

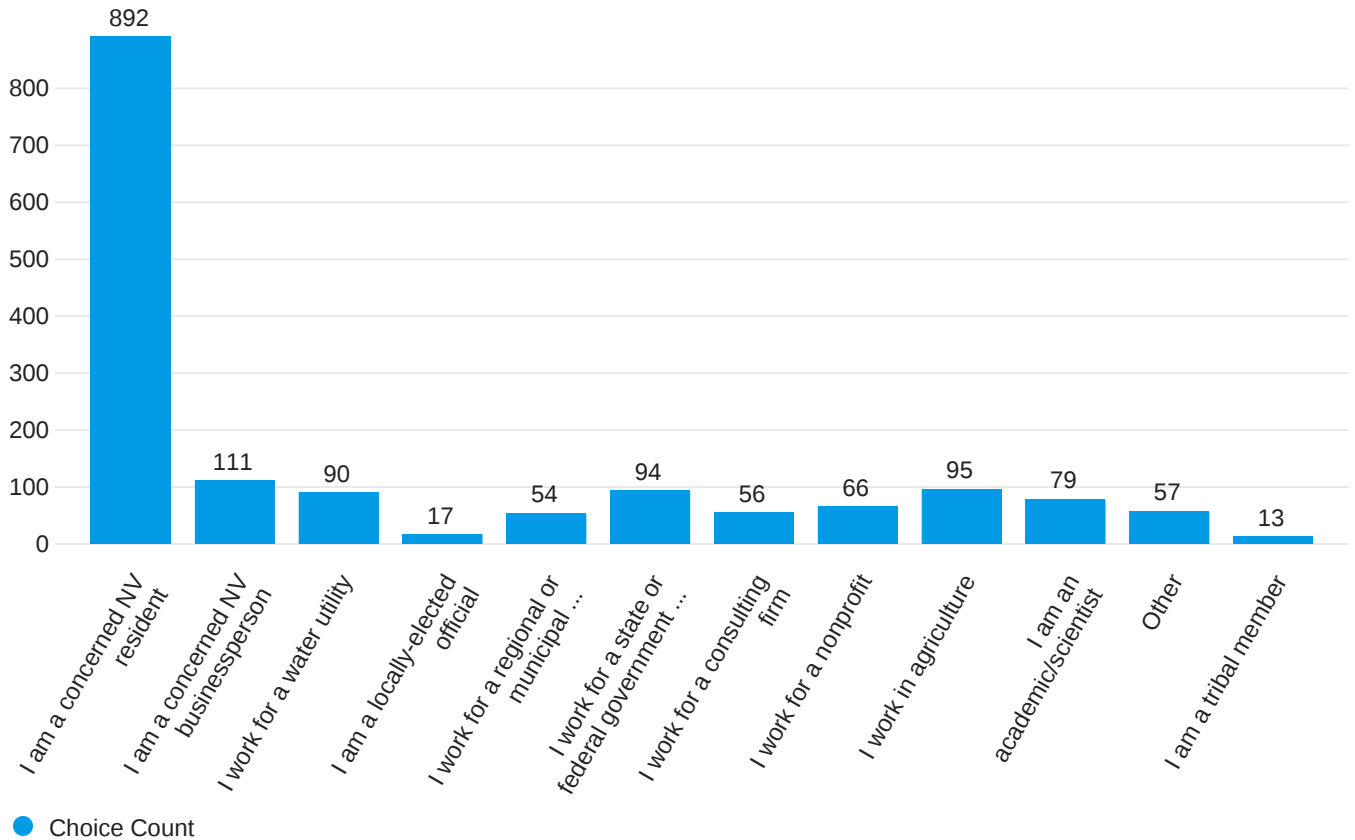
# NDWR Survey Results: Comprehensive Summary

## 1192 Completed Responses

This report presents the results for each question in a survey conducted by the Nevada Division of Water Resources in late 2021. The purpose of the survey was to collect feedback from a broad range of stakeholders at the onset of NDWR's effort to update the State Water Plan, last published in 1999. The survey included open- and close-ended questions regarding respondents' water-related concerns, priorities, and perceptions. Over the course of five weeks, the survey was publicly posted and advertised. 1192 completed responses were collected. A blank copy of the survey can be found at the end of this report.

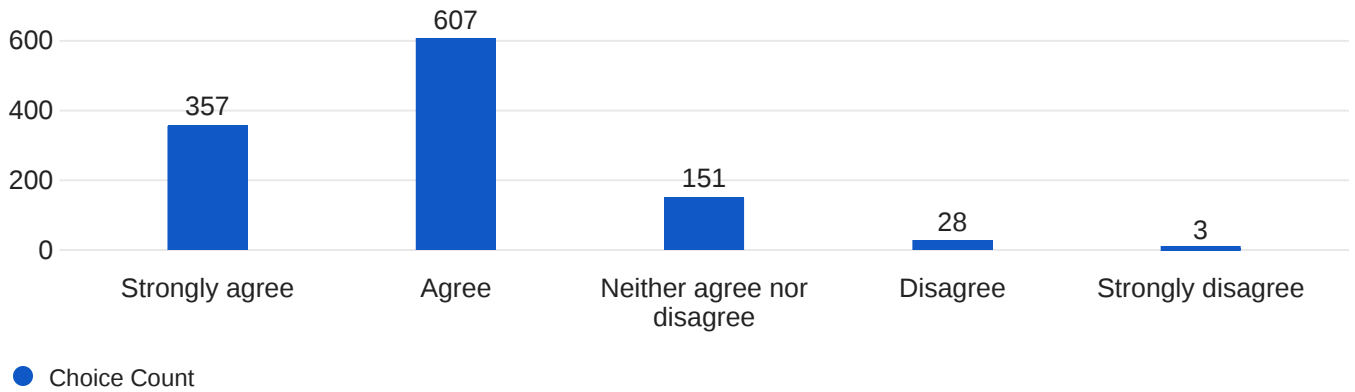
From what perspective are you taking this survey? Multiple answers may be selected.

1107 Responses



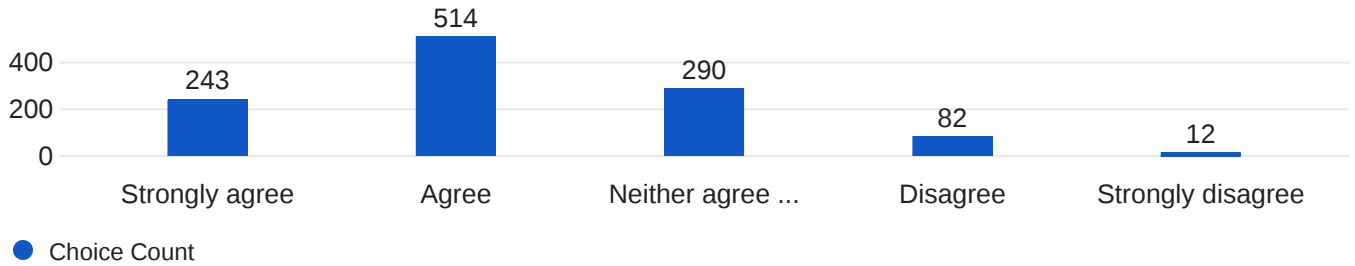
### I consider myself a well-informed citizen regarding issues in Nevada.

1146 Responses



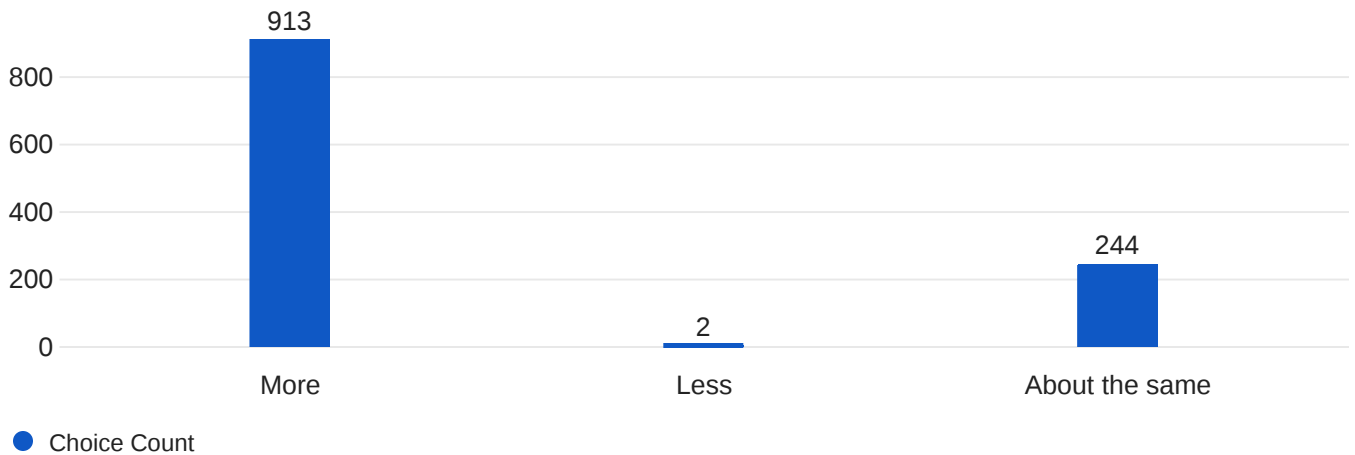
### I consider myself well-informed regarding Nevada water policy, planning, and supply issues.

