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## 2023 Utah People & Environment Poll Descriptive Report

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College of Humanities & Social Sciences  
**Community & Natural Resources Institute**  
**UtahState**University.

# UTAH PEOPLE & ENVIRONMENT POLL

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*Descriptive Report*

June 2023

Prepared by: Dr. Jessica Schad, Sadie Braddock, and Cole Lancaster

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# Introduction

From March to May of 2023, faculty and graduate students at Utah State University (USU) in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHaSS) and in the department of Environment and Society **started the Utah People and Environment Poll, or UPEP, to survey adult Utah residents about their perceptions on environmental issues of importance to the state.**

Respondents were asked about a wide variety of questions, including:

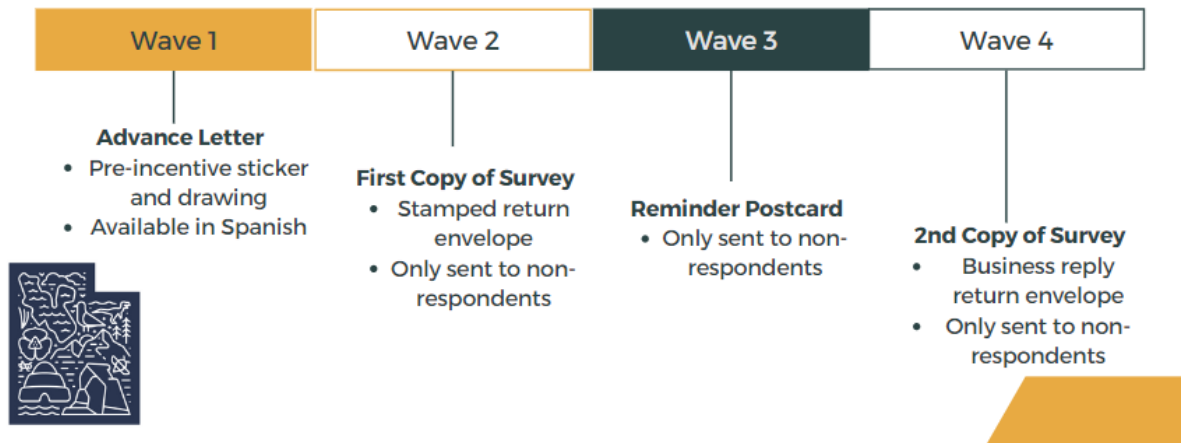
- Concern about various environmental issues
- Connections to place
- Views on policymaking
- Great Salt Lake (awareness of desiccation and effects, experience, concern, support for ways to address)
- Views on energy options
- Outdoor recreation (lifestyle, attachment, views on state funds to support)
- Federal public lands (usage, support for Bears Ears National Monument)
- Perceptions of wildfire threats and management
- Guiding values in life
- Air pollution risk perceptions and information seeking
- Water heritage
- Cultural heritage
- Views on environmental equality and justice
- Climate change perceptions and vulnerability
- Fertility intentions and motivations
- Demographics and background

The 2023 UPEP is the start of an effort to create a mechanism for gathering timely, relevant, and longitudinal data on issues at the intersection of people and the environment in Utah to help inform policy to address environmental issues. Please see our website for additional information about the project (<https://chass.usu.edu/sociology/canri/upep>).

Below we provide an overview of the methods used to collect the data, followed by a description of responses to all questions asked in the survey.

# Methods

The questionnaire was developed through a combination of questions validated in other survey research and those developed by participating faculty and graduate students. An online version of the survey was pre-tested with almost 100 Utahns and subsequently updated using the feedback provided. Using a list from the U.S. Postal Service, households from across the state were selected to participate. We randomly selected 3,750 residents and contacted them up to four times every two weeks to take the online or paper questionnaire (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Waves of Contact for the UPEP

The first wave consisted of an advance letter printed in color and sent in a business size envelope with a USU logo and return address. Recipients were asked to go online and take the survey using a QR code or the shortened link provided. As recommended by Dillman et al. (2014), recipients were not notified that another chance to take the survey would be available. As a token pre-incentive, the first wave included an Aggie Blue-colored state of Utah-shaped sticker with an environment theme and a notification that completing the survey would make the respondent eligible for a drawing of one of two \$500 gift cards. Wave 2 was sent to non-respondents in a 9x12 envelope and included a copy of the 16-page booklet questionnaire and an addressed and stamped return envelope. A color postcard with images of a diversity of environmental landscapes in Utah was sent to non-respondents in wave 3 (see Figure 2). Finally, non-respondents were mailed another copy of the survey and a business-reply addressed return envelope. The survey was also translated to Spanish, and respondents were provided with the option to take it in Spanish or English online.



**Figure 2.** *Front of Postcard for Wave 3 of the UPEP*

Surveys returned via mail were entered into Qualtrics. Once data collection was complete, the data was cleaned for incomplete responses (<50% of questions answered), non-logical responses, etc. Design weights were applied to account for the within household selection process (i.e., accounting for the number of eligible adults). Rake weights were subsequently applied to make minor adjustments for age, education, and gender. These weights are applied with the exception of open-ended questions.

After the four waves of contact, 442 Utahns completed the majority of the UPEP. One incorrect address was returned; thus the response rate was 12% (442/3749). Thirty percent took the survey on paper and 70% online. Twenty-nine percent of respondents took the survey during Wave 1, 30% during Wave 2, 15% during Wave 3, and 26% during Wave 4.

All percentages shown throughout the remainder of the report are valid percentages (e.g., do not include the missing data).



# Findings

## Section 1. GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF UTAH ISSUES

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**Question 1. Broadly speaking, what do you think is the most important problem facing Utah today?** *While this survey is about environmental issues, please feel free to note any type of issue.* (N = 375)

See appendix for a thematic summary of responses.

**Question 2. How concerned are you right now about the following environmental or related issues in Utah?**

	Not concerned at all	Not very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned
Drought/lack of water (N = 438)	2.8%	10.2%	29.4%	57.6%
The drying up of the Great Salt Lake and related issues (N = 437)	2.9%	10.6%	31.8%	54.8%
Poor air quality (N = 437)	1.0%	11.4%	35.5%	52.2%
Wildfires (N = 439)	5.2%	18.5%	49.8%	26.6%
Loss of open space to residential development (N = 437)	6.2%	17.9%	34.0%	41.9%
Increased temperature/heat (N = 436)	12.8%	28.3%	32.4%	26.6%
Changing access to public lands and/or recreation areas (N = 434)	3.6%	16.3%	37.0%	43.1%
Population growth (N = 440)	5.4%	14.1%	36.9%	43.6%
Climate change (N = 438)	16.2%	16.7%	32.6%	34.5%
Other, please specify: see appendix (N = 78)	21.9%	4.2%	8.0%	65.9%

## Section 2. CONNECTIONS TO PLACE

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**Question 1. How many years have you lived in Utah overall?** *Please enter a full number, rounding up.* (N = 438)

Average years = 37.5; range = 1-88

**Question 2. How many years have you lived in the town/city you are currently in overall?** *Please enter a full number, rounding up* (N = 436)

Average years = 21.1; range = 1-77

**Question 3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the place you live, or what you consider to be your community, unless specified?**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
I would regret having to move to another place. (N = 436)	7.13%	26.5%	32.5%	34.1%
I have the financial means to move to another place if I want to. (N = 438)	18.2%	15.2%	32.5%	34.1%
This place says a lot about who I am. (N = 436)	15.3%	23.6%	36.5%	24.6%
This place is the best place for what I like to do. (N = 439)	5.7%	22.8%	40.7%	30.7%
If this place changes too much, I might want to leave. (N = 436)	9.1%	22.2%	44.2%	24.5%
I have/would consider moving due to environmental/climate reasons. (N = 439)	24.7%	30.3%	26.4%	18.6%
I have/would consider moving because of population growth in Utah. (N = 439)	17.8%	25.9%	35.7%	20.3%
I would not move from this place due to ties to family or ancestors. (N = 439)	21.5%	29.9%	28.2%	20.5%
Moving to another place would increase my standard of living. (N = 431)	13.6%	38.4%	34.9%	13.2%
My employment prevents me from leaving this place. (N = 425)	45.1%	22.3%	22.1%	10.5%
I am very attached to the Great Salt Lake, even if the place where I live is not close to it. (N = 436)	27.8%	28.6%	27.3%	16.2%

