

TO: Walton Family Foundation
FR: Morning Consult
DT: April 2023
RE: Addressing Arizona's Water Issues

WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



Morning Consult ran a survey, on behalf of the Walton Family Foundation, focusing on the importance of safeguarding groundwater supplies and support for investments in conservation and restoration projects to protect water sources for Arizona. The results show that when it comes to regulating groundwater consumption, Arizonans say their state government should be doing more to regulate groundwater consumption and they should prioritize conservation and restoration projects to ensure long-term water supplies.

Key Findings

- Arizonans agree that they can't address the water crisis in the state without safeguarding groundwater supplies and that the state needs to act now to invest in greater groundwater management.
- Arizonans overwhelmingly agree that unlimited groundwater pumping in rural Arizona should be regulated.
- Arizonans strongly support investing in long-term water conservation and restoration projects that will keep more water in the Colorado River. This includes strategies like restoring floodplains to better absorb rainfall and runoff and improving river and stream flows to maximize available water sources.

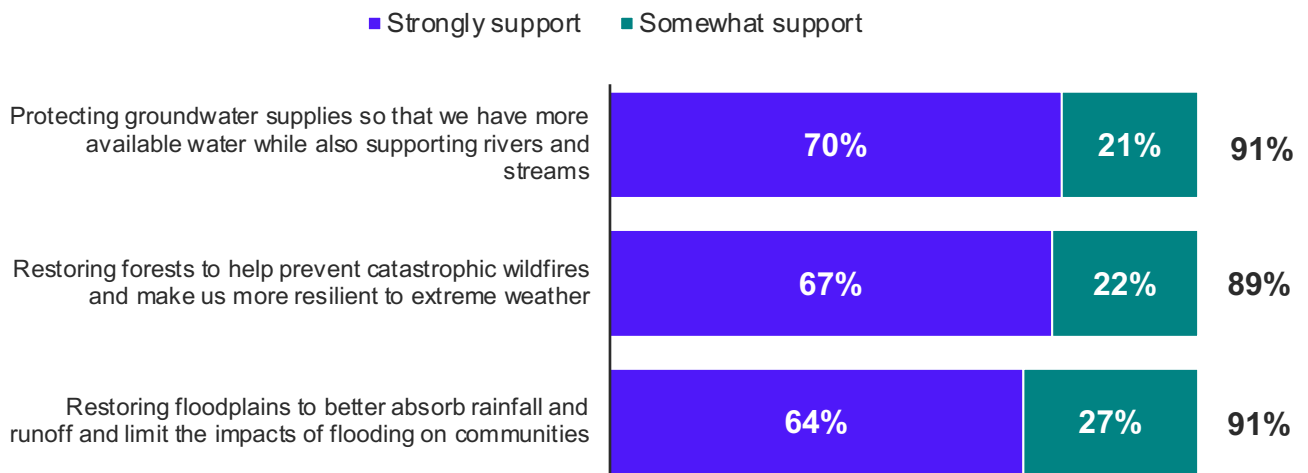
Detailed Findings – Safeguarding Groundwater Supplies

- Over four-in-five (85%) Arizonans agree that their state should do more to manage groundwater in all parts of the state and 79% agree that the state can't address the Arizona water crisis without safeguarding all our groundwater supplies. Further, 86% of Arizonans say it is a priority for the state government to have stronger regulations to prevent groundwater supplies from being depleted due to over-pumping, including 57% who say this is a *top priority*.
 - Rural Arizonans also recognize that it should be a *top priority* (62%) for the state government to have stronger regulations to prevent groundwater supplies from being depleted due to over-pumping.
- Addressing groundwater consumption in the state is an issue that Arizonans agree is not something that the state has plenty of time to address, rather four-in-five (81%) agree that the state needs to act now and invest in groundwater management to safeguard the state's water resources.
- Three-in-four (75%) Arizonans agree that unlimited groundwater pumping in rural Arizona should be regulated, while only a quarter (25%) say that anyone in rural Arizona should be allowed to drill a groundwater well without limits. Arizonans across the political spectrum agree that unlimited groundwater pumping in rural Arizona should be regulated:
 - Democrats (85%) | Independents (75%) | Republicans (64%)



Detailed Findings – Restoration and Conservation Investments

- To address drought and decreasing groundwater, Arizonans say it is priority for the state to have large scale conservation to keep more water in the Colorado River to ensure long term stable water supplies (92% priority) and to boost restoration projects that improve river and stream flows to create more sustainable water sources (90%).
- As the state government considers ways to address water issues in Arizona, Arizonans view investments that improve Arizona’s water supply as very important – such as conservation projects that will protect water reserves available in Lake Powell and Lake Mead (93% important), restoration projects that will improve river and stream flows (91%), and conservation projects that will protect groundwater levels (92%).
- In thinking about additional ways to address Arizona’s water issues, Arizonans are very supportive of natural infrastructure solutions such as restoring floodplains, protecting groundwater supplies, and restoring forests.



- Arizonans agree that substantial investments in water conservation are key to the state’s economic well-being for the next five years (89%) and that we need to do everything we can to keep more water in the Colorado River, so it is a stable water source for future generations (89%).
- Nine-in-ten (92%) Arizonans say it is important that the Arizona State Legislature take action this session to address Arizona’s water issues, including 70% who say this is *very important*.

Methodology:

This poll was conducted between April 6-April 10, 2023 among a sample of 813 Registered Voters in Arizona (Arizonans). The interviews were conducted online and the data was weighted to approximate a target sample of Registered Voters in Arizona based on gender by age, educational attainment, race, marital status, home ownership, race by educational attainment, and 2020 presidential vote. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. Additional analysis provided by Beck Research.