1141 Responses



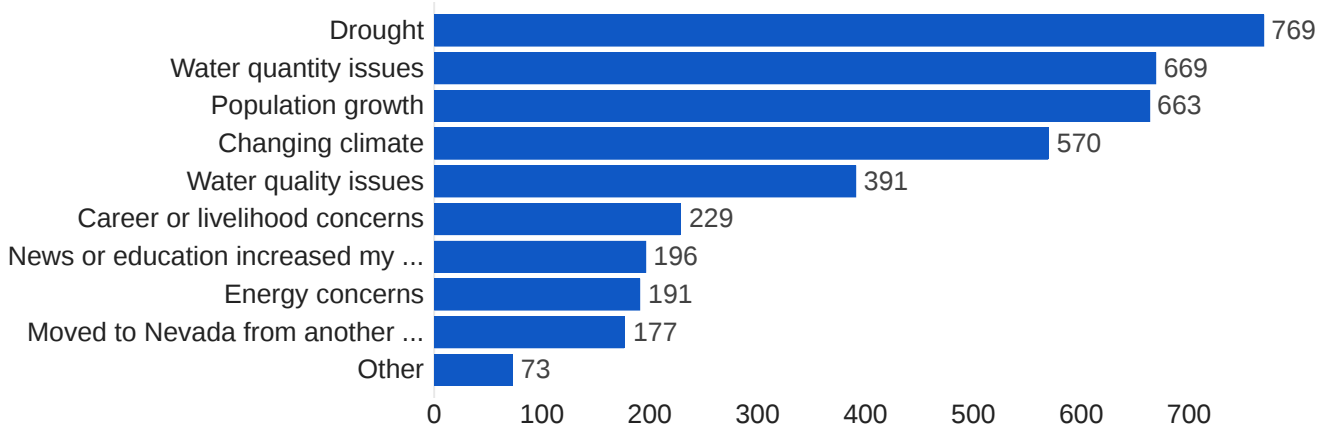
### Do you pay more attention to water issues today than in the past?

1159 Responses



Why do you pay more attention to water issues now? Multiple answers may be selected.

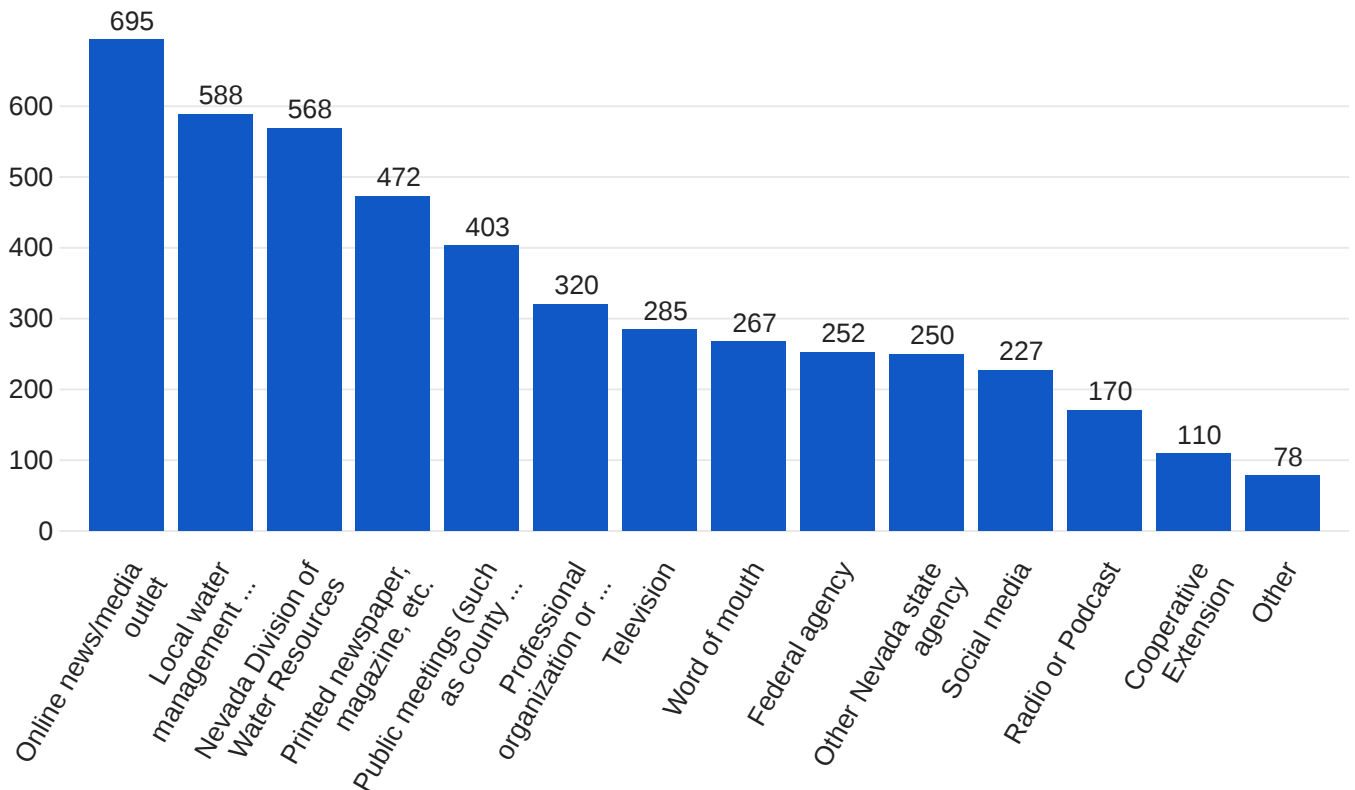
912 Responses



● Choice Count

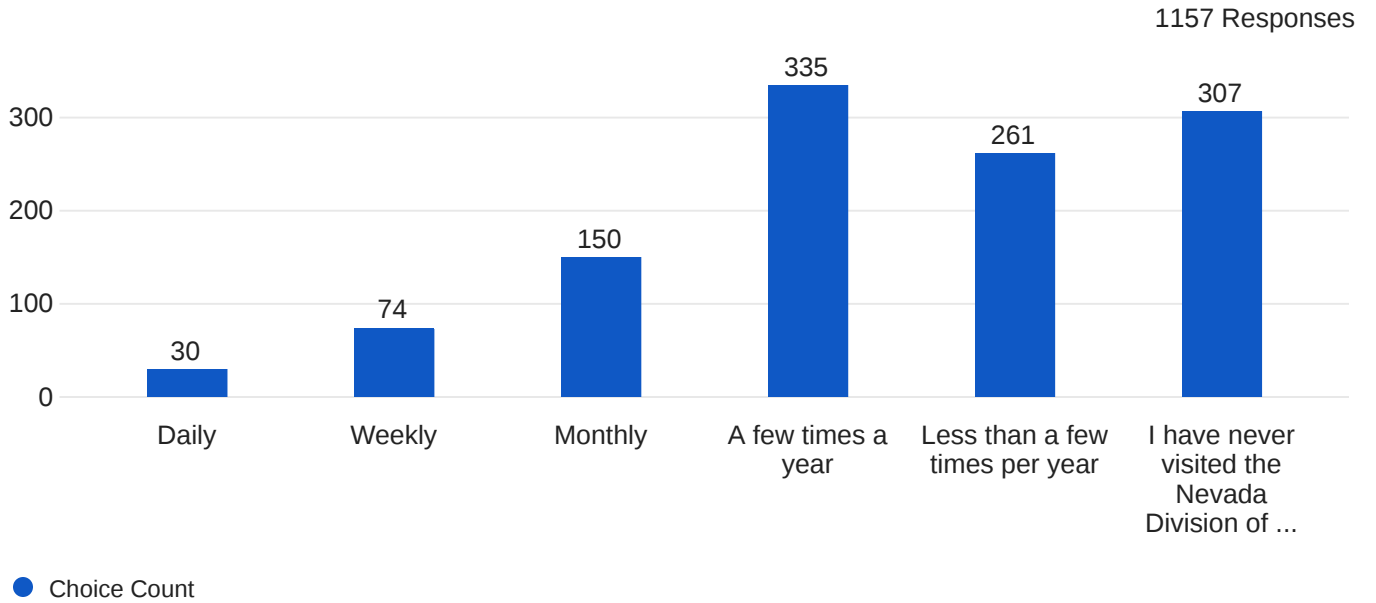
Where do you get your information regarding water issues, management, and planning? Select all that apply.