**Question 4. Do you intend to still be living in Utah in five years? (N = 439)**

Yes	No	Not sure
67.1%	7.1%	25.7%

**Question 5. To what degree do you consider the following when you think about moving from your current location:**

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	A lot
Extreme weather, natural hazard, or disaster (N = 437)	30.9%	22.9%	25.9%	20.3%
Climate change (N = 434)	38.1%	27.1%	22.6%	12.2%
The drying up of the Great Salt Lake and related issues (N = 433)	39.6%	20.6%	22.8%	17.0%
Poor air quality (N = 435)	16.0%	28.1%	24.6%	31.4%
Wildfires (N = 435)	32.5%	34.2%	23.5%	9.8%
Drought/lack of water (N = 434)	15.4%	19.6%	27.6%	37.8%

## Section 3. POLICYMAKING

**Question 1. What is your primary source of news?** Please try to be as specific as possible, for example: "TV--Fox News"; etc. (N = 433)

See appendix for a thematic summary of responses.

**Question 2. Which of the following best represents your general opinion? Environmental regulations in the U.S... (N = 429)**

	Percentage
Are excessively strong	12.9%
Are too strong, but not excessive	13.9%
Are about right	14.9%
Need to be somewhat stronger	32.3%
Need to be a lot stronger	25.9%

**Question 3. Please choose the statement that comes closest to your own point of view. (N = 426)**

	Percentage
Economic growth and creating jobs should be the top priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent.	22.6%
Protecting the environment should be given priority, even if it causes slower economic growth and some job loss.	77.4%

**Question 4. In your opinion, are politicians and policymakers in Utah doing too much or not enough to address the following issues?**

	Too much	Just right	Not enough	Not anywhere near enough	Don't know /unsure
Drought/lack of water (N = 438)	2.9%	13.9%	34.2%	33.9%	15.1%
The drying up of the Great Salt Lake and related issues (N = 437)	5.7%	15.2%	29.1%	33.6%	16.4%
Poor air quality (N = 438)	2.1%	16.7%	33.2%	38.0%	10.0%
Wildfires (N = 438)	4.4%	34.3%	29.5%	11.0%	20.8%
Loss of open space to residential development (N = 439)	2.9%	10.9%	38.8%	33.9%	13.6%
Increased temperature/heat (N = 435)	5.6%	22.8%	23.2%	17.4%	31.1%
Changing access to public lands and/or recreation areas (N = 435)	14.1%	16.1%	27.4%	15.4%	27.1%
Population growth (N = 437)	5.1%	16.8%	31.8%	28.5%	17.9%
Climate change (N = 434)	11.3%	17.2%	26.1%	22.6%	22.8%
Other, please specify: see appendix (N = 55)	7.9%	8.1%	3.8%	40.5%	39.8%



**Question 5. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
An economic system based on free markets unrestrained by government interference automatically works best to meet human needs. (N = 431)	21.3%	15.7%	22.8%	24.2%	16.1%
A free-market economy is preferable to any other form of economic system. (N = 434)	9.2%	14.1%	23.7%	26.1%	26.8%
Preservation of the free-market system is more important than environmental concerns. (N = 430)	29.0%	23.8%	22.7%	12.2%	12.4%

**Section 4. GREAT SALT LAKE**

**Question 1. An issue facing the Great Salt Lake (GSL) is desiccation, or the shrinking and drying up of the lake. How aware of this issue are you? (N = 436)**

Not aware at all	Not very aware	Somewhat aware	Very aware
1.8%	4.9%	43.7%	49.5%

**Question 2. One of the main drivers of GSL desiccation is water use in Utah and in other states, especially for agriculture. How aware of this are you? (N = 435)**

Not aware at all	Not very aware	Somewhat aware	Very aware
4.0%	11.4%	45.3%	29.3%

**Question 3. How much do you agree or disagree with this statement? I have personally experienced issues related to the drying up of the GSL and related issues in Utah. (N = 434)**

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/not applicable
20.0%	11.6%	20.0%	26.6%	13.0%	8.9%

**Question 4. Have you ever visited the GSL, its islands, bays or shore lands (including refuges and preserves)? (N = 429)**

Yes	No
82.6%	17.4%

**Question 5. The following are some of the effects of Great Salt Lake (GSL) desiccation. How aware of each effect are you?**

	<b>Not aware at all</b>	<b>Not very aware</b>	<b>Somewhat aware</b>	<b>Very aware</b>
Harm to human health from dust (N = 438)	10.7%	12.5%	32.7%	44.1%
Harm to migrating birds/other species (habitat or food loss) (N = 438)	4.8%	13.4%	39.4%	42.4%
Harmful algal blooms (N = 436)	7.5%	21.2%	28.4%	43.0%
Harm to agriculture from dust (N = 438)	11.8%	29.8%	26.2%	32.3%
Harm to industry, including brine shrimp and minerals (N = 435)	13.6%	17.4%	38.0%	31.0%
Harm to lake recreation/tourism (closing of resorts and marinas) (N = 436)	8.5%	22.4%	33.2%	35.9%
Harm to the ski industry (reduced lake effect, dust on snow) (N = 435)	16.6%	27.3%	25.4%	30.6%
Shrinking of the lake itself (intrinsic value of the lake) (N = 434)	4.4%	11.0%	32.0%	52.7%
Loss of cultural value of the lake (Salt Lake City's namesake) (N = 434)	10.0%	23.0%	33.0%	34.0%
Costs of measures to prevent desiccation (N = 434)	17.7%	36.5%	30.0%	15.8%
Costs of addressing the effects of desiccation (N = 433)	19.2%	36.1%	30.0%	14.7%

**Question 6. Knowing some of these effects of Great Salt Lake desiccation, how concerned about each of these effects are you?**

	<b>Not concerned at all</b>	<b>Not very concerned</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>Very concerned</b>
Harm to human health from dust (N = 438)	3.2%	10.8%	35.4%	50.6%
Harm to migrating birds/other species (habitat or food loss) (N = 438)	2.7%	7.7%	43.5%	46.1%
Harmful algal blooms (N = 436)	3.0%	15.5%	40.9%	40.5%
Harm to agriculture from dust (N = 436)	4.8%	14.2%	39.7%	41.3%
Harm to industry, including brine shrimp and minerals (N = 437)	6.1%	19.8%	47.8%	26.2%
Harm to lake recreation/tourism (closing of resorts and marinas) (N = 436)	13.0%	28.2%	37.5%	21.2%
Harm to the ski industry (reduced lake effect, dust on snow) (N = 437)	16.5%	27.6%	29.9%	26.1%
Shrinking of the lake itself (intrinsic value of the lake) (N = 435)	7.9%	11.6%	37.7%	42.9%
Loss of cultural value of the lake (Salt Lake City's namesake) (N = 436)	19.7%	23.5%	32.7%	24.1%
Costs of measures to prevent desiccation (N = 435)	4.8%	16.3%	45.0%	33.9%
Costs of addressing the effects of desiccation (N = 436)	3.2%	13.6%	44.5%	38.7%

