

## Arguments Against Wilderness Preservation

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While many experts say that wilderness preservation is helpful to the environment, there are others who will argue that they are not looking at the big picture and that it is not essential.

Wilderness preservation is very important but also controversial in undeveloped countries such as Tanzania and Costa Rica. "Both are globally renowned nature tourism destinations," (La Porte, 2010). "The pristine beaches and wildlife tours demanded by overseas tourists has led to developments that do not benefit wildlife, such as beaches being built, mangroves stripped out, waterholes drilled and forests cleared," says Rosaleen Duffy, an expert on ethical dimensions of wildlife conservation and management. The preserves are used to lure tourists, who are all eager to see the lush rainforests. While this is all nice, it is harming the environment and defeating the purpose of wanting to protect it.

"As in Tanzania, local populations must often sacrifice their land and livelihood so that Nature tourists can 'escape from civilization.'" (La Porte, 2010) It isn't fair that these people should have to move off their own land to better accommodate the very same people who are ruining it. These areas have led to the displacement of millions of people across the world. Instead of being used to entertain tourists, this land could be used to build homes, extract natural resources, and bring in more reliable income to the people.

Another argument against wilderness preservation is that it doesn't benefit the economy. There are many natural resources within these preserves that could be used, in moderation, to boost the economy. For example, there is a 19 million acre wildlife preserve in Alaska called the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). This land happens to be very rich in oil and natural gas. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 was one created by the congress to protect this land; however, there is a section in the act that allows oil drilling in a 1.5

million acre area within the preserve. The United States Department of the Interior estimates that within the 19 million acres of the ANWR, there are approximately 3.5 billion barrels of oil. Only about 70 miles east of here, 1.5 million barrels of oil per day is being drilled from the Prudhoe Bay, Lisburne, Endicott, Milne Point, and Kuparuk oil fields which together account for 25% of the United States' total oil production. If allowed to drill in the ANWR, the United States would rely less on importing oil from other countries and would be able to save money. The House of Representatives claimed that it would create over 700,000 jobs and bring in an enormous amount of revenue to the state of Alaska, and that is something that would immensely benefit the economy.

### Works Cited

- Duffy, Rosaleen. "Wildlife conservations do more harm than good, says expert" *Guardian*. 2010 July 29. Web. October 15, 2012.
- La Porte, Arianna "Developing Wilderness-Conservation and Nature Tourism in Tanzania and Costa Rica" *Guardian*. 2010. Web. October 15, 2012.