

## Reflection Section



- ✿ Overall, would you say that the benefits of wilderness are important to the American public? Explain your answer using the information in table 2.
- ✿ Reread “Thinking About the Environment.” Looking at the information in table 2, would you say that more Americans place a high value on the “use benefits” or “non-use benefits” that they receive from wilderness? Explain your answer.

These benefits have to do with human health by protecting air and water quality. They also have to do with environmental health by protecting endangered species and ecosystems. Information such as this can help our elected representatives make decisions about wilderness that are in the interest of the majority of American citizens.

## Reflection Section



- ✿ In what ways can wilderness help protect human health?

## Discussion

In 2000, a higher percentage of people said that “non-use benefits” from wilderness were more important than “use benefits.”

From Cordell, H. K., Tarrant, M. A., and Green, G. T. (2003). Is the public viewpoint of Wilderness shifting? *International Journal of Wilderness*, 9(2), pp. 27-32.

## FACTivity



### Directions:

For this FACTivity, you will conduct your own survey like the scientists in this article. You will actually ask people some of the same questions that the scientists in this study asked. The questions on your survey come from a larger survey called the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment or NSRE, for short. To look at more questions from the survey, go to this Web site: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/Nsre/nsre2.html>.

1. Copy the survey and the chart (on p. 54-55) to record the responses.
2. Ask at least five people the questions on this survey and record their responses on the response chart. These people can be classmates, other students, family, and

friends, but don't ask the same person twice. Remember, do not ask people for names because their responses should be anonymous.

3. Bring the answers to class with you.
4. Have the class compile all of their responses.
5. Hold a class discussion about the responses. What did you find about what people know about wilderness? Are there any areas where a majority of the people responded the same way? Do you think this could be important? Why or why not? Do any of your findings support what the scientists found? If so, how? If not, what are the differences?

## Wilderness Survey

1. Were you aware that Congress established the National Wilderness Preservation System?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know
4. Refused to answer

2. Do you think the amount of land Congress has designated as wilderness is not enough, about the right amount, or too much?

1. Not enough
2. About the right amount
3. Too much
4. Don't know

3. Do you plan to visit a wilderness within the next year?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know
4. Refused to answer

4. Even if you do not plan on visiting a wilderness within the next year, would you want to visit one sometime in the future?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know
4. Refused to answer

Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements about wilderness.

5. I enjoy reading about and viewing pictures, videos, TV shows, and movies featuring wilderness.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know
7. Refused to answer

6. I enjoy knowing that other people are currently able to visit wilderness.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know
7. Refused to answer

7. I enjoy knowing that future generations will be able to visit and experience wilderness.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know
7. Refused to answer

8. Wilderness is important to protect because it contributes to better local, national, and global air and water quality.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know
7. Refused to answer

9. Wilderness is important because it helps to preserve plant and animal species that could have important scientific or human health value, such as sources of new medicines.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know
7. Refused to answer

10. I support protecting wilderness just so it will always exist in its natural condition, even if no one were to ever visit or otherwise benefit from it.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree

3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know
7. Refused to answer

11. I believe the trees, wildlife, free flowing water, rock formations, and meadows that wilderness protects have value themselves, whether or not humans benefit from them.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. Don't know
7. Refused to answer

Survey Response Chart. Record the responses on this sheet for each person who answers the questions. Place the number that matches the person's answer by each question.

Question	Respondent (Example)	Respondent 1	Respondent 2	Respondent 3	Respondent 4	Respondent 5
1	1 (Yes)					
2	2 (About the right amount)					
3	3 (don't know)					
4	Etc.					
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						

Question	Respondent 6	Respondent 7	Respondent 8	Respondent 9	Respondent 10	Respondent 11
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						

## Alternate FACtivity



Using the Internet, visit <http://www.wilderness.net>. Click on “Search map of wilderness areas,” which is located in the left hand column titled “General Wilderness Information.” You will see a map of the United States with wildernesses identified on the map. Working in pairs, select a State. Click on that State and do research on the

wilderness within that State. If you select a State with many wildernesses, you might want to focus your research on just two or three of them. Present your findings to the class. You may want to draw maps and pictures to use in your presentation. After the presentations, hold a discussion about the similarities and differences in wildernesses that were presented.



If you are a Project Learning Tree-trained educator, you may use PLT Activity #19, “Values On the Line” and PLT Activity #91, “Good Ol’ Days” as additional activity resources.