**Question 7. How strongly do you oppose or support the following strategies to protect the Great Salt Lake (GSL)?**

	<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	<b>Neither oppose/support</b>	<b>Somewhat support</b>	<b>Strongly support</b>
Increase the price of water in Utah (Utah has some of the least expensive water in the United States) (N = 437)	30.4%	17.0%	18.2%	23.2%	11.3%
Create more policies to reduce outdoor watering (N = 432)	8.9%	15.1%	9.4%	27.0%	39.5%
Limit growth of municipal water use (N = 437)	7.1%	9.0%	17.2%	41.8%	24.9%
Limit growth of industrial water use (N = 436)	2.9%	10.8%	14.4%	33.0%	38.9%
Create incentives for farmers who grow water-intensive crops like alfalfa to shift to water-saving technologies/crops (N = 437)	8.4%	5.2%	13.9%	26.2%	46.3%
Restrict farmers' planting of water-intensive crops like alfalfa (N = 437)	20.7%	16.2%	23.0%	20.8%	19.3%
Change water rights laws to further discourage "use it or lose it" and encourage ranchers and farmers to lease out their water rights and divert water to the GSL (N = 436)	12.7%	6.5%	21.8%	27.6%	31.4%
Change water rights laws to grant the GSL its own rights to water to guarantee a consistent amount gets to it (N = 433)	9.8%	6.9%	23.3%	27.3%	32.8%
Adopt an approach that takes into account justice for humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems (N = 432)	5.8%	3.0%	19.5%	32.0%	39.7%
Increase winter precipitation with cloud seeding (stimulate precipitation by spreading substances at high altitudes) (N = 436)	13.2%	12.6%	28.3%	31.7%	14.2%

**Question 8. How strongly do you oppose or support the following strategies to protect the Great Salt Lake (GSL)?**

	<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	<b>Neither oppose/ support</b>	<b>Somewhat support</b>	<b>Strongly support</b>
Incentivize reduction of household water consumption (N = 433)	6.4%	12.9%	16.2%	38.0%	26.5%
Mandate reduction of household water consumption (N = 433)	29.6%	27.4%	16.8%	20.1%	6.1%
Incentivize reduction of business water consumption (N = 429)	3.1%	5.4%	10.3%	37.4%	43.7%
Mandate reduction of business water consumption (N = 433)	14.8%	14.3%	17.2%	27.1%	26.5%
Incentivize reduction of agriculture water consumption (N = 431)	7.3%	8.1%	16.2%	34.3%	34.0%
Mandate reduction of agriculture water consumption (N = 434)	26.3%	17.4%	15.4%	24.4%	16.5%
Take no action; the GSL will recover on its own (N = 432)	48.3%	20.9%	12.5%	9.4%	8.9%
Take no action; let the GSL dry up (N = 429)	74.5%	13.2%	7.7%	3.1%	1.5%

## Section 5. ENERGY OPTIONS

**Question 1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Growing energy needs pose a threat to Utah's natural environment. (N = 429)	5.1%	14.5%	25.7%	37.7%	17.0%
I would be/am willing to pay more for energy from carbon pollution-free (i.e., solar, wind, geothermal) sources. (N = 433)	15.5%	22.0%	24.0%	27.5%	11.0%
Transitioning to carbon pollution-free energy sources would lessen the negative impacts of climate change. (N = 431)	14.9%	7.3%	20.0%	36.3%	21.4%
Access to carbon pollution-free energy is important to me. (N = 431)	8.9%	7.4%	33.6%	28.7%	21.4%

**Question 2. Would you support or oppose the following resource/energy projects or policies in your local area (e.g., within about 50 miles)? If these already exist, please indicate how much you support or oppose them.**

	Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither oppose/support	Support	Strongly support
Coal-fired power plants (N = 434)	29.7%	25.7%	27.8%	9.9%	7.1%
Natural gas power plants (N = 435)	13.5%	10.4%	40.2%	24.0%	12.0%
Solar farms (N = 434)	6.6%	4.3%	16.1%	34.2%	38.9%
Wind farms (N = 433)	8.2%	7.8%	12.2%	33.4%	38.5%
Nuclear power production (N = 435)	18.1%	13.7%	21.7%	22.7%	23.9%
Geothermal power production (N = 433)	3.6%	1.2%	36.8%	23.0%	35.5%

## Section 6. OUTDOOR RECREATION

**Question 1. How important are outdoor recreation options and/or access to wilderness and public lands to your lifestyle? (N = 434)**

Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
1.0%	5.1%	15.5%	29.8%	48.5%

**Question 2. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I am very attached to Utah's National Parks (e.g., Arches, Zion, etc.) (N = 433)	1.3%	4.4%	10.5%	37.3%	46.5%
I am very attached to Utah's other public lands (national forests, state parks, etc.) (N = 435)	1.3%	2.4%	5.5%	33.5%	57.3%
I would feel less attached to Utah if the native plants and animals that live here disappeared. (N = 434)	6.7%	9.7%	15.3%	27%	41.3%
Doing my outdoor recreation activities in Utah is more important to me than doing them in any other place. (N = 435)	5.6%	12.5%	20.4%	29.0%	32.5%
The friendships I have developed through doing outdoor recreation activities in Utah are very important to me. (N = 435)	6.1%	7.0%	29.0%	25.9%	32.1%
The memories I have made with my family through doing outdoor recreation activities in Utah are very important to me. (N = 434)	0.9%	1.6%	5.9%	34.1%	57.6%
Utah's outdoor recreation opportunities support my ideal lifestyle. (N = 435)	2.2%	3.8%	15.9%	28.9%	49.2%

**Question 3. How much do you support or oppose using state funds for the following efforts?**

	<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>Somewhat oppose</b>	<b>Neither oppose/support</b>	<b>Somewhat support</b>	<b>Strongly support</b>
Acquire land and water areas to provide public access to recreation opportunities (N = 432)	5.7%	6.1%	22.6%	36.2%	29.4%
Maintain existing recreation resources (e.g., trails, campgrounds) (N = 431)	0.6%	0.2%	5.6%	41.0%	52.7%
Develop new recreation resources (e.g., new trails) (N = 430)	1.3%	4.5%	27.9%	31.9%	34.4%
Expand existing parking areas or build new parking areas at recreation access sites (e.g., trailheads) (N = 431)	4.8%	10.1%	33.0%	30.0%	22.2%
Provide public transportation to recreation access sites (N = 430)	5.0%	7.3%	33.5%	32.5%	21.6%
Add bike lanes to roadways (N = 433)	8.6%	10.4%	31.2%	27.1%	22.7%
Build more greenways and trails within communities (N = 430)	2.0%	1.5%	18.0%	45.3%	33.2%
Provide education on responsible recreation (e.g., Leave No Trace) (N = 432)	1.4%	2.9%	9.0%	33.3%	53.4%

## Section 7. FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

**Question 1. About how often do you visit federal public lands for leisure activities (e.g., recreation)? (N = 435)**

	Percentage
Never	2.1%
A couple of times a year	56.9%
About every month, or a few times a month	14.9%
About every week, or a few times each week	25.4%
Every day	0.9%

**Question 2. How much do you support or oppose each statement about Bears Ears?**

	Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither oppose/support	Support	Strongly support
The Bears Ears area should <u>remain designated</u> as a National Monument. (N = 436)	4.6%	5.9%	32.4%	17.7%	39.4%
The Bears Ears National Monument should be <u>reduced</u> from its current size. (N = 435)	36.0%	15.7%	30.1%	8.9%	9.3%
The State of Utah should pursue <u>legal action</u> to overturn the Monument. (N = 433)	42.6%	10.0%	36.1%	4.8%	6.5%
The State of Utah should <u>dedicate state tax funds</u> for legal efforts to overturn the monument. (N = 435)	52.9%	10.3%	28.3%	3.7%	4.8%



## Section 8. WILDFIRE

Question 1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Wildfire currently poses a significant threat to Utah <b>residents</b> . (N = 438)	8.3%	11.8%	22.9%	42.0%	14.9%
Wildfire currently poses a significant threat to Utah's <b>landscapes</b> . (N = 438)	3.0%	9.9%	15.2%	46.4%	25.6%
Prescribed, or controlled, burning can be an effective forest and/or rangeland management technique in Utah. (N = 439)	1.3%	2.4%	16.9%	47.5%	32.0%
Utah's federally recognized Tribes should be consulted in future climate change initiatives on Utah's state and federal lands. (N = 437)	4.1%	7.1%	27.5%	35.5%	25.9%
Federal and state land managers in Utah should pursue more co-management agreements with Tribal governments, where they collaborate to make joint land management decisions. (N = 438)	3.8%	6.3%	20.9%	39.9%	29.1%