1158 Responses

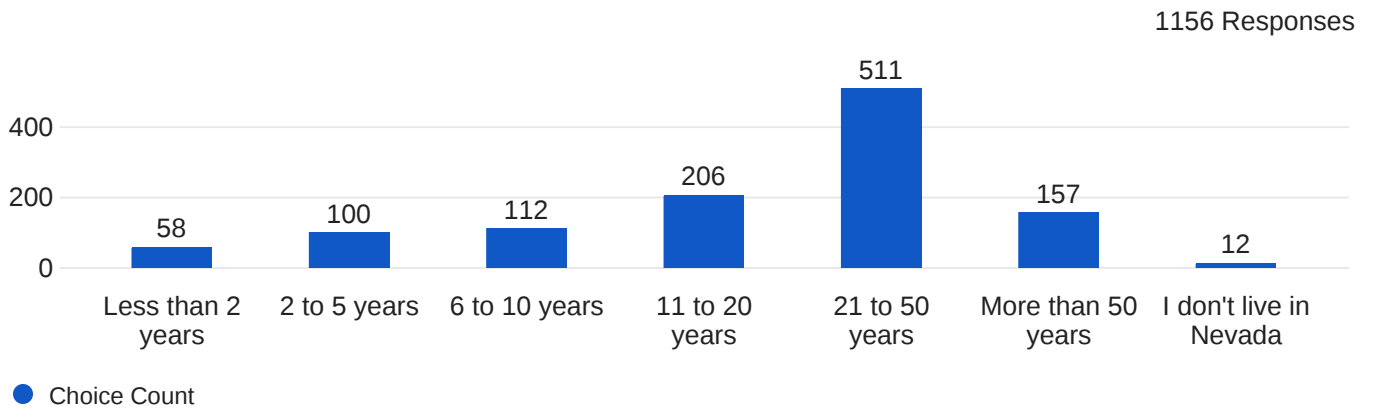


● Choice Count

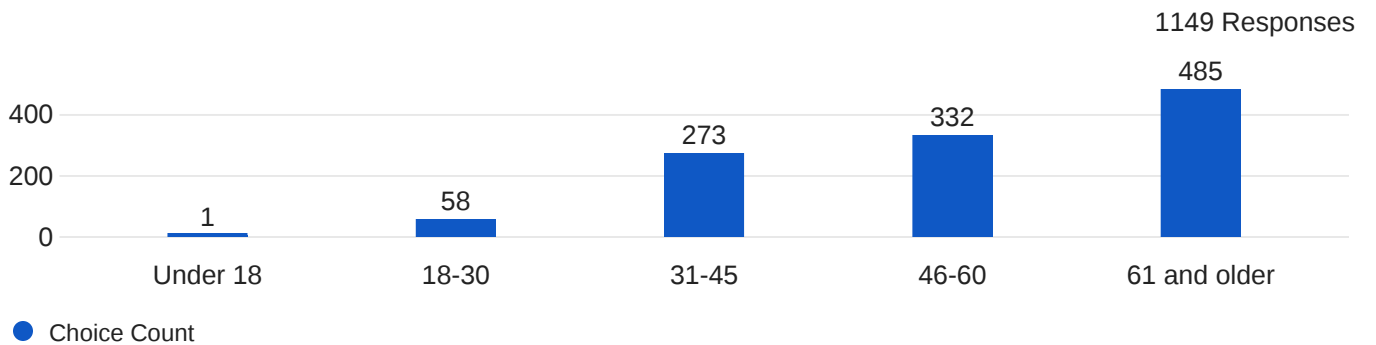
### How often do you visit the Nevada Division of Water Resources website (www.water.nv.gov)?



### How many years have you lived in the state of Nevada?

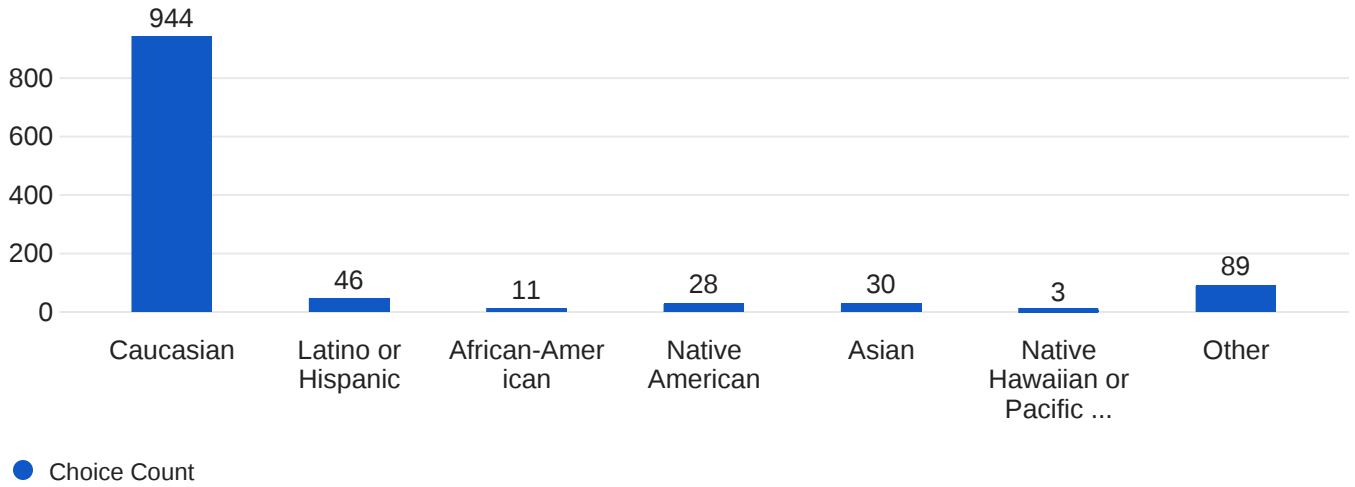


### What is your age?



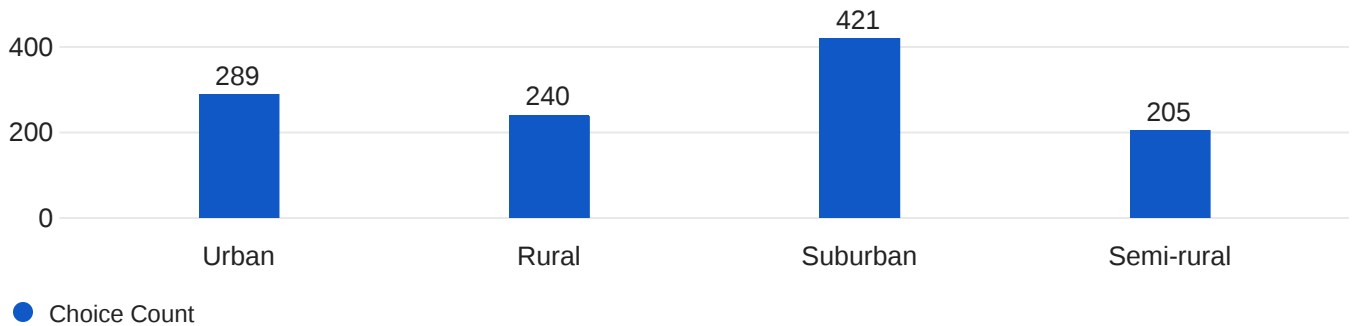
### Please specify your ethnicity.

1105 Responses



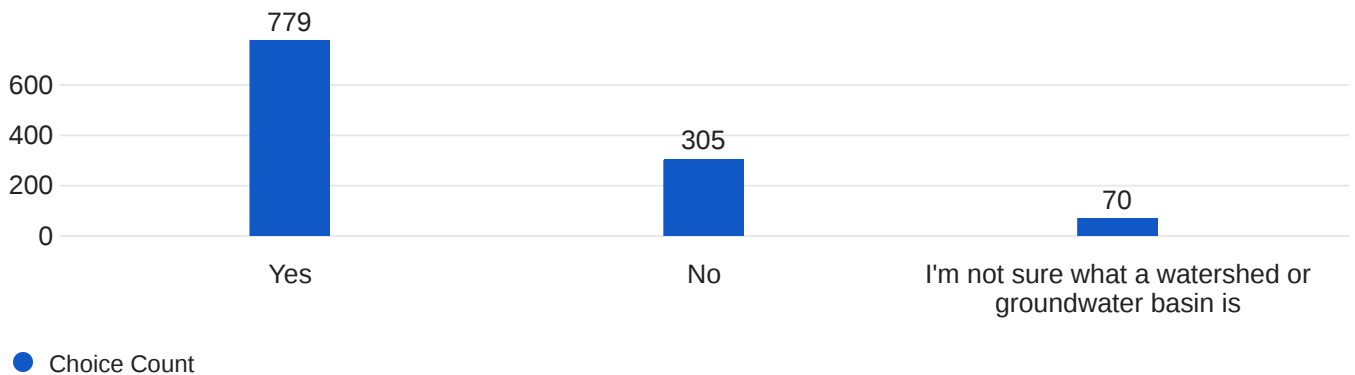
### How would you describe the place you live?

