

From: Chris Keating and Jake Martin, Keating Research, Inc.
To: Interested Parties
Subject: National Monument Poll Key Findings
Date: April 18, 2023

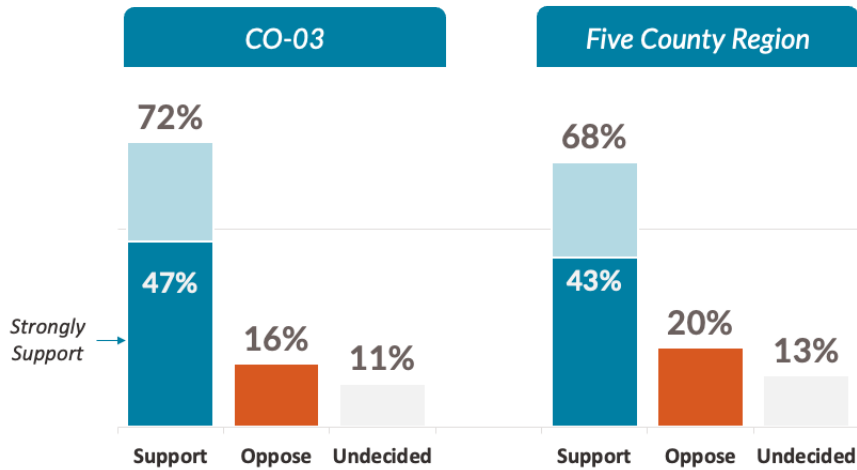


Voters in the Five County Region of the Dolores River Canyon and in the 3rd Congressional District overwhelmingly support designating the Dolores River Canyon Country as a National Monument.

Permanently protecting the Dolores River Canyon Country as a National Monument is supported by 7-of-10 voters in the Five County Region of the Dolores River Canyon - 68% support, including 43% who strongly support, compared to 20% who oppose. In the Colorado’s 3rd Congressional District, 72% support establishing a National Monument, including 47% who strongly support, compared to 16% who oppose.

As you may know, the Dolores River Canyon Country is federally managed public land in Dolores, Mesa, Montezuma, Montrose and San Miguel counties. Some people have proposed permanently protecting this area and designating it as a national monument, which would maintain existing rights on the land, preserve the natural environment, and establish a land management plan.

Do you support or oppose this proposal to designate the Dolores River Canyon Country as a national monument?



Creating a national monument for the Dolores River Canyon Country is supported by strong majorities in each of the five counties that the proposed monument would be contained within, including San Miguel County (71% support), Mesa County (71% support), Montezuma County (62% support), Montrose County (60% support), and Dolores County (55% support).

Support for designating the Dolores River Canyon Country as a National Monument is decidedly non-partisan, supported by majorities of Democrats, Unaffiliated and Republican voters – in both the Five County Region and in the 3rd Congressional District. Additionally, majorities of younger (age 18-49) and older voters (age 50+), men and women, and people who participate in recreational activities support this proposal.

% Supporting	Dem	Una	Rep	Men	Women	Age 18-49	Age 50+	Hunter	Fish / Angler	Gun Owner
Third District	86%	77%	54%	67%	78%	74%	71%	63%	70%	71%
Five County Region	86%	76%	52%	63%	73%	70%	65%	55%	62%	64%

After providing more information on the purpose of the proposed national monument, support for designating the Dolores River Canyon Country as a National Monument increased to 3-of-4 voters, to 76% in the 3rd Congressional District and to 73% in the Five County Region.

Additional information respondents were provided on Dolores River Canyon Country:

The Dolores River Canyon Country is a five hundred thousand acre area that includes red rock canyons, ancient ponderosa pine trees, desert wildlands, wildlife habitat, and indigenous cultural and historical sites. Currently, this land - and its future - is at risk of long-term drought, renewed interest in uranium mining, development, and irresponsible recreation.