## Section 9. GUIDING VALUES

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**Question 1. Consider each set of items below and indicate how important each value is as a guiding principle in your life.**

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very
Respecting the earth, harmony with other species (N = 436)	1.3%	4.4%	21.1%	73.2%
Protecting the environment, preserving nature (N = 436)	0.5%	4.9%	19.8%	74.9%
Equality, equal opportunity for all (N = 430)	2.2%	4.9%	15.0%	77.9%
Social justice, correcting injustice, care for the weak (N = 434)	7.6%	9.9%	23.2%	59.2%
Protecting the environment for future generations (N = 435)	0.1%	2.5%	14.8%	82.6%

## Section 10. AIR POLLUTION

**Question 1. It is likely that I will experience health concerns caused by air pollution:**

	Extremely unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Extremely likely
In the <u>next year</u> . (N = 435)	24.3%	22.4%	19.0%	20.8%	13.6%
In the <u>next ten years</u> . (N = 435)	12.3%	17.4%	21.4%	23.0%	25.9%
In <u>my lifetime</u> . (N = 436)	7.4%	10.7%	17.4%	23.4%	41.1%

**Question 2. I am confident that I can:**

	Not at all confident	Slightly confident	Somewhat confident	Fairly confident	Extremely confident	Does not apply
Avoid outdoor activities when the air quality is poor. (N = 438)	18.4%	11.5%	19.1%	25.5%	19.6%	5.9%
Limit my driving when the air quality is poor. (N = 437)	23.4%	13.3%	21.6%	24%	14.9%	2.9%
Get an air purifier to reduce air pollution in my home. (N = 435)	9.2%	8.9%	13.4%	30.9%	33.1%	4.6%

**Question 3. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Air pollution is a serious problem that can cause harm. (N = 437)	0.7%	0.9%	10.5%	42.1%	45.8%
Air pollution is more serious than most people realize. (N = 438)	1%	5.4%	19.2%	34.6%	39.9%
Avoiding outdoor activities when the air quality is poor will prevent health concerns caused by air pollution. (N = 438)	7.6%	14.4%	37.3%	28.3%	12.5%
Limiting my driving when the air quality is poor will prevent health concerns caused by air pollution. (N = 437)	7.4%	15.1%	34.6%	29.9%	13%
Using an air filter in my home will prevent health concerns caused by air pollution. (N = 437)	5.3%	12.4%	42.5%	30.2%	9.7%

**Question 4. Thinking about the past 12 months, did you actively look for information about air pollution? (N = 433)**

Yes	No	Don't recall
41.5%	46.4%	12%

**Question 5. Did you actively seek information about air pollution from any sources in the past 12 months? Check all that apply.**

	Percentage
Doctors or other medical professionals (N = 195)	24.0%
Family, friends, or coworkers (N = 195)	40.3%
Digital or printed billboards (N = 195)	19.1%
Social media (N = 195)	36.8%
Print, television, and radio outlets (N = 195)	36.4%
Smartphone applications (apps) (N = 195)	54.1%
News websites (N = 195)	58.1%
Government website (N = 195)	42.0%

**Question 6. Thinking about the past 12 months, did you hear or come across information about air pollution even when you were not actively looking for it? (N = 435)**

Yes	No	Don't recall
78.8%	13.7%	7.5%

**Question 7. How many times did you hear or come across information about air pollution from each of the following sources when you were not actively looking for it in the past 12 months?**

	Not at all	1-2 times	3 or more times	I don't recall
Doctors or other medical professionals (N = 326)	67.4%	14.9%	8.8%	8.9%
Family, friends, or coworkers (N = 323)	20.7%	41.5%	33.0%	4.8%
Print, television, and radio outlets (N = 331)	12.7%	29.3%	49.6%	8.4%
Smartphone applications (apps) (N = 328)	33.3%	19.0%	36.7%	11.0%
Digital or printed billboards (N = 327)	42.7%	23.1%	19.6%	14.6%
Social media (N = 330)	30.9%	25.4%	30.9%	12.7%
News websites (N = 332)	21.6%	28.0%	41.1%	9.4%
Government websites (N = 329)	50.9%	15.5%	11.2%	22.4%

**Question 8. I intend to do the following in response to poor air quality:**

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither agree/disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Does not apply</b>
Avoid outdoor activities (N = 437)	20.7%	15.7%	23.4%	25.5%	12.6%	2.1%
Limit driving (N = 436)	13.8%	11.4%	22.7%	39.0%	11.5%	1.7%
Use an air filter in my home (N = 437)	8.0%	9.3%	24.6%	31.0%	24.3%	2.7%

**Question 9. How often do you already do the following in response to poor air quality?**

	<b>Never</b>	<b>Rarely</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Often</b>	<b>Always</b>	<b>Does not apply</b>
Avoid outdoor activities (N = 438)	26.1%	23.0%	25.0%	17.6%	6.4%	1.9%
Limit driving (N = 438)	16.2%	22.1%	31.5%	21.7%	4.8%	3.8%
Use an air filter in my home (N = 436)	33.8%	11.8%	12.6%	12.2%	20.4%	9.1%

## Section 11. WATER HERITAGE

**Question 1. Please indicate which options describe your current relationship with water. Please select all that apply.**

	Percentage
Farmer/rancher using water for agricultural or livestock purposes (N = 441)	7.8%
Water manager involved with water management or policy (N = 441)	4.0%
Community member who is a residential and/or recreational water user (N = 441)	90.6%
Owner of water rights (i.e., right to divert, or remove from its natural source, and beneficially use water) (N = 441)	10.5%

**Question 2. On a scale of 1-10 rank the severity of Utah's current water crisis, with 1 being the least and 10 the most severe: (N = 401)**

Average = 7.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.1%	1.6%	5.2%	1.6%	9.8%	5.9%	21.6%	27.8%	9.3%	15.1%

**Question 3. Please rank the following based on how much you think they contribute to Utah's current water crisis, with 1 indicating the most and 11 indicating the least:**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Agricultural uses (N = 388)	21.6%	8.3%	8.5%	9.1%	13.1%	11.7%	3.9%	13.9%	2.9%	5.0%	2.0%
Federal political involvement (N = 383)	3.6%	3.9%	4.2%	4.4%	10.7%	9.8%	12.4%	13.2%	20.4%	13.3%	4.3%
Local political involvement (state or city) (N = 385)	3.9%	3.6%	7.2%	7.5%	10.9%	10.5%	13.0%	14.3%	9.8%	14.9%	4.5%
Religious beliefs (N = 384)	4.0%	3.6%	2.2%	3.0%	3.3%	0.8%	3.5%	5.1%	9.5%	8.1%	57.0%
Lack of precipitation (N = 388)	19.1%	22.1%	16.2%	8.2%	7.7%	11.3%	2.4%	5.2%	2.3%	2.0%	3.6%
Population growth (N = 388)	20.4%	18.6%	23.0%	9.6%	8.8%	6.4%	6.5%	3.0%	1.8%	0.7%	1.3%
Environmental and conservation policies (e.g., Clean Air and Clean Water Acts) (N = 384)	1.3%	9.0%	3.4%	3.0%	4.6%	6.9%	13.4%	15.4%	14.1%	17.2%	11.7%
Water management policies (e.g., water rights) (N = 384)	5.0%	7.0%	9.8%	14.7%	17.9%	10.5%	10.6%	7.0%	8.5%	5.1%	4.0%
Desert environment (N = 387)	16.4%	12.1%	13.1%	12.9%	3.7%	8.0%	8.1%	3.8%	8.3%	8.4%	5.3%
Residential uses (N = 386)	6.9%	9.3%	5.7%	17.9%	8.0%	10.4%	11.1%	9.4%	7.8%	10.2%	3.3%
Recreational uses (N = 386)	5.6%	1.9%	5.0%	9.1%	14.3%	10.9%	12.7%	10.8%	11.5%	14.0%	4.4%

**Question 4. Please indicate what you think could be changed to reduce Utah’s current water crisis. Check all that apply.**

