

# ARIZONA



*Voters in Arizona say the most significant factors in choosing their home state are the healthy, outdoor lifestyle and a clean environment. Voters there also point to the ability to live near and enjoy public lands as significant a factor as economic opportunities. Arizonans also strongly support a proposal to protect more than one million acres of existing public lands that surround the Grand Canyon.*

Arizona voters are attracted to where they live by the healthy, outdoor lifestyle (53% significant factor) and the region's clean environment (48% significant factor). Residents also place the economic opportunities in the state (41% significant factor) on near equal footing with the opportunity to live near and recreate on public lands (39% significant factor) that the state provides.

*“The weather. I think it's a good climate. The lifestyle. Employment. I like the diversity of cultures out here.”*

*“Weather, scenery, and I like the area. We live out in the middle of nowhere and I enjoy it.”*

## Top Reasons for Living in the West Ranked By Significant Factor

	Significant Factor	A Factor
Healthy, outdoor lifestyle	53%	86%
Clean air, clean water and environment	48%	80%
Economic opportunities	41%	77%
Ability to live near, recreate on and enjoy public lands like national parks and forests	39%	75%

**Grand Canyon State residents back up their values with their actions.**

Fully 95% of voters visited public lands at least once in the last year, while more than half (51%) visited six or more times. Arizonans also see the nationally held lands in the state which they frequent more as American places that belong to everyone in the country, rather than as places that belong just to Arizona.

Given their clear appreciation for the public lands in the West, it is no surprise that voters say protecting and conserving these areas for future generations and protecting and conserving wildlife habitats are their top public lands priorities.

**Grand Canyon State residents back up their values with their actions.**

More than three-quarters (78%) describe the current lack of resources to maintain these public lands as a serious problem in the state.

**Priorities for Public Lands  
Ranked By Very Important**

	Very Important	Total Important
Protecting and conserving natural areas for future generations	83%	96%
Protecting and conserving wildlife habitat	75%	94%
Making sure that rangers have the resources they need to take care of public lands and provide services to visitors	74%	96%
Ensuring access for recreational activities such as hiking, biking, hunting and fishing	69%	96%
Making sure resources such as oil and gas, minerals or coal are available for development and mining	36%	71%
Making them available for livestock grazing	32%	75%

78%



**Lack of Resources**

■ Total Serious



**Given the regard for public lands in the state, it is worth noting the strong support for National Monument designation that exists among the state's electorate.**

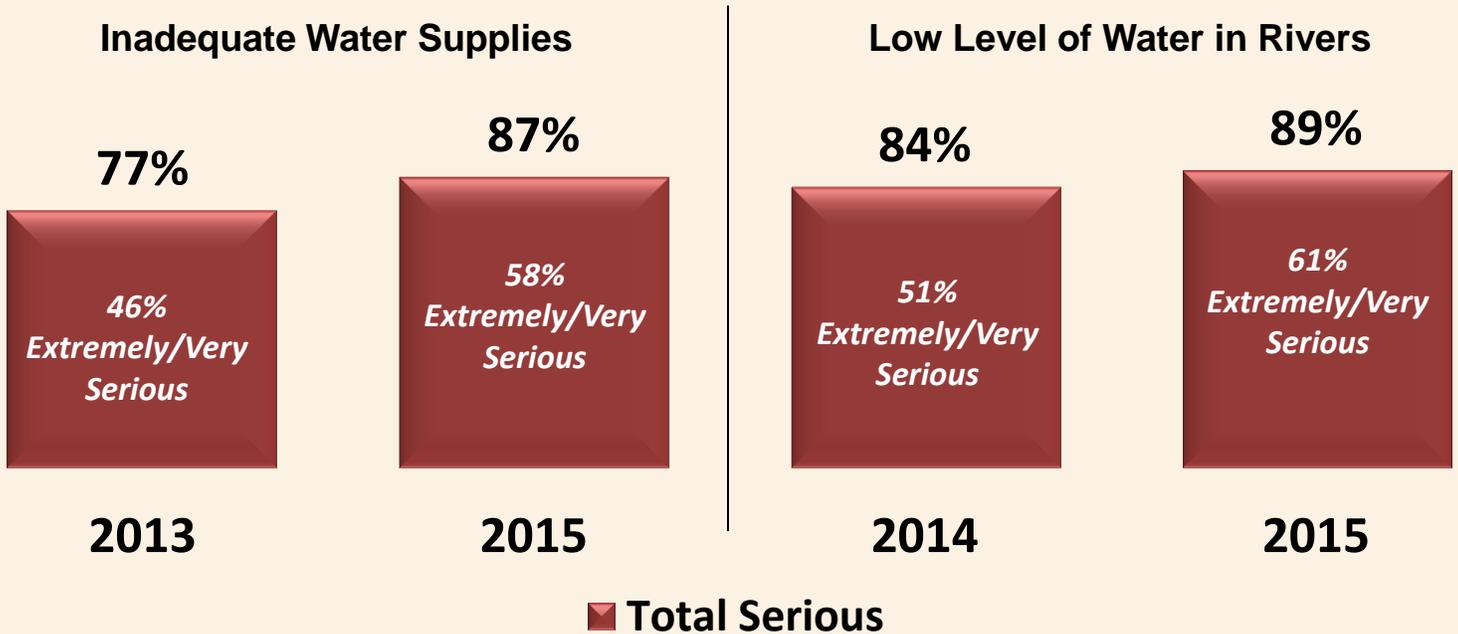
Nearly three-quarters (73%) of voters support protecting “just over one million acres of existing public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon as a National Monument” which “would make permanent the current ban on uranium and other mining in these lands.” A solid majority - 58% - strongly support this proposal.

Given their clear appreciation for the public lands in the West, it is no surprise that voters say protecting and conserving these areas for future generations and protecting and conserving wildlife habitats are their top public lands priorities.

**Arizonans are also more worried about the state's water supply than voters in most of the rest of the region, and it is a concern that is on the increase.**



Fully 89% say that the low levels of water in rivers is a serious problem, with 61% calling it an extremely or very serious problem – ten points higher than said the same last year. Fully 87% say that inadequate water supplies are a serious problem and 58% categorize it as extremely or very serious problem - 12 points higher than said the same in 2013. Voters also view the amount of pollution in the state's rivers, lakes, and streams as an issue that needs to be addressed (83% serious; 45% extremely or very serious).



*Arizonans are also clear on an agenda for this new Congress, registering strong support for Congress acting to invest in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, continue taxpayer support for renewable energy, and resist attempts to sell off public lands.*

### Congressional Actions Ranked By Support

	Support	Oppose
Future Presidents continuing to protect existing public lands as national monuments	84%	6%
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	75%	10%
Continue taxpayer support for solar and wind energy production	71%	20%
Sell significant holdings of public lands like national forests to reduce the budget deficit	18%	70%

### What's Unique About Arizona?

	38%	Highest of any state – say the lack of resources to properly maintain and take care of public lands is an extremely or very serious problem.
	62%	Highest of any state – feel strongly that public lands are American places that belong to everyone in the country.
	71%	Highest of any state – support continuing taxpayer support for solar and wind energy production.
	73%	Highest of any state – support proposals for the BLM to strengthen protection of sage grouse habitat in the West