

# Why Wilderness?

This series of posters was developed to promote wilderness awareness and appreciation, as well as tackle some of the misconceptions about wilderness. They are for anyone to use to in wilderness education, such as posting at a trail head or putting on an office bulletin board. Feel free to adapt the text or ideas into other interpretive and educational materials, however please respect the photos that are credited to istock-photo.com, as they are subject to the terms of their use agreement if taken out of these posters and used in another manner. Here is an index to the posters included in this publication:

- **Wilderness and Freedom**—One misconception about wilderness is that it impinges on freedom. This poster presents the freedom granted by wilderness, and explains that some rules are needed to protect that freedom.
- **Wilderness in National Parks?**—The question is often asked “Why do we need wilderness in national parks? Aren’t they already protected?” This poster portrays wilderness in national parks as an insurance policy.
- **Shhh... It’s Wilderness!!!**—The purpose of this poster is to foster understanding and appreciation of the special qualities of wilderness and encourage appropriate behavior.
- **The Idea of Wilderness**—Many people care deeply about remote wild places even if they cannot or will not ever go there.

These posters were created by Suzy Stutzman and the Intermountain Region Wilderness Executive Committee. Within the National Park Service, a copy of these posters can be found on the InsideIntermountain Wilderness Web site at:

[http://im.den.nps.gov/den\\_wild1.cfm](http://im.den.nps.gov/den_wild1.cfm)  
go to tab “Information” then “Wilderness Awareness”



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*Enjoy your wilderness!*



# Wilderness and Freedom



Great Sand Dunes Wilderness, Colorado

FREEDOM TO...hike...explore...run...jump...find peace...ride a horse....play...listen to birds...see wild animals...take photographs...watch the sky...hear the wind...challenge yourself...rest...learn...camp...study the stars...find wildflowers...stroll...meditate...rejuvenate...feel the weather...get lost (and find yourself)...listen to frogs...enjoy the scenery...glide in a canoe...dip in a cold stream....fish in a lake...discover mushrooms...share nature with family and friends...chase clouds...hear a tumbling waterfall....and freedom for nature to be wild!

So why are there rules? Buildings, roads, motors and mechanization are excluded to provide a natural, quiet, wild place for people and wildlife to be free.

***Enjoy your wilderness!***



# Wilderness in National Parks ?



## **Insurance**

Why do we need wilderness in National Parks? Aren't they already protected? The National Park Service conserves scenic, natural, and historic objects while providing public enjoyment in a manner that will leave them unimpaired for future generations. However, there are still a wide variety of management options, such as constructing roads and buildings for visitors and administration. While such developments are appropriate to the NPS mission, they must be carefully balanced with natural systems and some areas should remain wild. Wilderness provides permanent protection for wild lands within National Parks. It's an insurance policy that guarantees future generations will find these special places the same.

***Enjoy your wilderness!***



# Shhh... it's Wilderness !



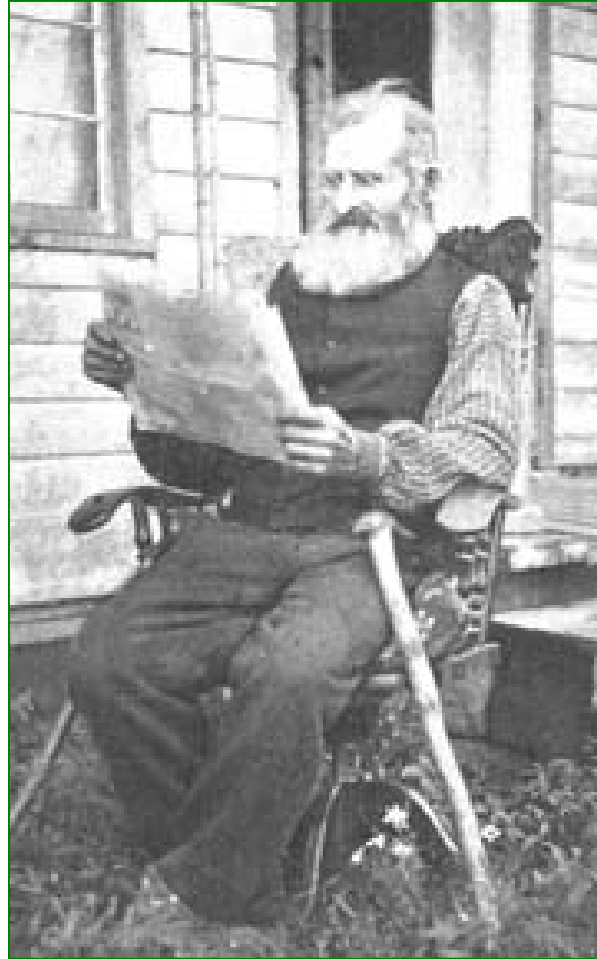
istockphoto.com

Wilderness is a special place to find nature and quiet. That doesn't mean you can't talk and have fun, but it's like going to a friend's house. When you go there, you are respectful and behave well. At a friend's house, you wouldn't throw your soda can on the floor or yell across the room. Wilderness is home to animals and a place for people to enjoy nature. When you visit wilderness, think about the special and wonderful place you are about to enter and step respectfully into nature's home. Shhh.... It's Wilderness!

***Enjoy your wilderness!***



# The Idea of Wilderness



For many people, the idea of wilderness is as important as going there. Wild places capture the imagination. Places where caribou move along ancient pathways of unspoiled tundra, or where trees grow to a giant old age and fall to the wind rather than from the saw, or where raindrops can fall and gather into frothy white streams alive with fish, slowed by no dam. The idea of wilderness can provide people with peace, comfort, excitement, renewal, and spiritual well being, even if they never leave their chair.

*Enjoy your wilderness!*

