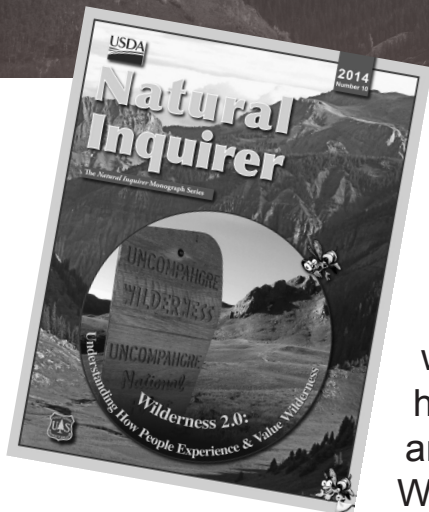


WELCOME TO THE WILDERNESS 50 MONOGRAPHS!

Photo by Andrew Maher.

Glossary words are in **bold** and are defined on page 32.



This monograph is one of two Wilderness 50 monographs. These two monographs were created to honor the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964. You can read

the other Wilderness monograph, “Wilderness 2.0,” by visiting <http://www.naturalinquirer.org>. At this Web site, you can download the monograph or order a hardcopy of the monograph for free. “Wilderness 2.0” explores the experiences of a 16-year-old boy in a Colorado wilderness and tells how he used technology to blog about his wilderness experiences.

Wilderness Timeline:

The idea of protecting lands as wilderness did not happen overnight. Before the National Wilderness Preservation System was established in 1964, many people took actions that helped Americans understand the value of protecting wild lands. Since 1964, other people have continued to ensure the protection of more wilderness areas.

1822: Pawnee Chief Petalesharo (**pə tə lə shə rō**) spoke to President James Monroe. He described the way of Indian life and noted that numbers of game animals such as buffalo were decreasing because of human settlement and exploration.

1827: Thomas Cole, a leader in the romantic landscape painting movement known as the Hudson River School, produced “St. John Preaching in the Wilderness.” Cole believed that wilderness was passing away and that there was a “necessity of saving and perpetuating its features.”

1836: Ralph Waldo Emerson published “Nature.” His essay helped Americans develop positive attitudes toward nature.

When Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964, nearly every Member of Congress voted in favor of the act. The law, created by the passage of the act, permanently protects some of the most natural and undisturbed places

in America (figure 1). The act is one of the most successful U.S. environmental laws. It continues to be the guiding piece of legislation for all wilderness areas.



Figure 1. The Bisti/De-Na-Zin (**Bis-tī** Dā na zin) Wilderness is a rolling landscape of badlands in the Four Corners region of New Mexico. Badlands are sedimentary rocks that have been eroded over time by wind and water. These rock formations are made of sandstone, shale, mudstone, coal, and silt. The weathering of the sandstone forms hoodoos. Hoodoos are weathered rock in the form of pinnacles, spires, and other unusual shapes. Da-Na-Zin is Navajo for “standing crane.”

Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management.

Wilderness Timeline *continued*

1837: George Catlin called for “a nation’s park” to protect the American Indian way of life.

1854: Henry David Thoreau, author of *Walden*, wrote that wilderness sanctuaries are the “need of civilized man.”

1864: George Perkins Marsh published *Man and Nature*, warning citizens to stop the devastation of forests and other natural resources.

1864: President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Bill, “to protect an area and conserve it for recreational enjoyment.” This bill marked the first time a national government set aside land for the purpose of conservation.

President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on September 3, 1964. Following the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, other countries around the world have also protected

natural areas. Few of these other areas worldwide, however, have the same level of protection from human activities as American wilderness areas.

Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 describes wilderness as follows:

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. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its **primeval** character and influence, without permanent improvements or human **habitation**, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions; and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for **solitude** or a **primitive** and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Be sure to read the *Natural Inquirer* Wilderness Benefits edition. You can find it at <http://www.naturalinquirer.org/Wilderness-Benefits-Edition-i-11.html>.

1865: Frederick Law Olmstead pushed for protection of Yosemite Valley (California) and was first to advance the idea of placing certain areas under government protection.

