American Voter Attitudes Toward the Greater Grand Canyon National Heritage Monument

Key Findings from a Nationwide Voter Survey Conducted August 29 – September 8, 2016
Methodology

- 800 telephone interviews with likely voters nationwide
- Conducted August 29 – September 8, 2016 via landline and cell phones
- Margin of error of +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence interval
- Due to rounding, some percentages do not add up to 100%
- Bipartisan research team of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D) and American Viewpoint (R)
Issue Context
Voters have very positive views of NPS and USFS; fewer have opinions about BLM.

**The National Park Service**
- Strongly Approve: 38%
- Strongly Disapprove: 15%
- Total Approve: 77%
- Total Disapprove: 9%

**The U.S. Forest Service**
- Strongly Approve: 32%
- Strongly Disapprove: 21%
- Total Approve: 71%
- Total Disapprove: 8%

**President Barack Obama**
- Strongly Approve: 32%
- Strongly Disapprove: 28%
- Total Approve: 59%
- Total Disapprove: 38%

**The Bureau of Land Management**
- Strongly Approve: 17%
- Strongly Disapprove: 10%
- Total Approve: 49%
- Total Disapprove: 21%

Q1. I'd like to read you a list of some different individuals and agencies active in public life. Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the job they are doing at this time.
A clear plurality believes more needs to be done to protect the areas around the Grand Canyon.

Thinking about the land, air, and water around Grand Canyon National Park, would you say that ...

- More needs to be done to protect the land, air, and water around the Grand Canyon: 47%
- Enough is being done to protect the land, air, and water around the Grand Canyon: 22%
- Too much is being done to protect the land, air, and water around the Grand Canyon: 5%
- Don't know/NA: 26%
An overwhelming majority feels the Grand Canyon is a treasure for all Americans.

The Grand Canyon is a national treasure for all Americans, not just people who live nearby.

- **Strongly Agree**: 73%
- **Slightly Agree**: 20%
- **Disagree**: 5%

Public lands surrounding National Parks should be managed to protect the land, air, and water within the national parks.

- **Strongly Agree**: 63%
- **Slightly Agree**: 27%
- **Disagree**: 5%

Q6. I'm going to read you a list of several statements. I'd like you to tell me whether you generally agree or disagree with it.
Nearly half have visited Grand Canyon National Park.

Have you ever visited Grand Canyon National Park?

- Yes 48%
- No/Don't Know 52%
More than four in five voters back the designation of National Monuments in principle.

A National Monument is protected public land that is designated by the President or Congress to preserve its natural, cultural, and historic features. This designation means these places get special care and protection. They are open to the public for recreational use but cannot be developed nor used for mining or extraction. The federal government currently manages and owns 117 National Monuments for the public. Do you generally support or oppose the idea of designating public lands as National Monuments?

- Strongly support: 52%
- Somewhat support: 31%
- Somewhat oppose: 7%
- Strongly oppose: 4%
- Undecided: 6%

Total Support 83%
Total Oppose 11%
Support for the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument
The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument would provide permanent federal protection for – and ban all new uranium mines on – more than a million acres of public land surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. It would also protect hundreds of springs near Grand Canyon that provide wildlife habitat, contribute to the Grand Canyon watershed, and feed the Colorado River. This land is home to more than three-thousand ancient Native American sites. National Monument status would allow public use for hiking, photography, school trips, some biking, and grazing on these lands, while prohibiting mining.

Q4. Having heard this, would you say that you support or oppose the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?
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More than four in five back designation of the monument, with a majority offering “strong” support.

Strongly support: 56%
Somewhat support: 26%
Somewhat oppose: 7%
Strongly oppose: 7%
Undecided: 4%

Total Support: 82%
Total Oppose: 14%
Fewer than one in six are less likely to support a Presidential candidate who backs the Monument.

Suppose that a Presidential candidate supported the creation of this National Monument. Would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for them?

- Much more likely: 22%
- Somewhat more likely: 28%
- Somewhat less likely: 8%
- Much less likely: 7%
- Makes no difference: 30%
- Don't know/NA: 5%

Total More Likely: 50%
Total Less Likely: 15%
Impact of Messaging
The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument lands are rich in both natural and cultural value. Located on existing public land near Grand Canyon National Park, the area covers 1.7 million acres of canyons, prairies, and streams that feed the Colorado River. It provides habitat for wildlife such as mule deer and bald eagles, and threatened species like the condor – and is home to several ancestral Native American archeological sites. Unless we take action now, new uranium mines could be opened on this land – creating a risk of radioactive, toxic contamination that could pollute soil and water as it has in other locations. Creating a National Monument will ensure that this land will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come.
After hearing the argument in favor, nearly three in five offer “strong” support for the Monument.

Q7. Please tell me if you support or oppose the creation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Level</th>
<th>Support Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>3%</td>
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Total Support 82%
Total Oppose 15%
The federal, state, and tribal governments in Arizona already own 82% of all Arizona land, leaving just 18% open to private owners. The Monument is a special interest effort to lock up nearly 2 million more acres in Northern Arizona by Presidential executive order – which could kill jobs, harm tourism, agriculture and water rights, and prevent hunting and fishing.
More than two-thirds continue to back establishment of the Monument, even after an opposition argument.

Q8. Please tell me if you support or oppose the creation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Total Support 68%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Somewhat support</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>6%</td>
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Total Oppose 26%
Conclusions
More than nine in ten American voters see the Grand Canyon as a national treasure that needs to be protected for all Americans.

A sizable plurality of voters believe that more needs to be done to protect lands and waters around the Grand Canyon.

More than four in five support the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to accomplish that goal.

A majority of American voters say they are more likely to vote for a Presidential candidate who backs the Monument.

Even after an exchange of pro and con arguments, the Monument still receives overwhelming public support.
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