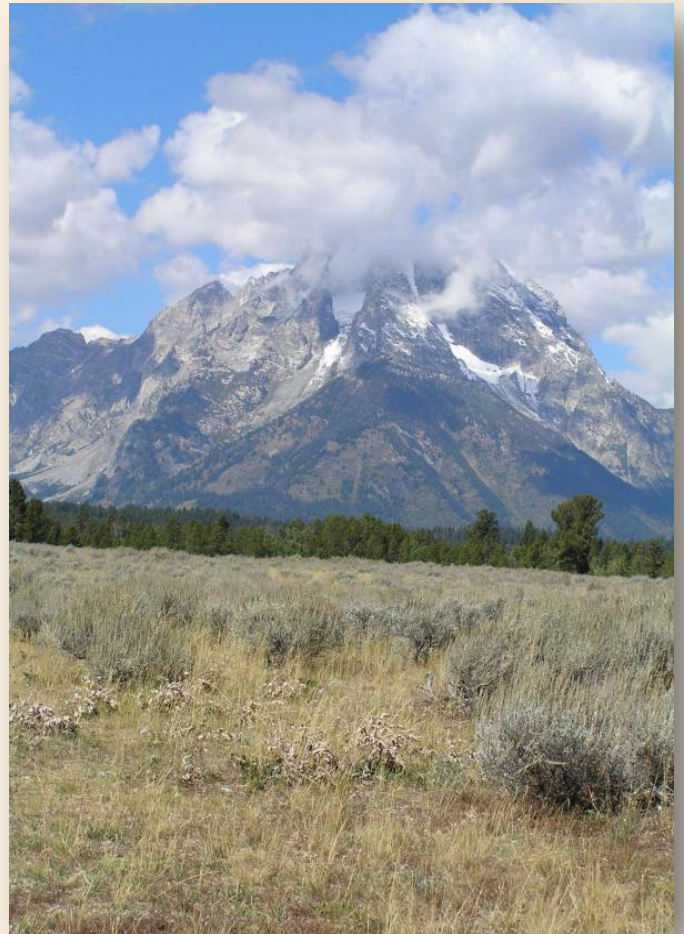
However, managing public lands for these purposes is far less important to them than ensuring recreational access (75% very important), conserving the land for future generations (74%), and protecting wildlife habitat (72%). Giving rangers the proper resources to ensure these goals are met is also important to the state’s electorate (61% very important).

<i>Priorities for Public Lands Ranked By Very Important</i>	Very	Total
	Important	Important
Ensuring access for recreational activities such as hiking, biking, hunting and fishing	75%	94%
Protecting and conserving natural areas for future generations	74%	94%
Protecting and conserving wildlife habitat	72%	95%
Making sure that rangers have the resources they need to take care of public lands and provide services to visitors	61%	92%
Making sure resources such as oil and gas, minerals or coal are available for development and mining	55%	83%
Making them available for livestock grazing	43%	81%

State voters prioritize conservation over resource development when given more specific scenarios as well.

In keeping with their concern for wildlife habitat, a majority of Wyoming voters supports the Bureau of Land Management establishing strong protections in sage grouse habitat, including limiting some energy development, grazing and off-road vehicle use (53% support, 41% oppose).

Compared to other Westerners, Wyoming voters are less worried about many issues facing their state, from unemployment to air pollution, but they do worry about access to water. Six in ten view low levels of water in rivers as a serious problem facing the state. They are also confident that conservation, rather than diversion, is key to addressing potential water shortages. Three-quarters (74%) side encouraging conservation, reducing use, and recycling of water as an approach over diverting water from less populous areas (15%).



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

74%

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





15%

Wyoming voters concur with the rest of the West in clear priorities for the new Congress.

Congressional Actions Ranked By Support

	Support	Oppose
Continue to use some of the money from fees charged to oil and gas companies that drill offshore for conservation of natural areas and clean water, and to ensure access to outdoor recreation	74%	10%
Future Presidents continuing to protect existing public lands as national monuments	69%	18%
Continue taxpayer support for solar and wind energy production	53%	38%
Sell significant holdings of public lands like national forests to reduce the budget deficit	17%	73%

What's Unique About Wyoming?

	64%	Highest of any state – consider themselves to be a hunter or angler
		Therefore, they are also the highest of any state – 52% – who say hunting and fishing is a significant factor in their choosing to live where they do, and they are also the most likely to say the taxes they pay are important
		Oil and gas development (85%) and mining (79%) are seen as one of the most/very important priorities to their state's future economy – highest of any state. However, they prioritize managing public lands for conservation and recreation over resource extraction.
	30%	Highest of any state – are very satisfied with their state's economy