

## A Call for Wilderness Stewardship from the Vernal Interfaith Event



The only spiritual experiences I've had have taken place when I was immersed in nature. This is the only time when I consider the existence of a creator – when I am immersed in those places that have spectacular scenery, clear skies, clean water and abundant wildlife. Wilderness is what clears my brain, reestablishes my faith in the creator, mankind and myself.

One of the reasons I live in rural Utah is that water and red rock are constant reminders of where our world has been. The rivers and rocks also remind me of the short time humans have to protect our desert and high desert environments for the next generation. We must speak for our surroundings – we have to!

What an amazing creation! We must do all we can to protect these areas for ourselves and for future generations. A little exploration from fossil fuel companies or ORV damage could forever mar these priceless areas.

Wilderness is a part of the circle and man can preserve himself through its preservation.

*Diane Ackerman*

A place like this picture makes me think of our creator and the divinity of natural places. Whenever I see a sky like this, I remember the spirituality of my religious upbringing.

*Colleen Mandala*

Wilderness trekking restores my sense of belonging and gives me peace.

The White River rocks! Please spare the canyon any additional “improvements!”

*Tom Elder*

Open space allows me quiet time and open vistas to open my thinking and quiet the daily rush of thoughts that can overwhelm me so easily. The vistas in Utah are unique and varied. Views far and up close can allow one a different aspect to focus on – to appreciate the variety of natural formations and bring the relaxed mind and appreciation back to daily life.

I cannot find the essence of spirituality in any creed or temple – only wilderness inspires my soul with euphoric ecstasy and blissful peace.

The essence of my religion: The sun came up this morning. Be glad that it did.

*Mickey Allen*