1155 Responses



### Do you know what watershed (or groundwater basin) you live in?

1154 Responses



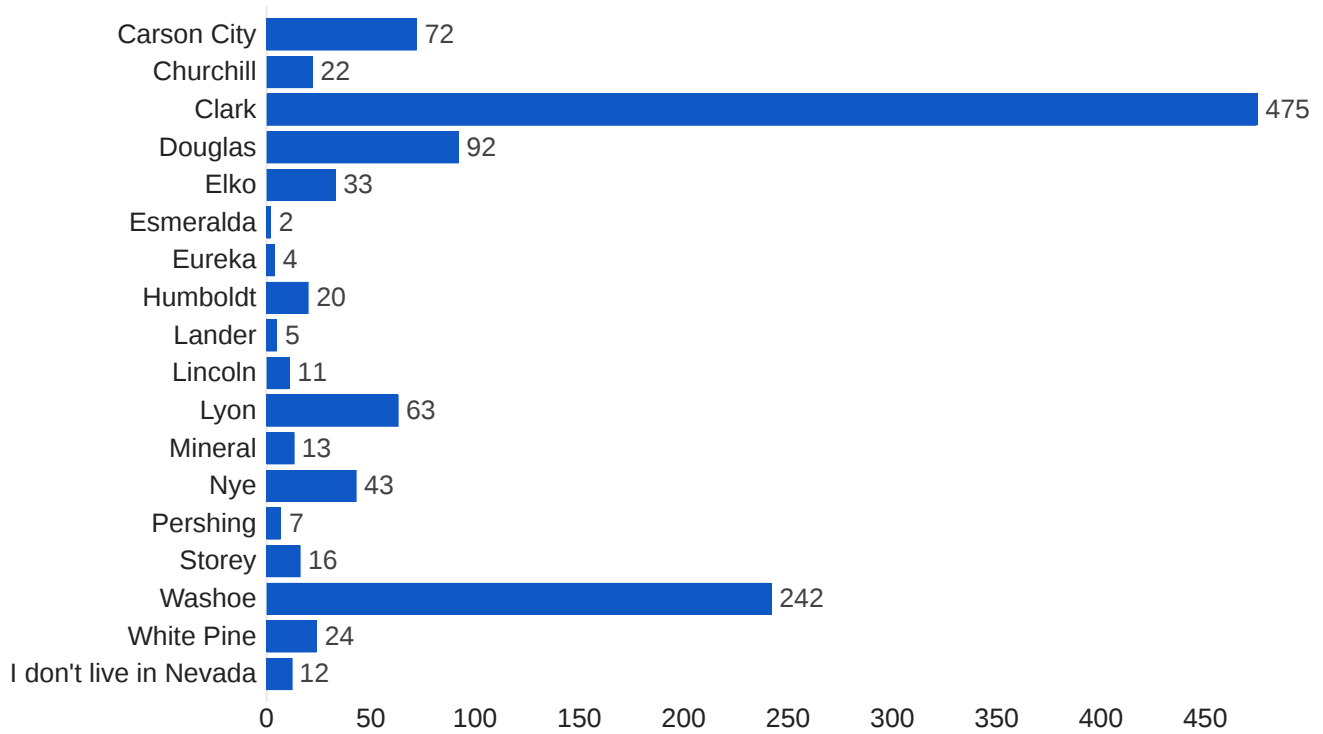
If you indicated 'yes' in the previous question, please provide the name of the watershed or groundwater basin that you live in.



Response Count	Hydrographic Region
2	NORTHWEST REGION (HR 1)
2	BLACK ROCK DESERT REGION (HR 2)
1	SNAKE RIVER REGION (HR 3)
45	HUMBOLDT RIVER REGION (HR 4)
2	WEST CENTRAL REGION (HR 5)
197	TRUCKEE RIVER REGION (HR 6)
6	WESTERN REGION (HR 7)
182	CARSON RIVER REGION (HR 8)
37	WALKER RIVER REGION (HR 9)
43	CENTRAL REGION (HR 10)
10	GREAT SALT LAKE REGION (HR 11)
180	COLORADO RIVER REGION (HR 13)
3	DEATH VALLEY REGION (HR 14)
9	Great Basin
8	Unable to classify

### 18. - What Nevada county do you live in?

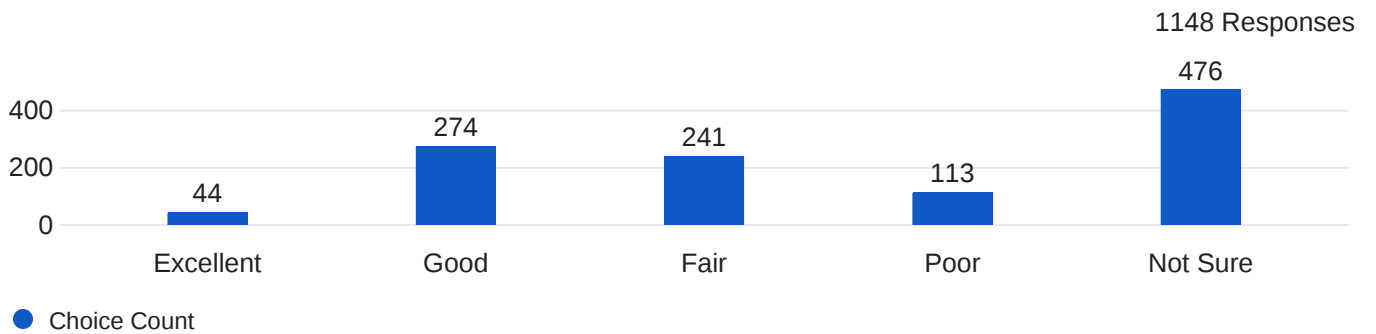
1156 Responses



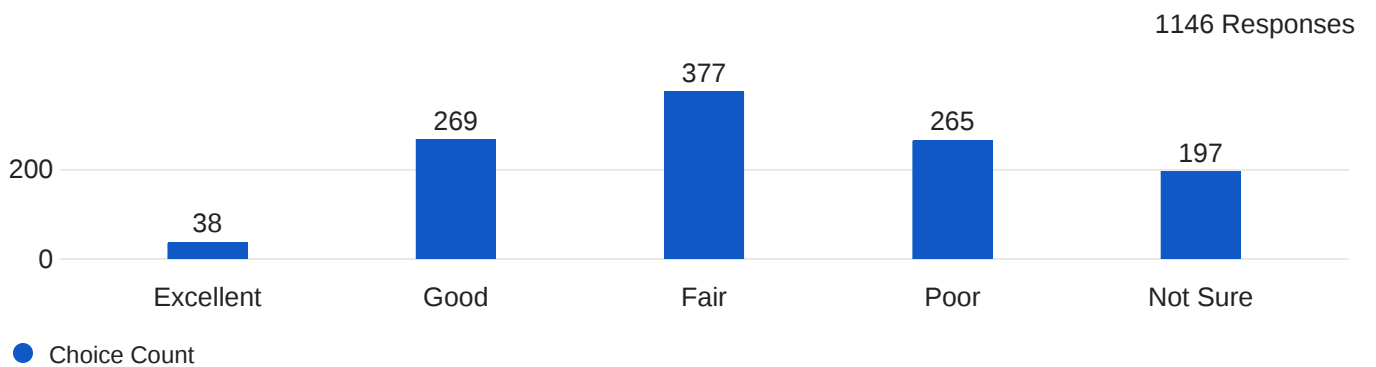
● Choice Count

Rate your perception of the following data, information, outreach, and education topics:

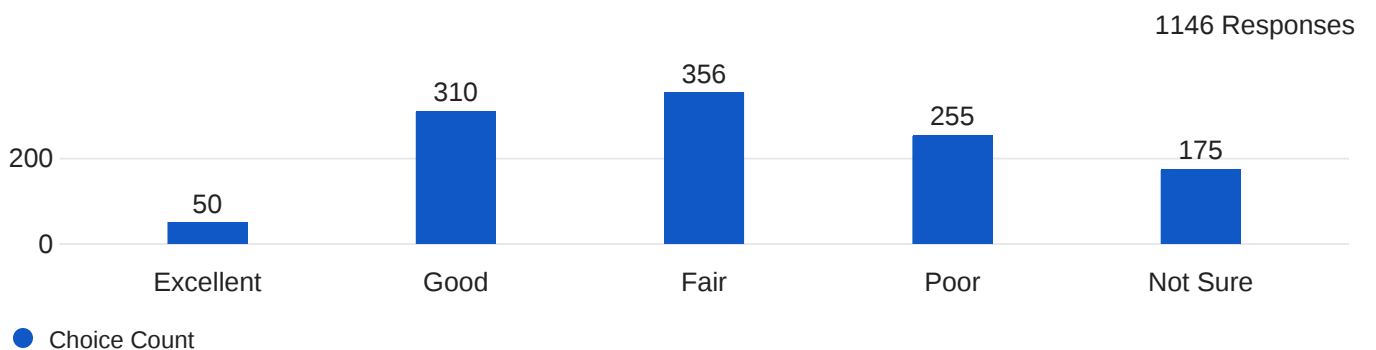
### Availability of technical or professional level training opportunities for water resource professionals in Nevada



### Availability of informal public education opportunities relating to Nevada's water resources at a local, regional, or statewide scale



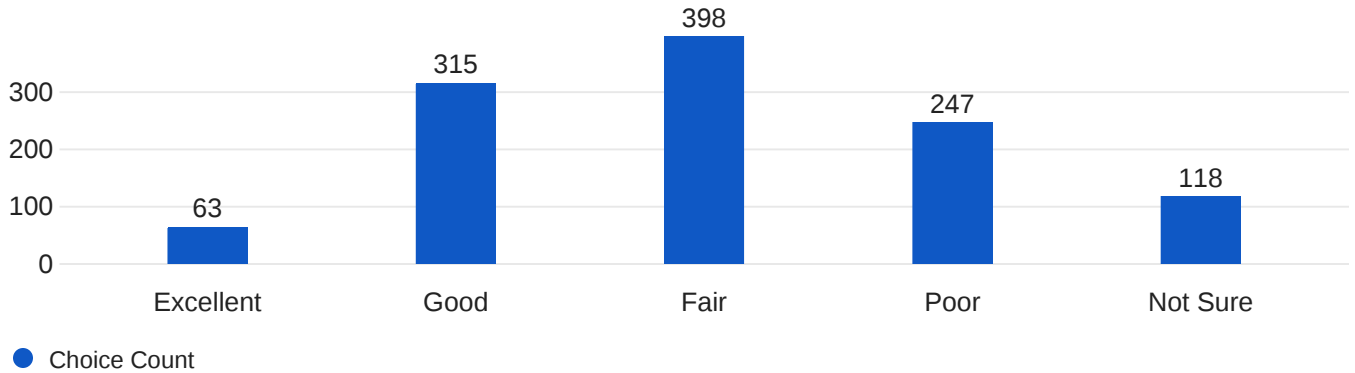
### Availability of information about state water law, as administered by the Nevada Division of Water Resources and the State Engineer





