

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



Bipartisan majorities of Arizona respondents support a wide array of measures to prevent wildfires, including expanding energy efficiency programs and increasing funding for the U.S. forest service. AZ 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 AZ respondents view action around the underlying climate-related factors that cause drought as important for lawmakers to address.

SUPPORT FOR POLICIES

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

Percentage of AZ Respondents Who Support the Following Measures to Reduce the Impacts of Wildfires and Extreme Heat				
% Support (strongly + somewhat)	Increasing funding for the U.S. forest service that would specifically be designated for preventing wildfires	Removing vegetation at risk of starting wildfires, such as dead trees, and selling or recycling it in order to generate revenue for restoration efforts	Investing in alert systems to notify at-risk communities when they may be in danger of a wildfire	Expanding energy efficiency programs to reduce the strain on electricity, gas and water systems, and our citizens' wallets
AZ Respondents	82%	83%	84%	76%
AZ Democrats*	87%	84%	91%	87%
AZ Independents*	85%	86%	82%	77%
AZ Republicans*	72%	76%	77%	59%
AZ Urban Respondents**	76%	78%	80%	73%
AZ Suburban Respondents**	88%	87%	90%	79%

Methodology: This poll was conducted between June 17-June 23, 2021 among a sample of 300 Arizona 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.

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

% Support (strongly + somewhat)	Increasing research around the causes of wildfires and the best solutions for preventing and managing them	Adopting stronger pollution limits for vehicles and power plants in order to increase air quality	Implementing policy and technical solutions that even the burden among citizens during a power outage crisis
AZ Respondents	76%	66%	69%
AZ Democrats*	86%	84%	79%
AZ Independents*	74%	62%	70%
AZ Republicans*	66%	47%	57%
AZ Urban Respondents**	81%	68%	70%
AZ Suburban Respondents**	78%	70%	69%

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

- Around four in five AZ respondents say it's important (very + somewhat) for the federal government (79%), state government (86%), local government (87%) and private landowners (85%) to invest in better forest management to build resilience to wildfires.

MAJORITIES OF AZ 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 (56%) AND EXTREME HEAT (54%).

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

% More Likely (much + somewhat)	Wildfires	Extreme Heat
AZ Respondents	56%	54%
AZ Urban Respondents**	56%	56%
AZ Suburban Respondents**	64%	61%

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CONCERN AND IMPACT

CONCERN ABOUT WILDFIRES AND EXTREME HEAT IS HIGH AMONG ARIZONA RESPONDENTS.

- 86% of AZ respondents say they're concerned about extreme heat, and 83% express concern over wildfires.

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

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

% Harmful (very + somewhat)	Wildfires	Extreme Heat
Wildlife	87%	82%
The environment	80%	77%
Agriculture	75%	83%
Forests	86%	77%
Human health	80%	83%
Air quality	84%	73%
Safety of human life	81%	78%
Community health	79%	77%
U.S. power grid	66%	65%
Water quality	68%	64%
Safety of personal property (cars, homes)	81%	67%
Tourism and recreation	73%	71%

AZ 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.

- A majority of AZ respondents are very concerned about the impact of drought on wildlife (64%), the U.S. agricultural sector (59%) and the environment (60%).
- Around three quarters of AZ respondents believe it is important for lawmakers at the federal (71%), state (79%) and local (78%) levels to pass legislation to address the underlying climate-related factors that cause drought.

*Party ID n sizes: AZ Democrats: n = 115, AZ independents: n = 93, AZ Republicans: n = 91

**Community type n sizes: AZ urban respondents: n = 117, AZ suburban respondents n = 142

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