1885: The New York State Legislature created the Adirondack Forest Preserve "to be kept forever as wild forest lands," along with similar lands in the Catskill Mountains.

1892: John Muir organized the Sierra Club in California to enlist public and governmental support for preservation of wilderness. The Sierra Club remained a State group until the 1950s, when David Brower convinced the group to think nationally.

Howard Zahniser (**zah**(n) ī zər), author of the Wilderness Act of 1964, selected the word “untrammeled” to define wilderness. Many people read the word “untrammeled” as “untrampled,” as in not stepped on. Yet the word “untrammeled” means something much different. A “trammel” is a net used for catching fish, or a device used to keep horses from walking. To trammel

something is to catch or restrain it. Untrammeled means something is free or unrestrained. Wilderness areas, therefore, are not to be controlled by humans. Zahniser defined “untrammeled” in the Wilderness Act as “not being subject to human controls and **manipulations** that hamper the free play of natural forces.”

WILDERNESS FUN FACTS

- 🍃 When the Wilderness Act of 1964 was passed, it protected 9.1 million acres of wilderness in 13 States.
- 🍃 On the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the act now protects 109,511,966 acres of wilderness in 44 States and Puerto Rico.
- 🍃 The smallest wilderness is Pelican Island Wilderness in northern Florida. This wilderness contains 5.5 acres of land and water.
- 🍃 The largest wilderness is Wrangell-Saint Elias Wilderness in Alaska. This wilderness contains 9,078,675 acres.
- 🍃 Only Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, and Rhode Island have no **designated** wilderness areas.
- 🍃 The newest wilderness area is Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness in Michigan. It became an official wilderness area on March 13, 2014.

For more information about wilderness areas, visit <http://www.wilderness.net>.

Wilderness Timeline *continued*

1898: Gifford Pinchot took office as Chief of the Division of Forestry, later organized into the national Forest Service in 1905. Today, this agency is known as the Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

1903: President Theodore Roosevelt protected vast acres of Federal land for public use and conservation.

1906: President Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act into law. This law gives the President the authority to protect public land by Executive order. In 1906, President Roosevelt used the law to create the Grand Canyon National Monument, which later became Grand Canyon National Park.

This monograph presents research about the recreational use and value of wilderness. Wilderness areas provide important settings for outdoor recreation. When in wilderness, people must meet nature on its terms without



Aldo Leopold is considered by many to be the father of the U.S. wilderness system.

Photo courtesy of <http://www.outdoorhub.com>.

the benefit of human-built machines. This meeting with nature on its terms is what the Wilderness Act calls a “primitive and unconfined type of recreation.”

Information adapted from <http://www.wilderness.net/>.



President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act of 1964 into law with overwhelming support from Congress. Photo courtesy of <http://www.wildernessstewardship.org>.

Gifford Pinchot (pin **chō**) promoted the conservation of the United States’ forests by planned use and renewal. He was the first leader of what is now the Forest Service.

Photo courtesy of

<http://www.seekinggreatestgood.org>.



Rachel Carson is recognized as one of the founders of the modern environmental movement.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