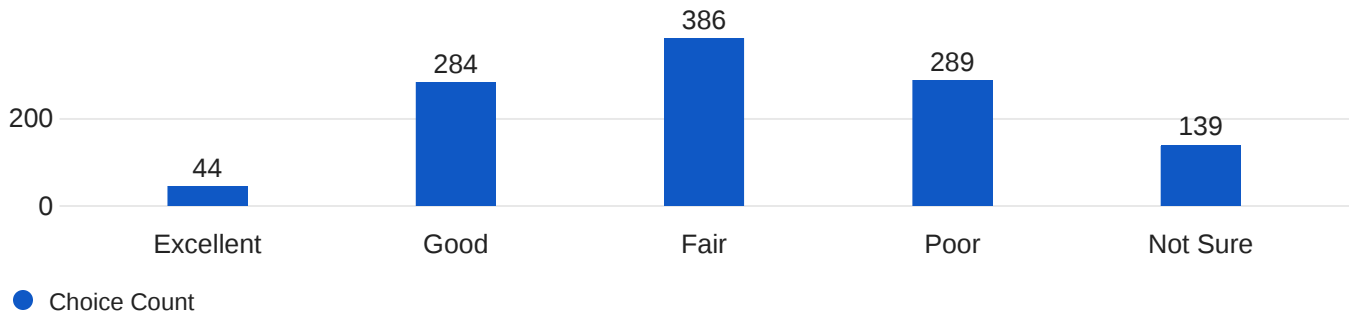
### The level of information and data regarding available water in Nevada

1141 Responses



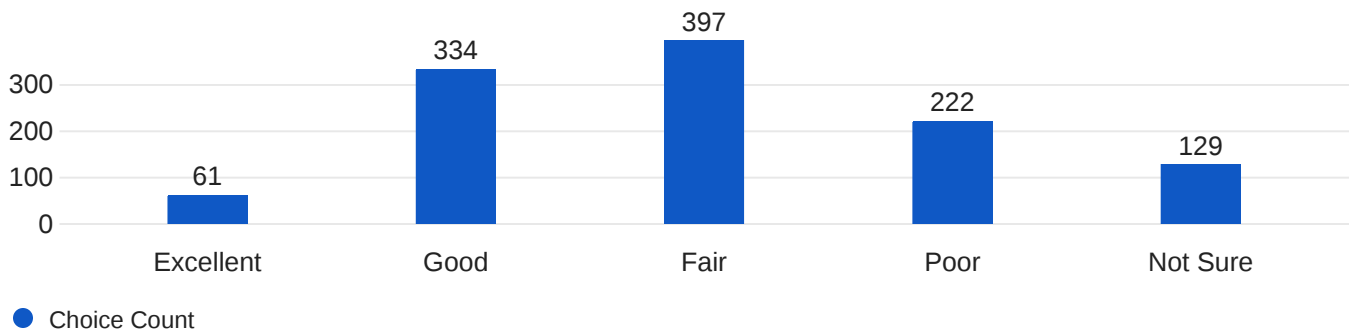
### The level of information and data available regarding water use across Nevada

1142 Responses

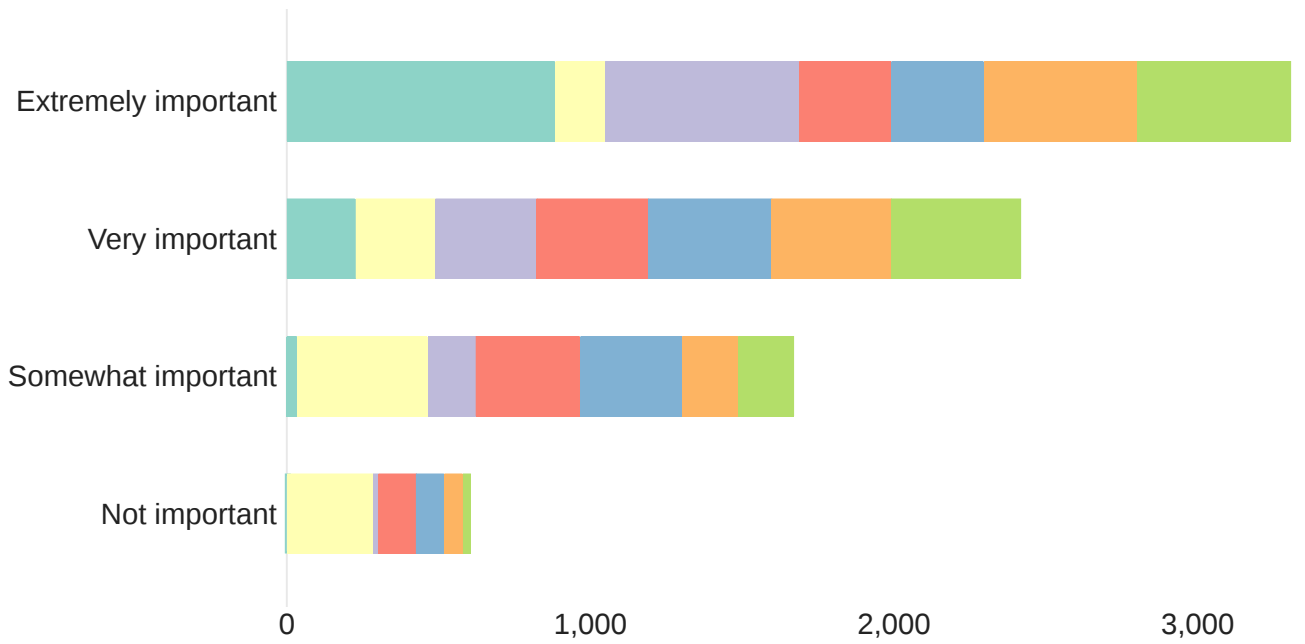


### The level of information and data available regarding water quality in Nevada

1143 Responses



### Considering water resources, how important are the following planning priorities to you?



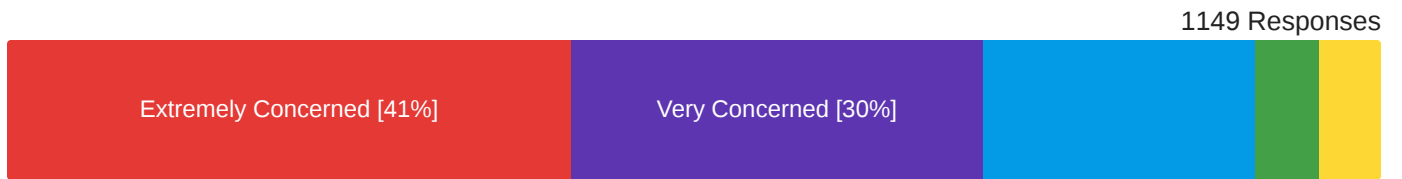
- Sustainable use of water
- Preferential use of water for the greatest economic gain to Nevada
- Protection and enhancement of the environment
- Consideration of cultural resources
- Adherence to established principles of Nevada water law
- Flexibility in water law to adapt to changing conditions and improved knowledge
- Disaster preparedness

Considering Nevada, what is your level of concern regarding the following topics?

Response options:

- Extremely Concerned
- Very Concerned
- Somewhat Concerned
- Not Concerned at all
- Not sure

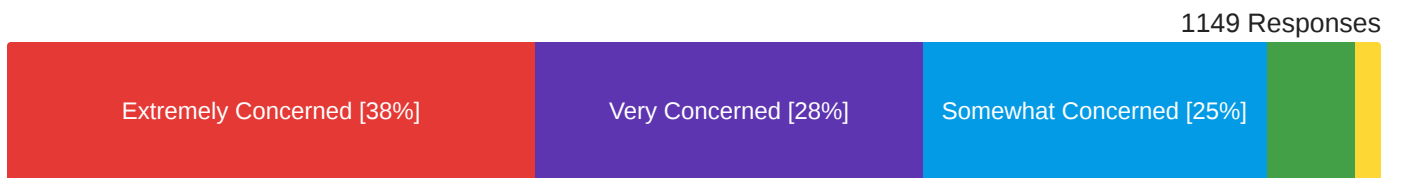
### Impacts of groundwater pumping on surface water supply



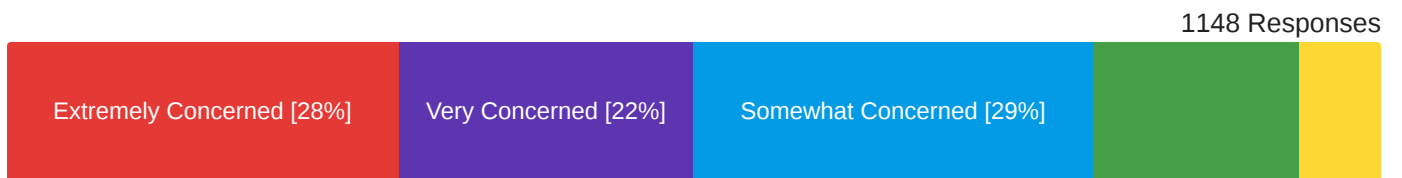
### Groundwater level decline due to excessive pumping