Establishing the Dolores River Canyon Country National Monument will provide strong, permanent protections for this watershed while supporting local ranching and agriculture, boosting the economy, and maintaining access for outdoor recreation. A National Monument designation ensures this land will be better managed, safeguards the area's scenic beauty and sensitive areas, and guarantees long-term access to one of the last stretches of unprotected land in Colorado.

If Congress fails to act, by more than 2-to-1, voters support executive action to conserve the Dolores River Canyon Country as a National Monument.

Voters in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District (67% support to 26% oppose) and within the Five County Region (64% support to 29% oppose) support the President taking action to designate the Dolores River Canyon Country as a national monument. In both areas, support outweighs opposition by more than 2-to-1.

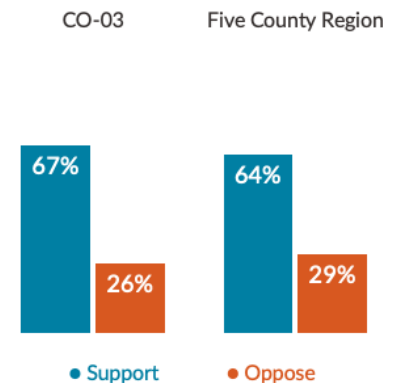
In every region, majorities support this action – including 66% of voters in Mesa County, 59% in Montezuma and 58% in Montrose Counties.

Majorities of hunters (54%), fisherman/anglers (62%) and gunowners (63%) support the President taking action to designate the Dolores River Canyon Country National Monument if Congress fails to act.

There is also widespread support among Democrats (87% support) and Unaffiliated voters (73% support), while Republicans are the one group that doesn't support the President taking action (41% support to 48% oppose).

As you may know, there is currently bipartisan legislation being considered to conserve part of the Dolores River Canyon Country. If Congress fails to act, the President can protect this land by creating a National Monument. Democratic and Republican presidents have both used this power over the last one hundred years.

If Congress fails to act, would you support or oppose the President designating the Dolores River Canyon Country as a national monument?



Best reasons support creating National Monument focus on water, wildlife, and wildlands

A common theme in this poll is that the most important reasons for designating the Dolores River Canyon Country as a National Monument address conservation and environmental protections of the water, wildlife, and wildlands, outpacing the more political and economic arguments.

These messages focused on protecting the integrity of the Dolores River watershed, conserving these critical wildlife habitats, and ensuring this area remains accessible and that our wildlands endure for generations to come. These messages all perform exceptionally well with Democrats, but also have a strong appeal among Unaffiliated voters.

Reasons to support	Total Convincing		Very Convincing	
	CO-03	5 County Region	CO-03	5 County Region
Water: More than half of our rivers and streams in Colorado have been altered by development – and now the Dolores River is at risk. This proposal will protect the integrity of the Dolores River watershed to ensure our water remains clean and accessible for our people, ranches, and agriculture.	79%	79%	54%	52%
Wildlife Protections: The Dolores River Canyon Country is home to elk, bighorn sheep, native fish, and rare species of plants and animals. This proposal will conserve these critical wildlife habitats.	79%	78%	53%	49%
Protect Wildlands: The Dolores River Canyon Country is one of Colorado’s last unprotected areas. We need to ensure it remains accessible and that our wildlands endure for generations to come. This proposal will ensure this fragile ecosystem remains permanently conserved.	76%	76%	52%	46%

This memo is based on a poll conducted among 750 active registered voters, including 450 located in the five local area counties of Dolores, Mesa, Montezuma, Montrose, and San Miguel counties; and 300 located in other counties within CO-03. Responses have been combined to produce a sample of 450 responses in the CO-03. This poll was conducted from March 2 – 8, 2023 using live-phone interviews and a text-to-web online survey. Results in CO-03 and in the five local area counties are representative of registered voters based on party, gender, age, geography, ethnicity, and education. Worst-case margin of error ± 4.6%, among all respondents, larger margin of error among subgroups.