

## A Call for Wilderness Stewardship from Community of Grace Presbyterian Church



Dear Congressmen,

Wild spaces are necessary for so many reasons. They allow air and water places to be stored and cleansed. They provide habitat for wild animals and keep biodiversity of species intact. They renew the human soul. Please vote to expand and keep them.

*Barbara Gentry*

I have lived in Utah for ten years and am continually awestruck by the beauty of its wilderness. Each time the full moon rises over the Wasatch Mountains or sets over the Oquirrah Mountains, it causes me to pause and reflect on God's creation. I spend time camping with my family and have seen the high cliffs of Flaming Gorge and the red rock country at Lake Powell, and each time I come home I feel I have been spiritually nourished. To reach the top of a peak while skiing or hiking, and look out at the surrounding mountain peaks calms me and brings me closer to God. I love the variety of landscapes Utah has to offer and I am grateful we keep God's creation as He meant for us to see it – untouched and magnificent.

*Sandy Grove*

This is where we experience Sabbath!

The wild places, especially the rivers of Utah, are very important to my soul. These places connect me more closely with God, with his peace, power and wonder. These places renew my spirit in a complicated world.

There is something about the scale of wilderness that puts me in touch with my spirituality. Usually, our perspectives are so small. But, I can go hiking and arrive at these vistas that are so vast. The majesty of what surrounds me reminds me that I am a part of the majesty of God's creation.

The wilderness is the one place we still have where time is not relevant. There is no reason to rush or worry; it is simply a place where all elements of life co-exist peacefully with one another. Whether you are religious, spiritual or simply alive, you become a part of something greater than yourself. The wilderness is something we should all learn to cherish.

*Amie Boyer*

The wonder of God's creation is so apparent in views such as this. We must do everything we can to protect and pass along this experience to future generations. There is an important relationship out there that needs to be honored and cherished!

I thank God every day for giving us eyes to see amazing scenes like this!

Wilderness shows me the power, majesty, glory and beauty of God's creation. It brings me closer to God and gives me peace.

*Millie N.*

One of my earliest memories of sensing God's presence in my life was hiking with my Girl Scout troop in elementary school. The majesty of creation as evident in nature still brings me a sense of God's awesome power and love for His creation. We are called to be stewards of God's creation and must protect it for future generations.

*Kristin Wann Goranz*

I enjoy Utah's wild places including Moab, Canyonlands, all the deserts, mountains, and our state and national parks. Please protect Utah's wild lands.

*Davis*

The soul flies free over mountains, deserts and water. Wild Utah is a place to uplift and renew the spirit. The diversity of plant and animal life balances our planet. Join me in celebrating all of God's creation!

*Carron Kopren*

There is rest and a sense of renewal in the wilderness – it brings you back to a place centered in what God made, not what man made. It realigns your priorities and challenges you to acknowledge God's presence.

*D. Carpenter*