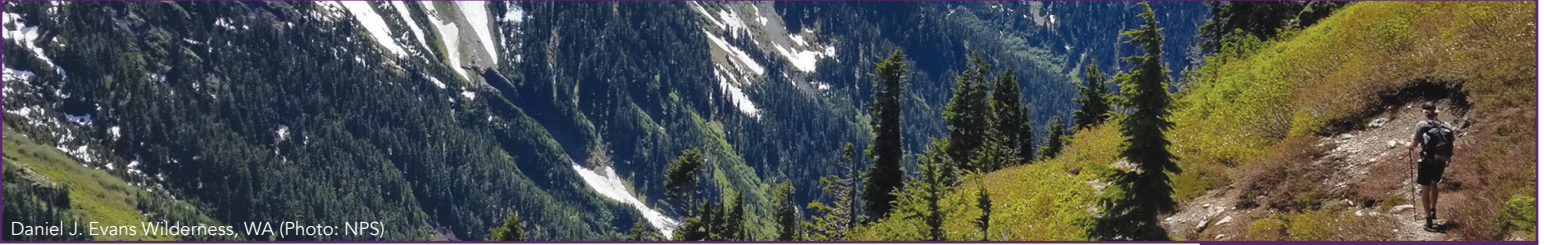


Celebrating 60 Years of The Wilderness Act



Daniel J. Evans Wilderness, WA (Photo: NPS)

“I have found that people go to the wilderness for many things but, the most important of these is perspective. They may think they go for the fishing or the scenery or companionship, but in reality it is something far deeper. They go to the wilderness for the good of their souls.” — Aldo Leopold

The Wilderness Act was passed by the 88th Congress and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964.

The bipartisan act states:

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

Wilderness designation is the highest level of conservation for federal public lands. The Wilderness Act is the legal tool to designate existing federal lands through the Wilderness Preservation System, and only Congress may designate or change the status of wilderness areas.

Today, the National Wilderness Preservation System includes 806 wilderness areas protecting 111,889,002 acres across 44 states and Puerto Rico.

What Defines Wilderness?

To be designated as wilderness the federal public land must meet the following criteria:

- Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.
- Minimal human impact.
- At least five thousand acres with no permanent roads.
- Educational, scientific, scenic or historical value.

The U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management manage these protected areas.

Why Should You Care?

Wilderness areas protect open space, watersheds, natural soundscapes, and biodiversity. They provide recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts, intact habitat for wildlife, clean drinking water for cities, sources of inspiration for artists, and so much more.

Wilderness provides a sense of *wildness*, which can be valuable to people whether or not they actually visit wilderness. Just knowing that wilderness exists can produce a sense of curiosity, inspiration, renewal, and hope.

Wilderness belongs to us all!



Ansel Adams Wilderness, CA
(Photo: Dcjrjr/Wikipedia)



Little Black Peak WSA, NM
(Photo: BLM)



Mollie Beatie Wilderness, AK
(Photo: USFWS)



Hoover Wilderness, CA
(Photo: USFS)



Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a 501(c)3 organization.

Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a women-led national grassroots organization that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands.

For more information, go to <https://www.greatoldbroads.org>



Scan the QR code to learn more about wilderness and Broads!