	Percentage
Agricultural uses (N = 441)	50.4%
Federal political involvement (N = 441)	36.2%
Local political involvement (state or city) (N = 441)	45.1%
Religious beliefs (N = 441)	9.0%
Lack of precipitation (N = 441)	28.1%
Population growth (N = 441)	52.1%
Environmental and conservation policies (e.g., Clean Air and Clean Water Acts) (N = 440)	36.4%
Water management policies (e.g., water rights) (N = 440)	63.3%
Desert environment (N = 441)	10.8%
Residential uses (N = 440)	54.2%
Recreational uses (N = 441)	37.1%

**Question 5. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about water**

	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree
Water is an important part of my identity. (N = 427)	5.7%	3.2%	38.7%	21.5%	30.9%
Water is an important part of my family’s heritage. (N = 428)	12.3%	7.8%	46.2%	12.9%	20.8%
Water features like canals, dams, ponds, and reservoirs are important places in my community. (N = 431)	1.4%	3.9%	16.9%	36.9%	41.0%
In the past, people valued water features like canals, dams, ponds, and reservoirs more than they do today. (N = 428)	2.7%	6.3%	32.2%	28.1%	30.8%
Water features (e.g., canals, ponds, etc.) are important to the history of my community and should be preserved. (N = 427)	3.6%	8.2%	26.8%	33.1%	28.2%
The <u>local</u> government(s) is managing water in a responsible way. (N = 430)	20.5%	24.3%	36.9%	15.2%	3.0%
The <u>state</u> government is managing water in a responsible way. (N = 429)	27.7%	29.7%	28.4%	11.7%	2.5%
The <u>federal</u> government is managing water in a responsible way. (N = 430)	30.2%	29.6%	31.4%	6.6%	2.2%

## Section 12. CULTURAL HERITAGE

Question 1. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree
I consider myself knowledgeable about Utah's cultural heritage. (N = 428)	5.7%	5.2%	17.9%	49.3%	22.0%
Utah's cultural heritage is an important part of my identity. (N = 428)	20.0%	11.9%	24.3%	27.2%	16.7%
I am concerned about the loss of Utah's cultural heritage due to economic development. (N = 427)	9.6%	11.5%	22.2%	38.8%	18.0%
Cultural heritage preservation should be included as part of planning and/or new development in Utah. (N = 426)	7.1%	3.0%	23.4%	43.5%	23.2%
The <u>state</u> government is managing Utah's cultural heritage responsibly. (N = 426)	7.3%	17.6%	53.6%	16.6%	4.9%
The <u>federal</u> government is managing Utah's cultural heritage responsibly. (N = 428)	17.6%	23.8%	47.3%	8.6%	2.7%
I visit a site of Utah's cultural heritage (i.e., museum, state park, National Monument, or National Park) <u>at least once each year</u> . (N = 426)	6.9%	5.3%	12.1%	20.5%	55.2%
I am concerned about vandalism/destruction of Utah's cultural heritage sites. (N = 428)	2.1%	2.9%	9.6%	28.1%	57.3%
I am interested in learning more about Utah's cultural heritage sites. (N = 426)	5.7%	4.8%	28.0%	34.5%	26.9%
I am interested in participating in public programs intended to conserve Utah's cultural heritage. (N = 426)	8.4%	6.9%	44.0%	25.7%	15.1%



## Section 13. THE ENVIRONMENT & EQUALITY

**Question 1. For Utahns, how much do you think differences across the following identity categories can lead to uneven or unequal experiences of environmental risks or harms?**

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	A lot
Geographic location (N = 417)	1.8%	15.5%	35.2%	47.5%
Class or economic status (N = 415)	5.8%	21.2%	36.7%	36.3%
Race, ethnicity, or Indigeneity (N = 417)	30.5%	14.8%	28.2%	26.5%
Gender (N = 415)	56.0%	19.8%	17.5%	6.7%
Nationality (N = 411)	43.6%	23.6%	23.0%	9.8%
Sexuality (N = 414)	64.0%	16.2%	12.5%	9.3%
Age (N = 416)	28.6%	22.8%	29.2%	19.4%
Disability (N = 414)	26.6%	24.4%	26.3%	22.6%
A combination of several of these or other factors (N = 405)	11.0%	23.2%	35.3%	30.5%

**Question 2. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
Government must ensure that some people are not more exposed to pollution than others. (N = 424)	17.5%	14.8%	19.3%	32.9%	15.6%
Government should fund environmental equity initiatives. (N = 420)	12.2%	8.3%	24.4%	32.5%	22.7%
Corporations should be held accountable for harming low-income and communities of color, even if unintentional. (N = 424)	10.2%	5.6%	13.6%	20.2%	50.5%
Historically polluting countries have an obligation to help countries suffering the consequences of that pollution. (N = 423)	10.3%	1.6%	18.7%	36.1%	33.4%
Government should honor historical treaties that place unceded territories back into Indigenous hands. (N = 425)	7.9%	10.7%	24.9%	24.1%	32.3%
Government should fund programs to support workers in declining energy industries who face unemployment. (N = 424)	8.5%	10.7%	27.5%	29.7%	23.7%
Government should proactively work to ensure that low-income communities and communities of color don't have worse environments than wealthier, whiter communities. (N = 421)	13.2%	7.3%	19.2%	23.6%	36.8%

## Section 14. CLIMATE CHANGE & VULNERABILITY

**Question 1. Concerning the scientists who study climate change, which statement comes closest to your view? (N = 424)**

	Percentage
Most scientists agree that climate change is happening	77.8%
Most scientists disagree that climate change is happening	7.2%
I don't know whether scientists agree or disagree that climate change is happening	15.0%

**Question 2. Which of the following three statements do you think is more accurate? (N = 418)**

	Percentage
Climate change is happening now, caused mainly by human activities	62.4%
Climate change is happening now, but caused mainly by natural forces	27.9%
Climate change is NOT happening now	3.4%
Don't know/Not applicable	6.2%

**Question 3. Which statement do you think is more accurate? Utah winter temperatures over the past 10 years... (N = 427)**

	Percentage
Have been cooler, on average, than winters since 1980	9.6%
Have been about the same, on average, as winters since 1980	10.2%
Have been warmer, on average, than winters since 1980	55.0%
Don't know/ Not sure	25.2%

**Question 4. How much do you feel you understand about global warming or climate change? (N = 425)**

	Percentage
Nothing at all	0.7%
Only a little	19.6%
A moderate amount	54.2%
A great deal	23.9%
Don't know/ Not applicable	1.6%

**Question 5. How often do you discuss global warming with your friends and family? (N = 424)**

	Percentage
Never	13.3%
Rarely	37.2%
Occasionally	37.5%
Often	12.0%

**Question 6. How much do you think global warming will harm you personally? (N = 426)**

	Percentage
Nothing at all	21.5%
Only a little	16.3%
A moderate amount	27.5%
A great deal	28.3%
Don't know/ Not applicable	6.4%

**Question 7. Have you ever been temporarily or permanently displaced due to a disaster or extreme weather event? (N = 424)**

Yes	No
15.2%	84.8%

**Question 8. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
My household is in an at-risk area for climate change or extreme weather events. (N = 428)	19.4%	26.6%	19.7%	24.2%	10.1%
If a disaster/extreme weather event evacuated my local area, I could afford food and shelter for at least a week. (N = 428)	5.9%	9.2%	5.1%	36.0%	43.8%
In the event of an evacuation, I have my own private form of transport I can rely on. (N = 426)	1.3%	3.5%	5.1%	23.6%	66.6%
My household is well-prepared for climate change. (N = 426)	6.9%	19.8%	35.7%	25.3%	12.3%
My household does not need to plan or prepare for climate change because it is in God's hands. (N = 426)	51.8%	17.8%	19.2%	6.4%	4.7%
There is nothing anyone can do to keep us safe from the negative impacts of climate change. (N = 424)	40.2%	24.1%	16.9%	13.0%	5.9%

**Question 9. To what degree would you support or oppose policies that relocate people to Utah under these circumstances?**

