

Why Wilderness Preservation? By Clairisa Laws and Kayla Gravelle

Mahatma Gandhi once said “What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.” Much of our wilderness today is used for logging, mining, oil drilling, and other industrial operations. Wilderness preservation is a movement that involves saving wilderness that has been untouched industrially. Saving our wilderness impacts us all on three levels: personal, community, and global.

On a personal level, many people want to visit an area that is out of the ordinary. Psychologically, it is good to get away from stress created by social pressure, school or jobs. Visiting somewhere that is industrially untouched can be refreshing. The pure water and hidden animals of our forests bring peace and clarity. An individual can come in contact with his or her spirituality by visiting such places. Today it is rare to find a piece of land that is clear of society. We tend to overlook the natural land around us. A stretch of reserved wilderness should be looked at as your home away from home.

Communities want to attract tourism and encourage economic growth. Securing our natural areas can help accomplish both tasks. There are only a few pieces of land that have not been industrialized today. Tourists rave about these places. Curiosity gets to the best of everyone. It is a natural instinct which leads travelers to visit appealing locations. Tourist spending is proportional to the amount of animal and plant life. Meaning, the more natural life in your area, the more money tourists spend. Local businesses can benefit from maintaining such attractions.

We can globally benefit from preserving the wild in many ways. We can account for greater ecosystem diversity along with a healthier environment. Today there are many kinds of wild life that are in jeopardy. These pieces of land are key essentials to saving species. Protecting wild places saves endangered species and prevents pollution. Instead of doing nothing with the land, it’s our duty to make sure that it’s in the right hands. If the land were left to corporations, the areas would become dumping sites or be industrialized. According to *Wilderness.net* only about 5% of the United States is wilderness. Of that 5% only 2.7% is preserved.

The overall benefits of defending wilderness spaces are overwhelming. The voices of locals and routine visitors should be enough persuasion to keep the safeguard of these natural places in gear. If industries completely take over, the world’s treasured places would be transformed into malls, dump sites, and factories. We want to keep our land clean and sanitary. Help promote preservation and make your planet, and your community healthy and happy.