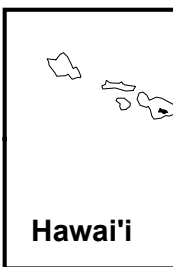
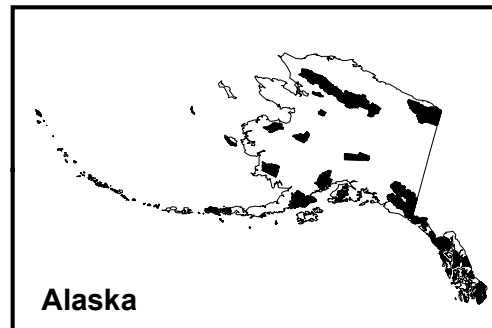
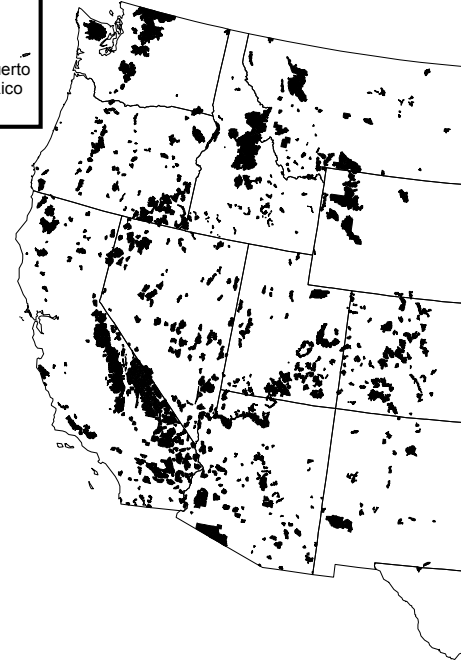
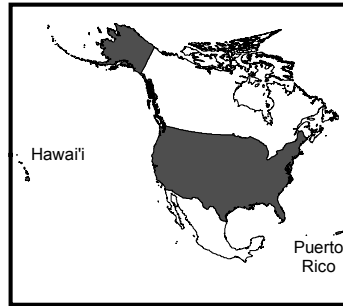


1919: Arthur Carhart recommended that the Trappers Lake area in Colorado not be developed for summer homes and that it be allowed to remain wild. His plan was approved.

1924: Aldo Leopold’s work resulted in the **designation** of the first official wilderness area. This area is the Gila (**hē la**) Wilderness in New Mexico.

1935: Bob Marshall, Aldo Leopold, Benton MacKaye (**Mə kī**), and others founded The Wilderness Society as a national organization based in Washington, DC, to specialize in advocating wilderness protection.

1962: Scientist Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*, stirring public awareness of pesticides and the environment.



Alaska, Hawai'i, and Puerto Rico are not drawn to scale.

Wilderness Timeline *continued*

1964: President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law, creating the National Wilderness Preservation System, which protected 9 million acres of wilderness. (figure 2, pages 12-13).

1970: Senator Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day, focusing national attention on the environment.

1972: President Richard Nixon signed legislation designating the Scapegoat Wilderness in Montana. This was the first wilderness area to be designated by Congress because of a grass-roots citizens' effort.