	<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Strongly support</b>
US citizens displaced by a climate disaster (N = 423)	7.8%	19.3%	57.7%	15.2%
Undocumented immigrants displaced by a climate disaster (N = 418)	23.5%	24.1%	42.5%	9.9%
International migrants displaced by a climate disaster (N = 418)	18.0%	17.9%	50.9%	13.2%
International migrants displaced by violent conflict (N = 422)	13.6%	14.4%	54.4%	17.6%
International migrants displaced by religious persecution (N = 422)	13.1%	16.1%	56.6%	14.2%

## Section 15. THE ENVIRONMENT & FERTILITY

**Question 1. If you don't currently have any children, do you want to have any, or if you do, do you want any more? (N = 395)**

Yes	No
30.4%	69.6%

**Question 2. How much have each of these factors affected your thinking about how many children you want to have? Please answer this even if you don't have any children.**

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	A lot
Personal circumstances or preferences (N = 412)	10.4%	8.2%	16.2%	65.2%
Cultural and/or religious beliefs (N = 413)	51.1%	15.6%	17.0%	16.3%
Financial circumstances (N = 413)	15.1%	16.9%	29.6%	38.5%
Environmental conditions (e.g., drought, climate change) (N = 412)	51.0%	15.2%	18.4%	15.5%
Current household size (total numbers in household) (N = 412)	40.3%	18.4%	17.1%	24.2%
Family gender balance (N = 411)	89.0%	6.0%	3.7%	1.4%
Child's gender (N = 410)	94.1%	2.8%	2.9%	0.3%
Risk of child's death (N = 409)	65.2%	14.3%	12.4%	8.0%
Other, please specify: see appendix (N = 31)	72.4%	0.0%	0.4%	27.2%

## Section 16. DEMOGRAPHICS/BACKGROUND

### Question 1. What year were you born? (N = 424)

Average year born = 1970; range = 1930-2004

### Question 2. Please enter a number for each question (0 if none):

	Average	Range
How many children (biological, step, and/or adopted) do you have? (N = 428)	3	0-15
How many total people (adults and children) currently live in your household, <u>including yourself</u> ? (N = 427)	3	1-9
How many people under 18 years old currently live in your household? (N = 423)	1	0-7

### Question 3. Which of the following best describes your gender? (N = 426)

	Percentage
Woman	47.7%
Man	48.3%
Transgender/Gender non-conforming/other	2.6%
Prefer not to say	1.4%

### Question 4. What is the highest grade in school or level of education that you've completed and got credit for? (N = 425)

	Percentage
Some high school or less	2.2%
High school graduate (includes G.E.D.)	29.3%
Some college, no degree	24.6%
Associates degree	8.0%
Technical/Vocational degree	4.2%
Bachelor's degree (4-year college)	21.5%
Graduate or professional degree	10.2%

### Question 5. Do you rent or own your current place of residence? (N = 429)

	Percentage
Rent	15.0%
Own	73.7%
Other/something else	11.3%

### Question 6. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? (N = 425)

	Percentage
No	92.3%
Yes (Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or another)	7.7%

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**Question 7. What is your race? Please select all that apply.**

	<b>Percentage</b>
White (N = 427)	93.1%
Middle Eastern or North African (N = 0)	0.0%
Black or African American (N = 425)	0.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native (N = 425)	2.1%
Asian Indian, or Asian or Southeast Asian (N = 425)	1.9%
Native Hawaiian/Samoan/other Pacific Islander (N = 425)	0.2%
Other, please specify: see appendix (N = 7)	4.8%

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**Question 8. What is your political party? (N = 421)**

	<b>Percentage</b>
Strong Democrat	9.2%
Not very strong Democrat	7.2%
Independent, leaning towards Democratic	15.7%
Independent	8.9%
Independent, leaning towards Republican	14.2%
Not very strong Republican	11.7%
Strong Republican	14.2%
Libertarian	2.2%
Other party	6.9%
Don't know/Not sure	9.8%

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**Question 9. What best aligns with your political identity? (N = 422)**

	<b>Percentage</b>
Extremely liberal	5.0%
Fairly liberal	18.0%
Somewhat liberal	8.3%
Don't lean to either side	17.2%
Somewhat conservative	14.2%
Fairly conservative	26.0%
Extremely conservative	6.3%
Don't know/not sure	5.1%

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**Question 10. What is your present religion, if any? (N = 418)**

	Percentage
Catholic (Roman)	4.6%
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS)	44.6%
Jewish (Judaism)	0.2%
Muslim (Islam)	0.0%
Other Christian Religion	10.0%
Other non-Christian Religion	0.9%
Something else, please specify: see appendix ( n = 18)	7.3%
Atheist or Agnostic (do not believe in God, not sure if there is a God)	16.9%
I have no religious preference	15.6%

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**Question 11. To what level do you consider yourself religious? (skipped if did not indicate religion) (N = 311)**

	Percentage
Not religious	7.0%
Slightly religious	17.9%
Moderately religious	26.7%
Very religious	48.5%

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**Question 12. What is your current marital status? (N = 428)**

	Percentage
Single, never married	23.1%
Married or domestic partnership	70.5%
Widowed	3.4%
Divorced	2.9%
Separated	0.0%

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**Question 13. In 2022, what was your total household income before taxes? (N = 425)**

	Percentage
Less than \$25,000	11.3%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	7.0%
\$35,000 - \$49,99	7.0%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	14.1%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	16.5%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	22.5%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	4.6%
\$200,000 and above	6.5%
Prefer not to say	10.6%



**Question 14. What is your current employment status? Check all that apply.**

	Percentage
Employed full-time for waged (N = 440)	41.7%
Employed part-time for wages (N = 440)	14.1%
Self-employed (N = 440)	16.1%
A volunteer working at least 20 hours/week (N = 440)	1.1%
Out of work and looking (N = 440)	1.6%
Out of work but not currently looking for work (N = 440)	1.1%
Homemaker (N = 440)	10.9%
Student (N = 440)	11.3%
Military (N = 440)	0.3%
Retired (N = 440)	18.5%
Unable to work (N = 440)	2.7%

**Question 15. Please indicate if you currently work in any of the following sectors. (only currently working were asked to respond) Please select all that apply.**

	Percentage
Aerospace and Defense (N = 257)	3.0%
Agriculture (including Cattle Ranching) (N = 257)	6.5%
Construction (N = 257)	10.9%
Education (N = 257)	13.7%
Energy (renewable) (N = 257)	2.6%
Energy (non-renewable) (N = 257)	1.1%
Financial Activities (N = 257)	5.4%
Government & Public Administration (N = 257)	5.0%
Health Services (N = 257)	13.7%
Information & Technology (N = 257)	10.4%
Leisure & Hospitality (N = 257)	9.8%
Manufacturing (N = 257)	8.2%
Mining (N = 257)	1.2%
Natural Resources Extraction or Management (N = 257)	0.9%
Professional & Business Services (N = 257)	8.0%
Real Estate & Rental and Leasing (N = 257)	3.2%
Salt and Mineral Production (N = 257)	0.0%
Small Business Owner (N = 257)	11.8%
Trade (N = 257)	6.7%
Transportation (N = 257)	2.9%
Utilities (N = 257)	1.9%
Other, please specify: see appendix (N = 30)	16.6%

**Question 16. Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the past 12 months or not.**

	Yes	No
Attended a political rally or speech (N = 416)	10.4%	89.6%
Attended an organized protest of any kind (N = 416)	8.2%	91.8%
Attended a political meeting on local, town or school affairs (N = 419)	23.3%	76.7%
Worked or volunteered for a political party or candidate (N = 419)	4.3%	95.7%
Been an active member of any group that tries to influence public policy or government, not including a political party (N = 416)	7.8%	92.2%
Worked with fellow citizens to solve a problem in your community (N = 424)	29.3%	70.7%