### Protecting existing water uses

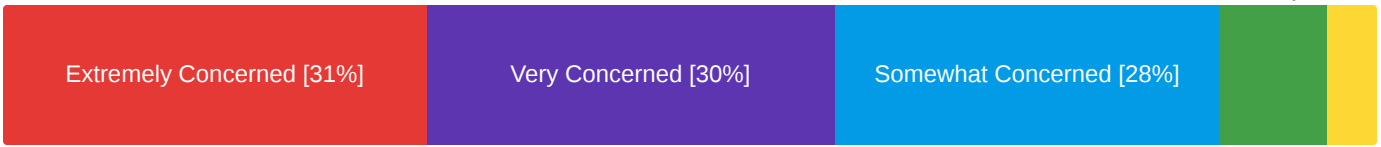


### Protecting senior water rights



### Protecting domestic wells

1145 Responses



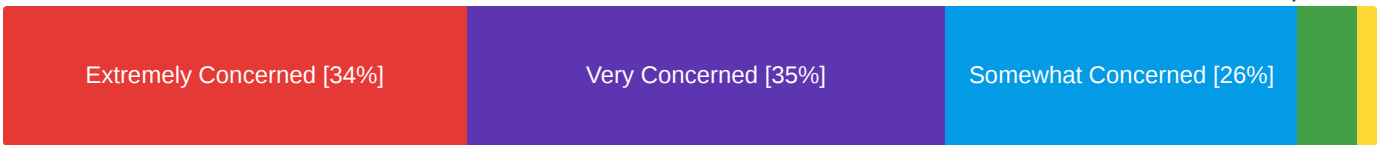
### Inefficient or wasteful use of water

1150 Responses



### Dam safety and aging water infrastructure

1147 Responses



### Flood risk management

1148 Responses



### Drought preparedness

1147 Responses



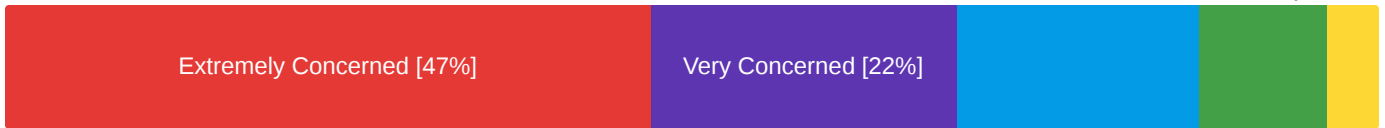
### Adequate long-term water resource planning

1149 Responses



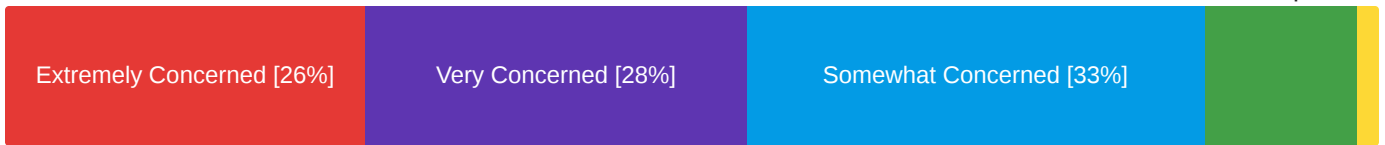
### Moving water from rural basins to supply urban areas

1147 Responses



### Reasonably priced water rates

1148 Responses



### Water quality of streams, rivers, and lakes

1148 Responses



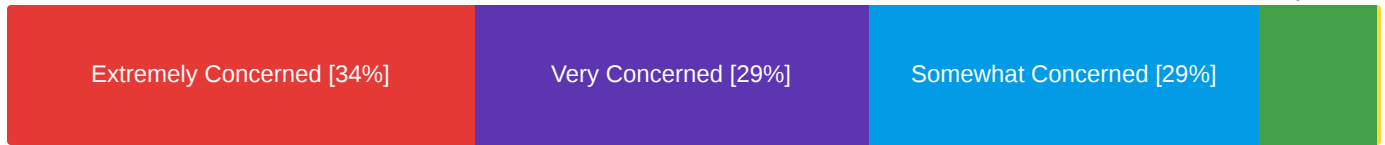
### Potential contamination of groundwater

1149 Responses



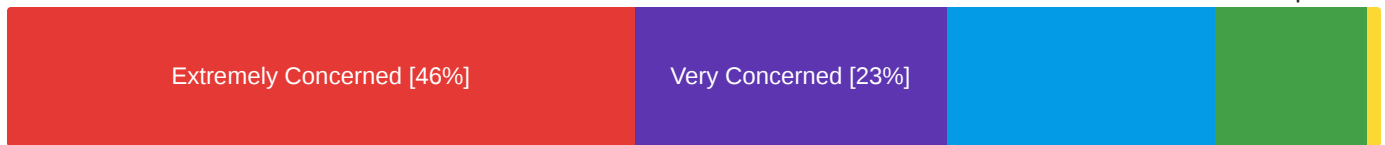
### Impacts from more extreme weather events

1147 Responses



### Long-term impacts from changes in climate

1145 Responses



### Future water supplies for yourself and your community

1148 Responses



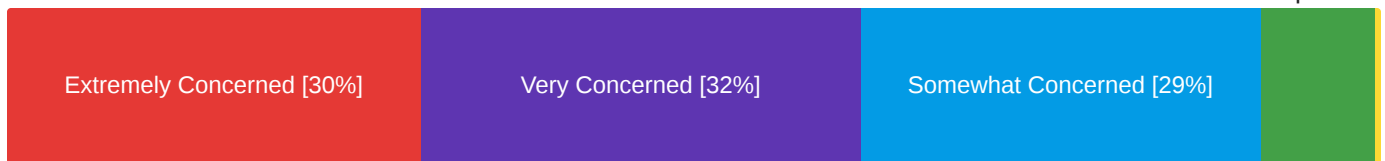
### Availability of water for ecosystems (including wildlife)

1146 Responses



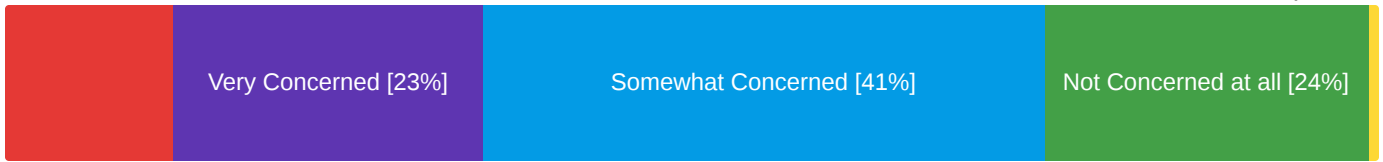
### Availability of water for agriculture

1149 Responses



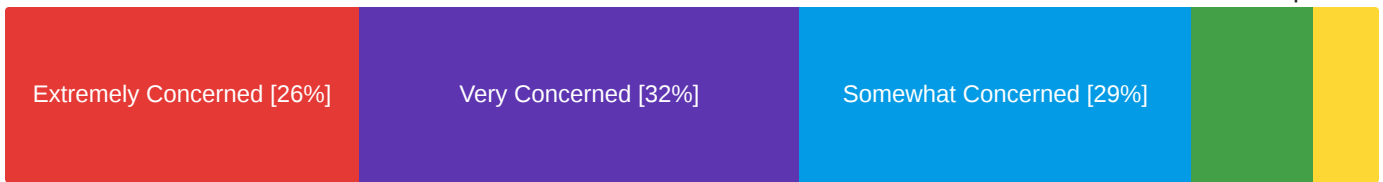
### Availability of water for recreational purposes

1141 Responses



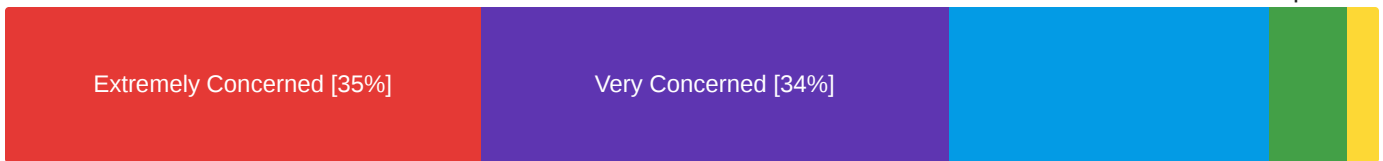
### Availability of water for desert terminal lakes (e.g. Pyramid and Walker lakes)

1143 Responses



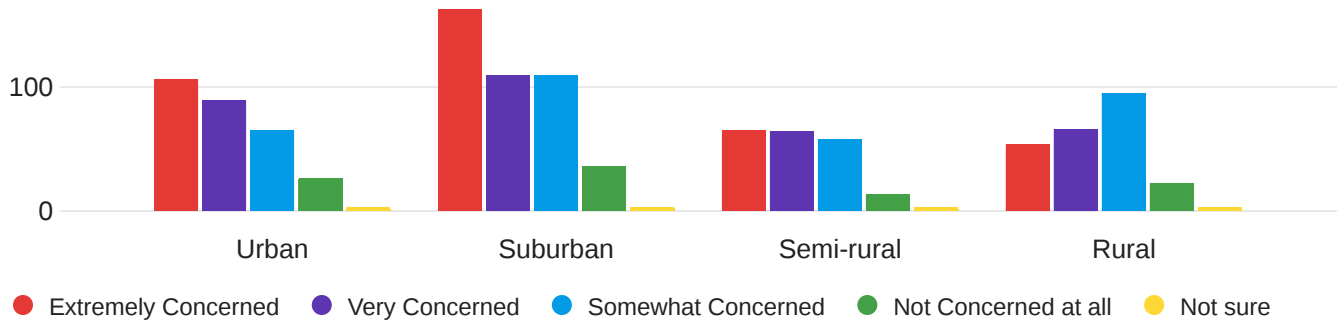
### Sufficient funding for water projects and studies

