

**TO:** Environmental Defense Action Fund  
**FR:** Morning Consult  
**DT:** July 2021  
**RE:** Results: Colorado Respondents' Perceptions of Wildfires and Extreme Heat



Bipartisan majorities of Colorado respondents support a wide array of measures to prevent wildfires, including expanding energy efficiency programs and increasing funding for the U.S. forest service. CO respondents believe in the importance of building resilience to wildfires through better forest management across all levels of government, and among private landowners. A bipartisan majority of CO respondents view action around the underlying climate-related factors that cause drought as important for lawmakers to address.

**SUPPORT FOR POLICIES**

**CO RESPONDENTS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR A VARIETY OF PROPOSALS AIMED AT CURBING THE IMPACT OF WILDFIRES AND EXTREME HEAT.**

**Percentage of CO Respondents Who Support the Following Measures to Reduce the Impacts of Wildfires and Extreme Heat**

<b>% Support (strongly + somewhat)</b>	<b>Increasing funding for the U.S. forest service that would specifically be designated for preventing wildfires</b>	<b>Removing vegetation at risk of starting wildfires, such as dead trees, and selling or recycling it in order to generate revenue for restoration efforts</b>	<b>Investing in alert systems to notify at-risk communities when they may be in danger of a wildfire</b>	<b>Expanding energy efficiency programs to reduce the strain on electricity, gas and water systems, and our citizens' wallets</b>
<b>CO Respondents</b>	85%	86%	85%	81%
<b>CO Democrats*</b>	92%	88%	93%	90%
<b>CO Independents*</b>	79%	83%	79%	80%
<b>CO Republicans*</b>	86%	86%	83%	70%
<b>CO Urban Respondents**</b>	83%	83%	84%	82%
<b>CO Suburban Respondents**</b>	83%	87%	86%	79%
<b>CO Rural Respondents**</b>	92%	88%	83%	85%

**Percentage of CO Respondents Who Support the Following Measures to Reduce the Impacts of Wildfires and Extreme Heat (Cont.)**

<b>% Support (strongly + somewhat)</b>	<b>Increasing research around the causes of wildfires and the best solutions for preventing and managing them</b>	<b>Adopting stronger pollution limits for vehicles and power plants in order to increase air quality</b>	<b>Implementing policy and technical solutions that even the burden among citizens during a power outage crisis</b>
<b>CO Respondents</b>	79%	74%	71%
<b>CO Democrats*</b>	89%	92%	79%
<b>CO Independents*</b>	72%	68%	69%
<b>CO Republicans*</b>	75%	55%	62%
<b>CO Urban Respondents**</b>	77%	76%	72%
<b>CO Suburban Respondents**</b>	80%	74%	72%
<b>CO Rural Respondents**</b>	82%	73%	69%

**RESPONDENTS IN COLORADO SAY BUILDING RESILIENCE TO WILDFIRES BY INVESTING IN BETTER FOREST MANAGEMENT IS IMPORTANT ACROSS ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND AMONG PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.**

- Over four in five CO respondents say it's important (very + somewhat) for the federal government (83%), state government (90%), local government (88%) and private landowners (88%) to invest in better forest management to build resilience to wildfires.

**MAJORITIES OF CO RESPONDENTS ALSO SAY THEY'RE MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR A U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE RUNNING IN THEIR STATE IF THAT CANDIDATE WERE TO SUPPORT AGGRESSIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS WILDFIRES (67%) AND EXTREME HEAT (59%).**

**Percentage of CO Respondents Who Would Be More Likely to Vote for a U.S. Senate Candidate Who Supports Aggressive Action to Address the Following**

<b>% More Likely (much + somewhat)</b>	<b>Wildfires</b>	<b>Extreme Heat</b>
<b>CO Respondents</b>	67%	59%
<b>CO Urban Respondents**</b>	71%	58%
<b>CO Suburban Respondents**</b>	64%	56%
<b>CO Rural Respondents**</b>	71%	65%

**CONCERN AND IMPACT**

**CONCERN ABOUT WILDFIRES AND EXTREME HEAT IS HIGH AMONG COLORADO RESPONDENTS.**

- 86% of CO respondents say they're concerned about extreme heat, and 88% express concern over wildfires.

**CO RESPONDENTS RECOGNIZE THE WIDE-RANGING AND HARMFUL IMPACTS WILDFIRES AND EXTREME HEAT HAVE HAD IN THE PAST 3-5 YEARS.**

**Percentage of CO Respondents Who Believe Wildfires and Extreme Heat Have Been Harmful to Each of the Following in the Past 3-5 Years:**

<b>% Harmful (very + somewhat)</b>	<b>Wildfires</b>	<b>Extreme Heat</b>
<b>Wildlife</b>	87%	79%
<b>The environment</b>	83%	73%
<b>Agriculture</b>	79%	81%
<b>Forests</b>	84%	77%
<b>Human health</b>	80%	76%
<b>Air quality</b>	89%	73%
<b>Safety of human life</b>	82%	76%
<b>Community health</b>	74%	72%
<b>U.S. power grid</b>	60%	60%
<b>Water quality</b>	70%	61%
<b>Safety of personal property (cars, homes)</b>	79%	60%
<b>Tourism and recreation</b>	80%	67%

**CO RESPONDENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF DROUGHT AND VIEW IT AS A PRIORITY FOR LAWMAKERS TO PASS LEGISLATION ADDRESSING THE UNDERLYING CLIMATE-RELATED CAUSES OF DROUGHT.**

- Majorities of CO respondents are very concerned about the impact of drought on the U.S. agricultural sector (58%), wildlife (56%), and the environment (54%).
- Over three quarters of CO respondents believe it is important for lawmakers at the federal (77%), state (81%) and local (79%) levels to pass legislation to address the underlying climate-related factors that cause drought.

\*Party ID n sizes: CO Democrats: n = 111, CO independents: n = 116, CO Republicans: n = 73

\*\*Community type n sizes: CO urban respondents: n = 80, CO suburban respondents n = 147, CO rural respondents: n = 73

Methodology: This poll was conducted between June 17-June 26, 2021 among a sample of 300 Colorado Adults. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, and race. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 6 percentage points.