**Question 17. Please indicate whether or not each of the following currently apply to you.**

	Yes	No
I am deaf or have serious difficulty hearing. (N = 422)	1.6%	98.4%
I am blind, or have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses. (N = 422)	0.7%	99.3%
Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, I have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions. (N = 423)	9.1%	90.9%
I have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs. (N = 422)	6.9%	93.1%
I have difficulty dressing or bathing. (N = 419)	0.8%	99.3%
Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, I have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping. (N = 422)	7.0%	93.0%

## APPENDED PLACE DATA

**Respondent county of residence (N=435):**

	Percentage
Beaver	0.2%
Box Elder	0.9%
Cache	4.4%
Carbon	0.5%
Davis	10.8%
Duchesne	0.7%
Emery	0.2%
Garfield	0.2%
Grand	0.9%
Iron	1.65
Juab	0.5%
Kane	0.5%
Millard	0.9%
Morgan	0.5%
Rich	0.2%
Salt Lake	34.7%
San Juan	0.9%
Sevier	0.7%
Summit	1.6%

Tooele	3.0%
Uintah	0.7%
Utah	19.1%
Wasatch	1.4%
Washington	6.4%
Weber	8.5%

## APPENDIX

**Section 1, Question 1** Broadly speaking, what do you think is the most important problem facing Utah today? (N = 375) (note: a few respondents included multiple problems which were coded separately)

1. Water scarcity and management (N = 95)
  - a. Water scarcity due to population growth (N = 25)
  - b. Concerns about water supply and availability (N = 20)
  - c. Drying up of the Great Salt Lake (N = 15)
  - d. Insufficient water resources for a growing population (N = 10)
  - e. Misuse and wastage of water (N = 10)
  - f. Water conservation and efficient usage (N = 10)
  - g. Environmental impacts of water scarcity (N = 5)
2. Environmental impact and climate change (N = 75)
  - a. Air pollution and poor air quality (N = 20)
  - b. Concerns about climate change and its effects (N = 20)
  - c. Loss of natural resources due to rapid growth (N = 15)
  - d. Impact of pollution on the Great Salt Lake (N = 10)
  - e. Environmental degradation and habitat destruction (N = 10)
  - f. Need for sustainable practices and conservation (N = 10)
3. Population growth and overpopulation (N = 50)
  - a. Negative impact of overpopulation on resources (N = 15)
  - b. Strain on infrastructure and services due to population growth (N = 10)
  - c. Increased housing demand and shortage (N = 10)
  - d. Effects of overpopulation on quality of life (N = 5)
  - e. Need for sustainable population management (N = 5)
  - f. Environmental impact of population growth (N = 5)
4. Affordable housing and cost of living (N = 25)
  - a. High housing costs (N = 15)
  - b. Lack of affordable housing options (N = 10)
  - c. Financial burden and cost of living (N = 5)
  - d. Housing shortage and demand (N = 5)
5. Air pollution and air quality (N = 30)
  - a. Concerns about air pollution (N = 15)
  - b. Negative impacts of poor air quality (N = 10)
  - c. Effects of pollution on health and well-being (N = 5)

6. Political and governance issues (N = 40)
  - a. Lack of government concern for the environment (N = 15)
  - b. Criticism of current political leaders (N = 10)
  - c. Need for better environmental policies and regulations (N = 10)
  - d. Influence of religious groups on policy (N = 5)
7. Education and curriculum (N = 15)
  - a. Concerns about the quality of public schools (N = 10)
  - b. Class size and teacher salary issues (N = 5)
8. Homelessness and poverty (N = 15)
  - a. Homelessness issues (N = 10)
  - b. Poverty and socioeconomic challenges (N = 5)
9. Impact of religious influence on policy (N = 10)
  - a. Influence of dominant religion on policy decisions (N = 10)
10. Growth and development management (N = 20)
  - a. Need for responsible and controlled growth (N = 20)

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**Section 1, Question 2** How concerned are you right now about [other] environmental or related issues in Utah? (N = 84)

1. Environmental Issues (N = 27)
  - a. Motorized vehicles and recreational lands (N = 1)
  - b. Noise/light pollution (N = 6)
  - c. Resistance to innovative environmental solutions (N = 1)
  - d. Energy sources (N = 3)
  - e. Pollution monitoring (N = 1)
  - f. Loss of wildlife habitat (N=8)
  - g. Capitalism and environmental impact (N=2)
  - h. Miscellaneous environmental concerns (N=5)
2. Government and Political Issues (N = 20)
  - a. Government controls and regulations (N=3)
  - b. Utah water right laws (N=1)
  - c. Excessive political control (N=4)
  - d. Environmental policies and impact (N=2)
  - e. Miscellaneous government and political concerns (N=10)
3. Community and Social Issues (N = 16)
  - a. Homelessness (N = 1)
  - b. Overcrowding and urban development (N = 3)
  - c. Social repression and inequality: (N = 2)
  - d. Excessive tourism and its consequences (N = 1)
  - e. Gentrification and affordable housing (N = 2)
  - f. Impact on wildlife and natural spaces (N = 2)

- g. Miscellaneous community and social concerns (N=5)
4. Traffic and Transportation Issues (N = 9)
    - a. City road changes and pollution (N = 2)
    - b. Traffic congestion and difficulties (N = 3)
    - c. Transportation infrastructure and services (N = 4)
  5. Miscellaneous Issues (N = 12)
    - a. Abortion bans (N = 1)
    - b. Dishonesty and lying (N = 1)
    - c. Transgender inclusion in sports (N = 1)
    - d. Light pollution (N = 2)
    - e. Out-of-state influence (e.g., California) (N = 1)
    - f. Conspiracy theories (N = 1)
    - g. Miscellaneous other concerns (N = 5)

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**Section 3, Question 1** What is your primary source of news? (N = 433)

1. Television News (N = 72)
  - a. Fox News (N = 8)
  - b. ABC News (N = 3)
  - c. NBC News (N = 3)
  - d. CBS News (N = 3)
  - e. CNN (N = 5)
  - f. MSNBC (N = 1)
  - g. BBC News (N = 2)
  - h. Local news channels (e.g., KSL, Fox 13) (N = 30)
2. Online News (N = 167)
  - a. KSL.com (N = 9)
  - b. Salt Lake Tribune (N = 14)
  - c. New York Times (N = 18)
  - d. Google News (N = 5)
  - e. Various internet sources (N = 40)
  - f. Social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Reddit) (N = 81)
3. Radio (N = 48)
  - a. NPR (National Public Radio) (N = 14)
  - b. Local radio stations (N = 34)
4. Newspapers (N = 39)
  - a. Wall Street Journal (N = 5)
  - b. Washington Post (N = 4)
  - c. Deseret News (N = 4)
  - d. The Guardian (N = 2)
  - e. Other newspapers or unspecified (N = 24)
5. Miscellaneous (N = 107)

- a. Podcasts (N = 10)
- b. Word of mouth (N = 5)
- c. Independent online outlets (N = 8)
- d. Yahoo News (N = 2)
- e. Apple News (N = 3)
- f. The Atlantic (N = 1)
- g. Other miscellaneous sources or unspecified (N = 78)

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**Section 3, Question 4** In your opinion, are politicians and policymakers in Utah doing too much or not enough to address [other] issues? (N = 55)

1. Environmental Concerns (N = 18)
  - a. Noise/light pollution (N = 2)
  - b. Effective Pollution Monitoring (N = 2)
  - c. Toxins infiltrating water sources (N = 1)
  - d. Light pollution (N = 2)
  - e. Protecting the environment (N = 2)
  - f. Wildlife support (N = 2)
  - g. Leapfrog development and growth without a plan (N = 1)
  - h. Investment in clean energy (N = 2)
  - i. Controlling the sun (N = 1)
  - j. Recycling and overconsumption (N = 3)
2. Housing and Urban Development (N = 14)
  - a. Homeless problem (N = 1)
  - b. Overcrowding in dwellings (N = 1)
  - c. Affordable public transportation (N = 1)
  - d. Impact of tourism on long-term residents (N = 1)
  - e. Affordable housing problem (N = 1)
  - f. Housing for workers (N = 1)
  - g. Closure of public roads (N = 1)
  - h. Protecting farmers (N = 1)
  - i. Miscellaneous housing and urban development concerns (N = 6)
3. Traffic and Transportation (N = 7)
  - a. Traffic (N = 1)
  - b. City planning and gas usage/pollution (N = 1)
  - c. Access into Tooele County (N = 1)
  - d. Traffic crimes (bad drivers, car racing) (N = 1)
  - e. Traffic accidents (N = 1)
  - f. Miscellaneous traffic and transportation concerns (N = 2)
4. Social Issues (N = 7)
  - a. Right to privacy in healthcare decisions (N = 1)
  - b. Social tolerance (N = 1)
  - c. Protecting children from predators in the LDS church (N = 1)
  - d. ACC - For disabled & old (N = 1)