1144 Responses

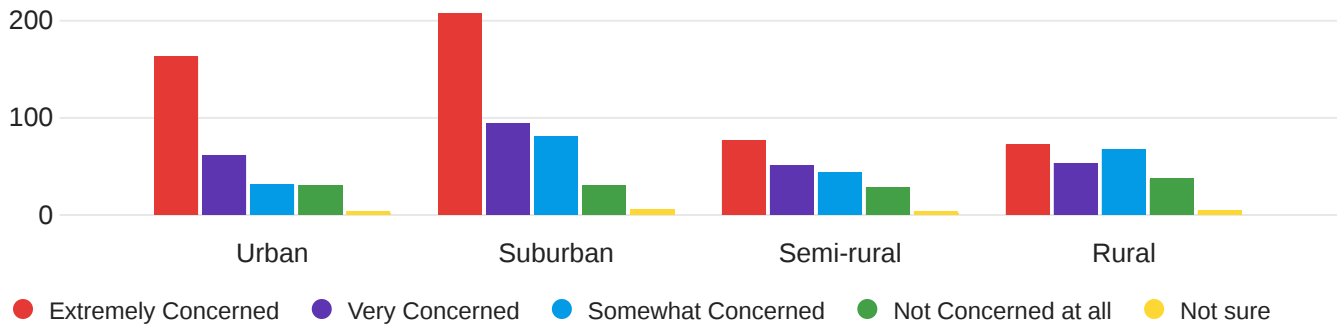


The following set of figures breaks down a subset of the results shown above according to urban-rural classifications:

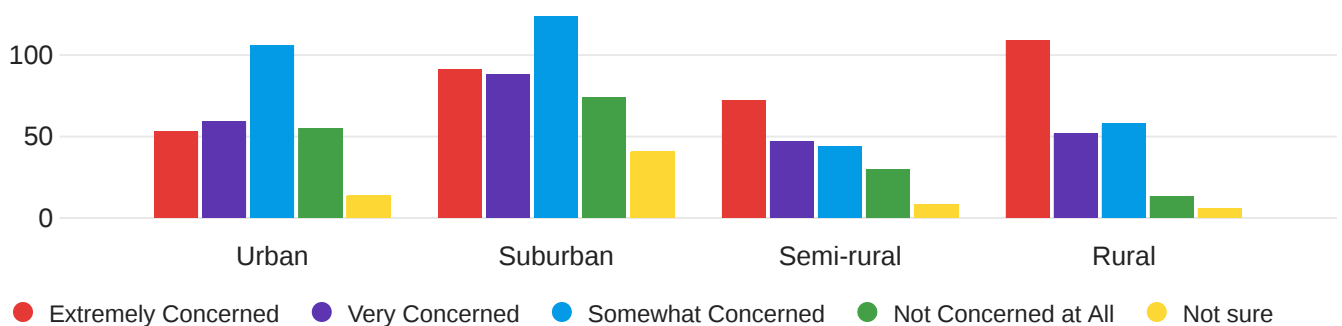
### Impacts from more extreme weather events