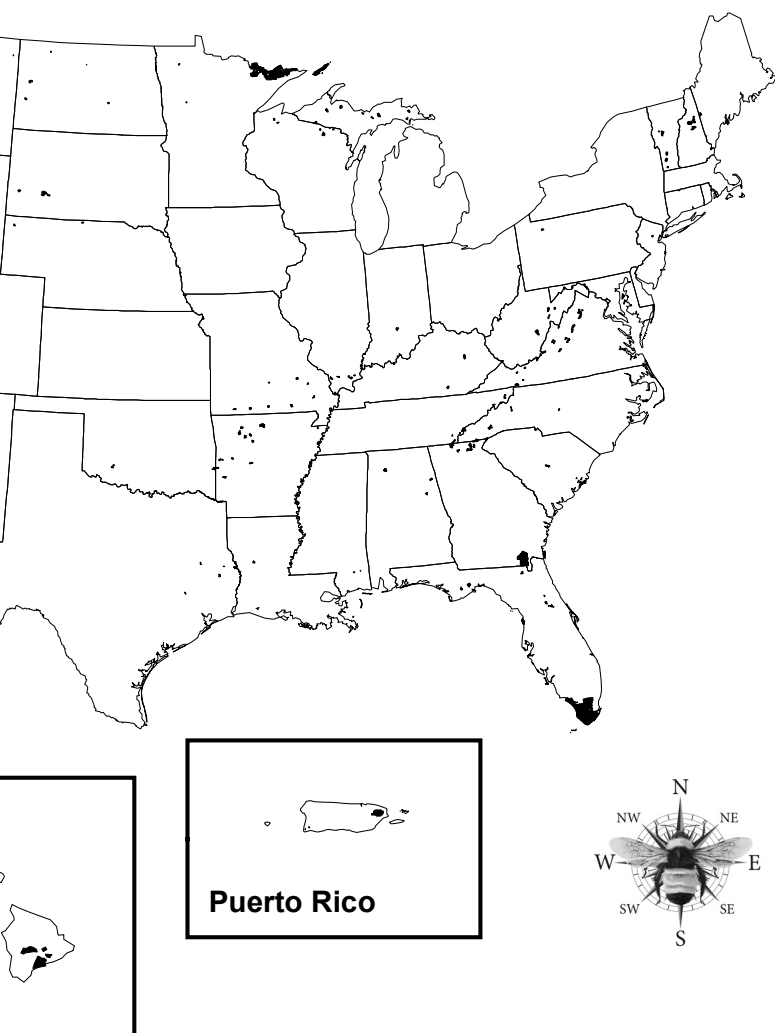


Figure 2. The National Wilderness Preservation System. Find the wilderness area nearest to you. For more wilderness maps and to identify the name of the wilderness closest to you, visit <http://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/maps>.

1975: President Gerald Ford signed the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act, protecting 207,000 acres of wilderness on national forests in the East, South, and Midwest. With this act, Congress rejected the view that once-logged or once-inhabited lands can never qualify for Wilderness Act protection.

1978: President Jimmy Carter signed the Endangered American Wilderness Act. With this act, 1.3 million acres of national forest lands across the West were designated as wilderness, all on the basis of proposals initiated by local citizens groups.

1984: President Ronald Reagan (who signed more individual wilderness protection laws than any other President) signed wilderness laws for 22 States in a single year, protecting some 8 million acres.

What Benefits Do Wilderness Areas Provide?

Backcountry areas and wilderness areas provide many benefits to the American people. Wilderness, however, is a special type of backcountry area. No human developments are allowed in wilderness, and wilderness is a place where people can visit but not live. Wilderness areas, therefore, provide benefits beyond those provided by backcountry areas. Some wilderness benefits include the following.



Clean water and air— People drink water that flows from wilderness and breathe air that is replenished by the filtering action of plants and forests found in wilderness.

Photo by Babs McDonald.



Legacy—The wilderness idea is a part of U.S. history and is passed as a **legacy** to our children. For many Americans, just knowing wilderness exists inspires pride and a sense of responsibility.

Photo courtesy of Forest Service,
Pacific Southwest Region.



The economy— Wilderness areas have a positive impact on local and regional **economies**. Counties with wilderness areas usually have higher income and employment growth rates than the national average.

Photo by Babs McDonald.

Wilderness Timeline *continued*

2001: President William Clinton's Roadless Area Conservation Rule was adopted. This rule protected some 60 million acres of "roadless areas" on national forests, much of which local citizen groups had hoped to see Congress preserve as wilderness.

2005: President George W. Bush signed into law wilderness protection for 11,000 acres of desert canyon lands in northwestern New Mexico and 10,000 acres of tropical rain forest in Puerto Rico—the only tropical rainforest in America's National Forest System.



Recreation—Every year, more than 12 million people visit wilderness areas to hike, watch birds, ride horses, hunt, fish, go canoeing, take pictures, and stargaze. Many visitors value wilderness for the challenging recreation experiences it provides. Other visitors value wilderness as a **refuge** from our fast-paced, developed society. Wilderness provides a place to reconnect with oneself and with the land. Wilderness provides solitude. Photo by Babs McDonald.



Wild animals and plants—Wildlife is protected in wilderness, from grizzly bears to wildflowers. Wilderness protects natural processes, including natural disturbances like fire. Natural processes support **biodiversity**. A diversity of life forms is critical to global environmental health.

Photo courtesy of Forest Service, Northern Region.



Science—Wilderness areas provide a special place for scientists to study the natural world.

Photo courtesy of Forest Service, Northern Region.

From <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/recreation/wilderness/faq/#6>.

2009: President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. This bill protected 2.1 million acres of new wilderness areas in California, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

2014:
**50th Anniversary
of the Wilderness
Act of 1964.**

Time Line information is from http://www.nature.nps.gov/views/KCs/Wilderness/HTML/ET_04_Why.htm and <http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/history-of-wilderness-progress/>.