- e. Crimes and punishment (N = 1)
  - f. Miscellaneous social issues (N = 2)
5. Government and Planning (N = 10)
- a. New laws (N = 1)
  - b. Impact fees for new residents (N = 1)
  - c. Schools and poverty control (N = 1)
  - d. Utah Legislature's role in protecting the Great Salt Lake (N = 1)
  - e. Decreasing environmental control groups (N = 1)
  - f. Politicians increasingly overtaxing (N = 1)
  - g. Not enough planning for the future (N = 1)
  - h. Miscellaneous government and planning concerns (N = 3)
- 

**Section 15, Question 2** How much have [other] factors affected your thinking about how many children you want to have? (N = 31)

- 1. Personal Considerations (N = 13)
    - a. Age (N = 4)
    - b. Good or poor marriage (N = 2)
    - c. Risk of mother's death (N = 2)
    - d. Genetic disability (N = 2)
    - e. Quality of life for the children I have (N = 1)
    - f. Affordable housing availability (N = 1)
    - g. Social media (N = 1)
  - 2. Life Stage and Family Status (N = 10)
  - 3. Global Concerns (N = 5)
    - a. World population (N = 1)
    - b. Human rights in the future (N = 2)
  - 4. LGBTQ+ Perspective (N = 1)
    - a. Equality (N = 1)
  - 5. School Shootings (N = 1)
- 

**Section 16, Question 7** What is your race [other]? (N = 7)

- 1. Hispanic/Latino (N = 4)
  - a. Hispanic (N = 2)
  - b. Chicano (N = 1)
  - c. Spanish (N = 1)
- 2. Mixed Race (N = 1)
- 3. Other/Not Specified (N = 2)
  - a. Human (N = 1)

- b. American (N = 1)
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**Section 16, Question 10** What is your present religion, if any? (N = 18)

1. Christian (N = 5)
    - a. Bible (N = 1)
    - b. Christian (N = 2)
    - c. Protestant (N = 1)
    - d. Christian (unspecified) (N = 1)
  
  2. Spiritual/Individual Spiritual Beliefs (N = 5)
    - a. Highly spiritual wired to believe in the best of all (plants, humans, air, health, animals) (N = 1)
    - b. Individual spiritual (N = 1)
    - c. Spiritual with no specific religion (N = 2)
    - d. Spiritual (unspecified) (N = 1)
  
  3. Other Specific Religions (N = 4)
    - a. Orthodox (N = 1)
    - b. Buddhist (N = 1)
    - c. Wiccan (N = 1)
    - d. Pagan (N = 1)
  
  4. Metaphysical/Metaphysical Beliefs (N = 2)
  
  5. Other/Not Specified (N = 2)
    - a. Deist (N = 1)
    - b. Unitarian Universalist (N = 1)
- 

**Section 16, Question 15** Please indicate if you currently work in any of the following sectors. [Other] (n = 30)

1. Healthcare and Wellness (N = 5)
  - a. Healthcare (N = 1)
  - b. Health Science (N = 1)
  - c. Healing arts (N = 1)
  - d. Swim instructor and coach (N = 1)
  - e. Health and beauty services (N = 1)
  
2. Nonprofit and Community Service (N = 5)
  - a. Community-based nonprofit serving immigrants (N = 1)
  - b. Nonprofit (N = 4)
  
3. Hospitality and Food Service (N = 4)
  - a. Food service (N = 1)
  - b. Janitorial (N = 1)



- c. Retail (may include food service) (N = 1)
4. Professional and Technical (N = 4)
    - a. Architecture (N = 1)
    - b. Property maintenance (N = 1)
    - c. Regulatory design (N = 1)
    - d. Legal (N = 1)
  5. Other/Not Specified (N = 12)
    - a. Mom (N = 1)
    - b. None of the above (N = 1)
    - c. Recreation (N = 1)
    - d. Media (N = 2)
    - e. Courts (N = 1)
    - f. Ballet instructor/youth teacher (N = 1)
    - g. Sales (N = 1)
    - h. Salon (N = 1)
    - i. Security (N = 1)
    - j. Customer service (N = 1)
    - k. Housing (N = 1)
    - l. Service (N = 1)

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**Open-Ended Comments (note that only those relevant to the content are shared below):**

- "Thank you for your survey, I hope it helps our state."
- "I have been a strong environmentalist for a long time. My answers probably reflect that. I have not lived in Utah long enough to become involved in the cultural environment, but I'm learning. In general, I have very little confidence in the political processes here. Far too one-sided, conservative and, probably, self-serving. I am also a strong animal advocate. We need stronger laws to protect captive and wild animals."
- "This survey was worthwhile but way too long."
- "There were no questions regarding the meat industry, only indirectly by mentioning alfalfa. I support education that allows students to be informed and think critically. May we all work towards a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful world. If we don't, plan on more extreme climate, famine, wars, and such. I think global thermonuclear war would also have an impact on the environment."
- "What affects kids affects adults!"
- "I think the survey could have been shorter and better tailored to the environment. It wandered into questions I didn't find to be on point with the key environmental issues facing Utah, i.e. air quality, water management/conservation, and the effects of climate change."
- "Thanks for sending the survey! This topic I am a bit concerned about having recently heard that the GSL is drying up. Maybe this is Utah's fate that it will dry soon? I do support Utah's government on refilling the GSL by means of routing ocean water to the lake! Magnesium Corporation of America is one of the state's major contributors toward pollution. Kennecott's Trailing pond is growing, how much more land is it going to take to accommodate? The Salt Lake County Landfill off California Ave may worsen the air quality

(stench) if global warming continues? Utah legislative should vote to relocate out 50 miles west for garbage, but keep the landfill for green waste disposal."

- "Your air quality section is incomplete. It allows for choices between only three actions we can take about the negative effects of pollution (limit outdoor activity, don't drive, use an air filter). There's more we can do."
- "I support that we are stewards of the earth and should take care of it. However, we are headed back to the dark ages due to the oppression of freedom of speech. We should be able to seek truth and not just be forced into narratives whether they be the political climate change or gender identity issues or other narratives that oppress freedoms protected by the Constitution and Bill of Rights."
- "For a survey that was supposed to be based on YOUR VIEWS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN UTAH, it is extremely political and polarizing. It had few environmental questions, compared to intrusive personal questions."
- "I deeply appreciate the opportunity to participate in this survey. I believe that local and state government is very irresponsible regarding water management. The Washington County Water Conservancy District is deceitful about the way it manages water."
- "My quality of life has been deeply impacted by over-tourism. I do not visit nearby National Parks because they are overcrowded."
- "The climate is always changing."
- "The climate has been changing warmer and cooler naturally since creation."
- "Freedom and equality before the law is our best chance to achieve equality of opportunity."
- "I think farmers and the state itself should engage in better water activities to increase water retention."
- "I think that the extreme political polarization in this country and in this state inhibit problem-solving."
- "I find it interesting that governments like to limit wood burning as a way to heat homes, using the inversion as an excuse."
- "I think that overpopulation and residential growth are a HUGE problem in Utah."
- "These surveys just fall on deaf ears. The government doesn't care."
- "I support education that allows students to be informed and think critically. May we all work towards a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful world."
- "I think that the extreme political polarization in this country and in this state inhibit problem-solving."
- "The survey was fine until you started getting personal."