### Long-term impacts from changes in climate

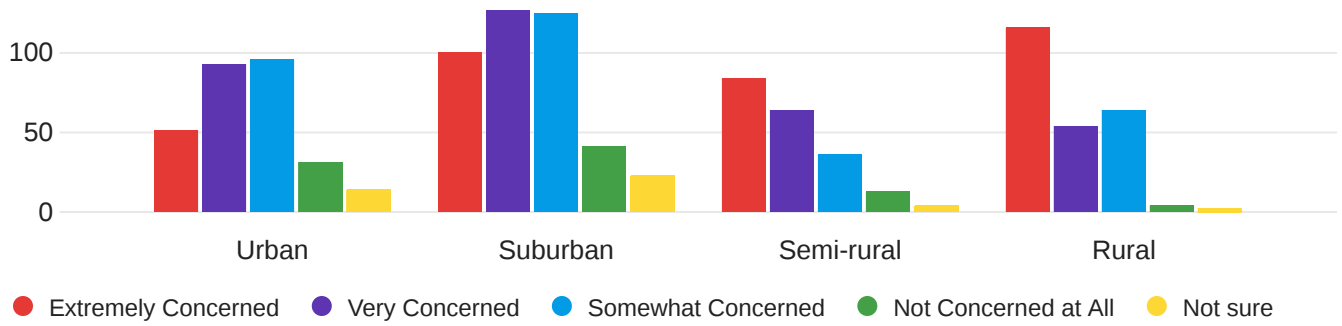


### Protecting senior water rights

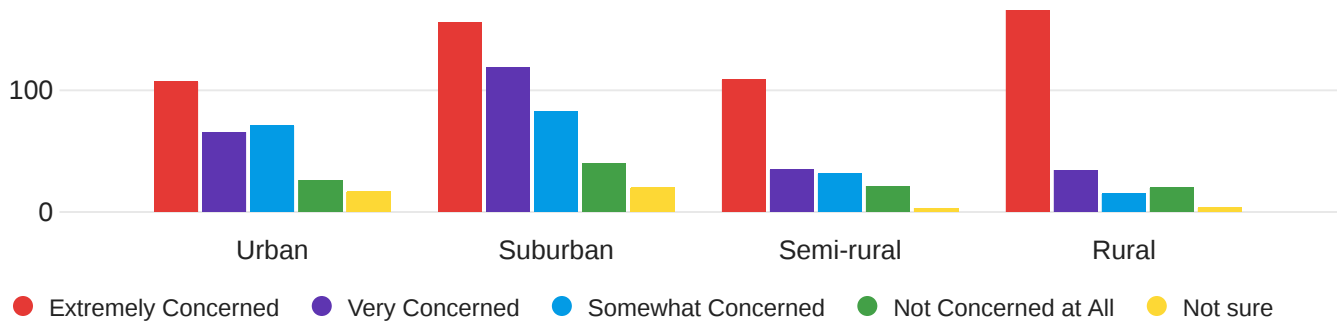




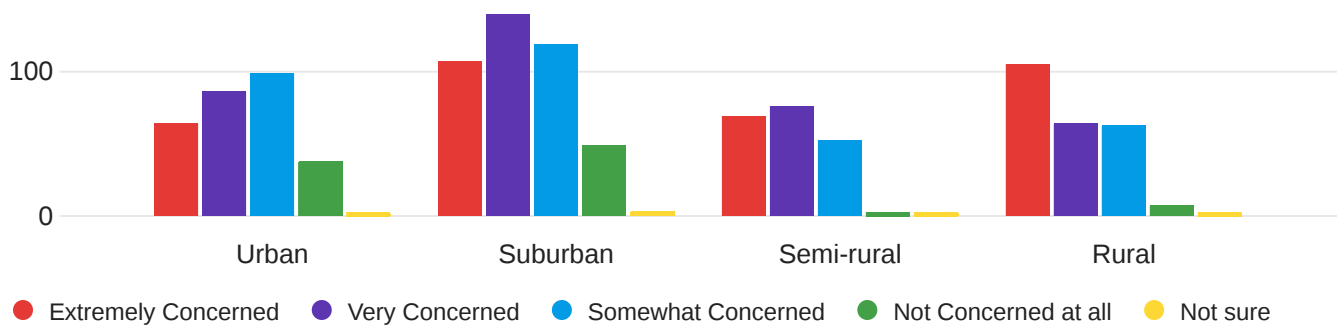
### Protecting domestic wells



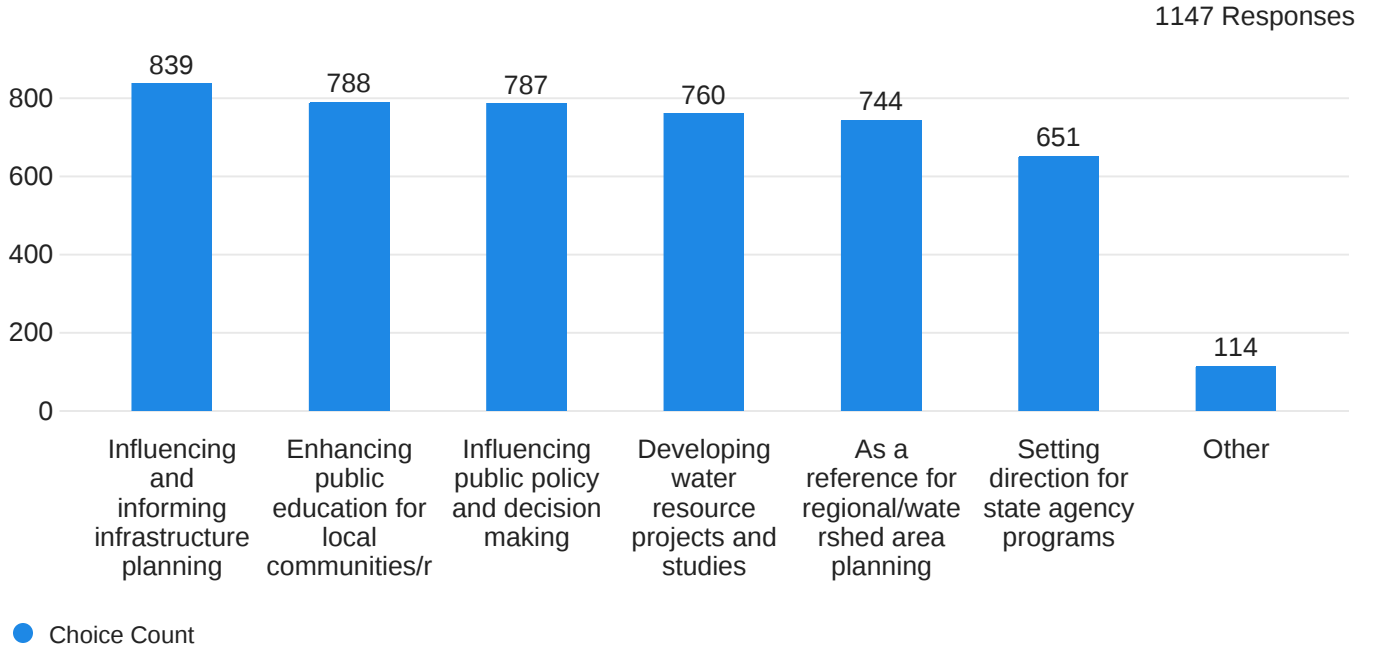
### Moving water from rural basins to supply urban areas



### Availability of water for agriculture



How would you like to see the new water plan used in the future? Select all that apply.



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### Open-Ended Responses

Responses to the three open-ended questions below were coded in Dedoose, a cloud-based mixed-methods research software. A grounded theory approach was utilized to identify key themes that emerged from the responses. Each response was read and assigned one or more themes (codes) according to the topic(s) addressed.



Count	Theme
312	Water Conservation
273	Growth Concerns
170	Planning
142	Environment
126	Rural to Urban Water Transfers
102	Beneficial Uses
93	Colorado River
90	Water Law
82	Climate Change
82	Water Quality
80	Water Quantity
74	State Services & Funding
74	Sustainability
63	Alternative Water Sources
63	Drought
60	Groundwater
49	Agriculture
41	Specific Basins/Regions
35	Outreach/Education
33	Government & Politics
30	Economy
30	Quality of Life
26	Social Justice
19	Mining
17	Floodplain Management
17	Groundwater-Surface Water Interaction
13	Perennial Yield Updates
10	Municipal Water
9	Energy
4	Dam Safety
3	Fire

Note: Responses that addressed several topics were counted under multiple themes, as appropriate.







## NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

### Default Question Block

#### Nevada State Water Plan Survey

Thank you for your interest in our state's water resources. Given that Nevada is the driest state in the nation, effective management of our precious water resources is crucial at all levels. This survey is being conducted by the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) in order to gather input from public stakeholders early in the process of updating our State Water Plan, which was last published in 1999 and may be viewed at <http://water.nv.gov/waterplandetail.aspx>. The updated plan is envisioned to serve as a high-level policy and planning guide to help inform and direct water resource initiatives in the near and distant future. Once completed, the updated plan will complement but not supersede local and regional water resource plans.

NDWR is committed to an engaged and transparent planning process, beginning with this public survey. This questionnaire is intended to solicit responses from a diversity of water users in Nevada. Questionnaire results will not be used to finalize any decisions or plan elements, but are intended to provide baseline data that will assist in informing the direction of the planning process. All responses are being collected by the Desert Research Institute on behalf of NDWR. Information collected is completely anonymous. If you would like to be notified of future opportunities to provide feedback, you will have the option to provide your contact information at the end of the survey via a separate, unrelated link.

The estimated time to complete the survey is 10-20 minutes. Most questions can be answered by selecting the available options, and three open-ended questions near the end will ask for your written opinions. Some questions may ask about topics that are unfamiliar to you. Any question may be skipped, though we hope you complete the survey as thoroughly as possible.

We appreciate your participation and look forward to receiving your input.

#### *About the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR):*

NDWR, also known as the Office of the State Engineer, is tasked with the appropriation and reallocation of public waters. Along with managing water rights, NDWR is responsible for quantifying existing water rights; monitoring water use and water levels; distributing water in accordance with court decrees; reviewing water availability for new subdivisions and condominiums; reviewing the construction and operation of dams; appropriating geothermal water; licensing and regulating well drillers and water rights surveyors; supporting floodplain management programs; supporting water planning and drought resiliency programs; and providing technical assistance to the public.

From what perspective are you taking this survey? Multiple answers may be selected.

- I am a concerned Nevada resident
- I am a tribal member
- I am a locally-elected official
- I am a concerned Nevada businessperson
- I work in agriculture
- I work for a water utility
- I work for a nonprofit
- I work for a regional or municipal government agency
- I work for a state or federal government agency
- I work for a consulting firm
- I am an academic/scientist
- Other

Please rate your level of agreement with the following general statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I consider myself a well-informed citizen regarding issues in Nevada.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I consider myself well-informed regarding Nevada water policy, planning, and supply issues.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you pay more attention to water issues today than in the past?

- More
- Less
- About the same

Why do you pay more attention to water issues now? Multiple answers may be selected.

- Drought
- Changing climate
- Career or livelihood concerns
- Water quantity issues
- Water quality issues
- News or education increased my awareness
- Population growth
- Energy concerns
- Moved to Nevada from another state
- Other



Where do you get your information regarding water issues, management, and planning?  
 Select all that apply.

- Nevada Division of Water Resources
- Other Nevada state agency
- Federal agency
- Local water management organization, or similar local-level group
- Printed newspaper, magazine, etc.
- Online news/media outlet
- Social media
- Television
- Word of mouth
- Radio or Podcast
- Public meetings (such as county commission, regional planning, or other organized event)
- Professional organization or other networking (such as Nevada Water Resources Association)
- Cooperative Extension
- Other

How often do you visit the Nevada Division of Water Resources website (www.water.nv.gov)?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- A few times a year
- Less than a few times per year
- I have never visited the Nevada Division of Water Resources website

Please rate your perception of the following items.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Sure
Availability of technical or professional level training opportunities for water resource professionals in Nevada	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of informal public education opportunities relating to Nevada's water resources at a local, regional, or statewide scale	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Sure
Availability of information about state water law, as administered by the Nevada Division of Water Resources and the State Engineer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The level of information and data regarding available water in Nevada	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The level of information and data available regarding water use across Nevada	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The level of information and data available regarding water quality in Nevada	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Considering water resources, how important are the following planning priorities to you?

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Sustainable use of water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preferential use of water for the greatest economic gain to Nevada	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protection and enhancement of the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consideration of cultural resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adherence to established principles of Nevada water law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flexibility in water law to adapt to changing conditions and improved knowledge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disaster preparedness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Considering the state of Nevada, please rate your level of concern regarding the following water topics.

	Extremely Concerned	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned at All	Not sure
Impacts of groundwater pumping on surface water supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Groundwater level decline due to excessive pumping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Extremely Concerned	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned at All	Not sure
Protecting existing water uses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting senior water rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting domestic wells	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inefficient or wasteful use of water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dam safety and aging water infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flood risk management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drought preparedness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adequate long-term water resource planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Moving water from rural basins to supply urban areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reasonably priced water rates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Continued from the previous question: Considering the state of Nevada, please rate your level of concern regarding the following water topics.

	Extremely Concerned	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned at all	Not sure
Water quality of streams, rivers, and lakes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Potential contamination of groundwater	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Impacts from more extreme weather events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Long-term impacts from changes in climate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future water supplies for yourself and your community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of water for ecosystems (including wildlife)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of water for agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of water for recreational purposes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of water for desert terminal lakes (e.g. Pyramid and Walker lakes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sufficient funding for water projects and studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How would you like to see the new water plan used in the future? Select all that apply.

- Influencing and informing infrastructure planning
- As a reference for regional/watershed area planning
- Influencing public policy and decision making
- Enhancing public education for local communities/residents
- Setting direction for state agency programs
- Developing water resource projects and studies
- Other

If you had 15 minutes with the governor, what are the top water issues you would want to discuss?

In your opinion, what should the future management of Nevada's water resources look like?

Please share any additional thoughts, concerns, or insights you might have about Nevada water issues or the update of the State Water Plan.

How many years have you lived in the state of Nevada?

- Less than 2 years
- 2 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- 11 to 20 years
- 21 to 50 years
- More than 50 years
- I don't live in Nevada

What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18-30
- 31-45
- 46-60
- 61 and older

Please specify your ethnicity:

- Caucasian
- Latino or Hispanic
- African-American
- Native American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Other

How would you describe the place you live?

- Urban
- Suburban
- Semi-rural
- Rural

Do you know what watershed (or groundwater basin) you live in?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure what a watershed or groundwater basin is

Please provide the name of the watershed or groundwater basin that you live in.

What Nevada county do you live in?

- Carson City
- Churchill
- Clark
- Douglas
- Elko
- Esmeralda
- Eureka

- Humboldt
- Lander
- Lincoln
- Lyon
- Mineral
- Nye
- Pershing
- Storey
- Washoe
- White Pine
- I don't live in Nevada

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