

A Call for Wilderness Stewardship from First Unitarian Church



I live in Utah because of the beauty of its wilderness places and how much it means to all my family. Utah must protect this priceless wilderness because its unique quality could easily be lost. The red rock has spiritual value to many of us and it is part of our faith to protect it.

Polly Houst

To look upon such beauty is to see the face of God. To defile it is to defile the work of God.

Lori Shields

Let's please continue the great American tradition and legacy of recognizing the great value to the human psyche of being able to experience unspoiled wilderness. These lands must be preserved.

Barbara Pence

Thank God for a few remaining windows on creation as He conceived it. May it remain for all generations to come.

Mary Widelsson

Wilderness allows us to connect to our individual and group spirituality – our place in the universe, our connection to the divine – the silence to contemplate, to gain perspective as to what is really important, to touch the spark of all creation – to really breathe, really live, really love.

Melanie Hyslens

Would that we could all experience sunrise on the river deep in the heart of the desert. The necessity of preserving these wild places would be divinely inspired.

Matt Wilson

Without such beauty the soul would perish into the world of malls, pollution – we would have no air, nothing to look forward to. Having just moved from a place of terrible urban ugliness, I know how important it is to have such beauty.

Helen Droitsch

Please! Don't let these landscapes disappear. Keep them healthy! Keep them in existence for the future!

Is wilderness important to me? Is life important? Is beauty important? The beauty, the calmness, the feeling of being "one with the world" only is found in the wilderness!

Shane Fryer

God, or my experience of God, is beautifully mirrored in the sculptures of the natural world, the red rock.

Michael Mielke

Beyond the breakers where no giants swim, the sun shines upon an ancient sea, the moon an old bone, white as fire ash when a forest stands no more.

W. Reed

"Whatever floats my boat" may be your personal runoff – release responsibly!

C. Wilson

Mother Earth has birthed and nurtured us and all with whom we share this planet today – and all which have passed through over the eons. It is now our responsibility to care for her and to maintain in good health all that we can, because our future depends on it!

Louise Ewing

In wilderness is not only the preservation of our world but the preservation of my soul.

Chris Condit

Dear lawmakers,

Our lands are entrusted to us. We have a duty to future generations to preserve the biodiversity of wildlife and plants. Our wild places are sacred and we must be responsible for them in the short time we are on this planet.

Cori Redstone

Wilderness nourishes my soul, and is a balm to my spirit. It reminds me of who I am, and who I can be.

Kristi Bowers

The greatness and beauty of the creations gives us a corresponding idea of the Creator. My spirit is renewed by walking in wilderness, observing wildlife, especially birds in their infinite variety, beauty and ingenuity.

Carole Straughlin

The wilderness is the source of beginnings and creation. The wilderness creates a sense of place that feeds my soul and spirit. We must protect the sacred spaces for ourselves and for generations to come – they make us human and divine.

Carol Romagosa

I believe that wilderness and all of nature matters to our survival and to our inspiration as part of the natural world. As John Muir believed one hundred years ago, we need wilderness for our spiritual nature and our survival.

Gloria Myers

How can one love God and not love what He has created?

M. Sime

When the pressures of daily life become unbearable, wilderness has always provided a space for calm and healing of my spirit. Now that actually using wilderness has become more difficult for me, just knowing it exists gives me joy.

Judy Lord

Our Creator gave us the wilderness – there is not much of it left to remind us of this great creation. We should preserve it.

Charles Smith

I love the mountains,
I love the rolling hills,
I love the flowers,
I love the daffodils.
Protect Utah!

Places like this are incredibly awe-inspiring. We need to preserve them for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

Judy Breemvanel

After living in many different places, I found the rock formations in Utah so beautiful and unique, and for that reason, irreplaceable. These are sacred places that we need to preserve, not just for our enjoyment but for the generations to come.

Mantze

Wilderness reminds us that we are a product of the natural world, and should renew our appreciation for the earth that is indeed our Mother Earth.

Arthur E. King

Rivers are sacred to me – as they course through the land, growing in volume, they carve and sculpt the earth. With their crashing rapids and quiet pools they are metaphors of life – running water soothes my soul. In hiking along river banks with my family and dogs, I find peace and an opportunity for quiet contemplation.

Teri Jo Mauch

I hiked up Delicate Arch while pregnant with my second child. The joy and wonder I felt during this trip I'm sure infused his developing body, because he is a joyful little man who loves being outdoors.
Charity Terry-Lorenzo

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free... to enjoy the original earth as it is.
Gwen E. Trefts

My family loves to explore and learn about nature. We grow closer together.
Jean Zaneanella

When I am alone in the vast wild beauty of nature, I feel wonder and joy soaring through my soul.
Kate Gardiner

Wilderness defines restoration of the soul. There, one is able to nourish his or her spirit. In nature, the spirit of the earth is abundant and easily accessible to all who pause long enough to receive.
Evan Terry

Being in the wilderness allows us to be still, at peace, connected to all creation. We owe this gift to our children and grandchildren.
Linda F. Smith and Lee K. Shuster

The greatness and beauty of created things give us an idea of our creator. We are spiritual beings who desire the experience of being in God's amazing creation. No human can compete with the natural world's perfection. We must have these pure areas to rescue and save our own spirit.
Beverly Jung

I was born in the high desert
I was raised at the desert's edge
I conceived in desert jeopardized
My sanity and spirituality is only whole in the desert
I walk it in reverence
My home is the desert
I am Cynthea of the desert

In the wilderness is where my family bonds and often finds the glory of God. We want it preserved for all mankind.
Caroline Kueneman

Being in wilderness reminds me that I am only a very small part of something much larger. This feeds me with awe and inspires me to put into action things that honor that interconnectivity. Being in wilderness also restores me, reminds me of what is important and again, empowers me to focus on those things – even when I'm back home.
Julie Deaslee

The sun rises and sets each day. To hear the silence... to see the natural light... to smell the fresh air... it is sacred.
Jim French

Please, please treat Utah's wilderness and unmatched beauty with reverence and respect.

Andy Schoenberg

My first true wilderness immersion in Utah occurred on the Colorado River rafting trip my family took ten years ago. To experience its vastness and begin to understand its diversity transformed my view of all natural areas. Our state is unique and we must become stewards, each of us, to ensure the survival of our wilderness for generations to come.

Bob Lindsley

Where can my thoughts survive in silence?
Where can my soul soar in silence?
Where can my serenity be renewed in silence?
I can not be silent when the silence is beset by noisy greed.

Susan Mullins

Wilderness is not a place where you just pass on without notice, it is a place that you learn from - where your inner self shows and memories are created. The memories will always be there if we protect those places and give them meaning. Even if you don't have a memory, know that others do and that it would mean the world to them to have the wilderness there.

Stephanie Held

Utah is blessed with so many sacred places that touch the soul – how can we not protect and preserve them as a legacy to our grandchildren and grandchildren's grandchildren?

Chad Williams

We need to preserve wilderness as an earthly reminder of the infinite beauty of the universe, and to refresh and maintain our souls.

Peter Grundfossen

In wilderness I find peace, solitude and connection to the infinite possibilities of my life.

Joan Gregory

Wilderness is the temple in which I feel closest to God!

William Ohlsen

The wild spaces, where there is untamed, untrammled land stretching off forever – that, for me, is where God is found. The quiet and chaos, the beautiful and the unpredictable – this is what my soul requires to be anything beyond trivial.

Kevin Peaslee

Protecting the wilderness means protecting the spirit. The spirit meanders like sacred topography, and needs freedom to breathe and contemplate. Save the blessed wilderness and you will save the soul.

Tom Goldsmith

The past spring I floated through Labyrinth Canyon with my seven-year-old daughter and a friend in remission from cancer. The trip was a week of intense friendship and healing.

Amy Brunvand

One of my best memories is the family vacation when I was a teen, visiting Mesa Verde and many beautiful, historic and magical places in southern Utah. I'm so grateful these places are still there and hope they always will be.

Rebecca H.

Nature is restorative. When the pressures of daily life close in on me, quiet time in nature is the only way I know to reevaluate, recalibrate and rebalance. Wilderness provides spiritual comfort and is a reminder of all we have for which we are grateful.

Johanna Whitman

Because of their desert inhospitality, Utah's wild lands have escaped being drastically changed by industrialization. We now have the opportunity to preserve forever these wild lands as they were before the dawn of civilization. So much of the world has now been changed forever – at least for thousands of years – by humankind's activities, that Utah's wild lands could and should remain a special place to reconnect our human spirit to the natural world.

Thomas W. Oeslily

Those who came before us trod lightly on the landscape. I cherish their light footprints and take care that my footsteps are also light.

Kathryn Albury

Mother earth needs our help. The seventh generation will either revere or curse us for what we choose to leave them. It's time for us to change and take personal responsibility.

Stan