

A Call for Wilderness Stewardship from members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



I love camping in the desert, getting the red dirt and sand in my skin and hair – after a few days, I feel a part of the land, plants and animals – I am calm and do not want to leave.

Catherine Graham

Being in wilderness areas reminds me of something greater than myself. It reminds me of my own connection to and dependence on a higher power. Preserving wilderness is important to us as it invites humility and requires us to place restraint on our own desire to dominate and control. God's voice can be heard in the wild in a way it is not available in the environments dominated by man.

Christopher Oscarson

Wilderness compels us to recognize how small we are in God's creations, yet how important it is for us to find our place in the world. Wilderness allows us to realize how much this creation is aimed at inspiring us, in helping us to be humble as well as hopeful that we can fulfill our role in this world. Wilderness is a sacred gift we should preserve and protect for those who come after us.

Gary Bryner

Wilderness is a vital reminder that God's creation is inherently good. Its beauty is a measure of its love and teaches us to be careful in assuming that we can always improve it. Preservation of wilderness is a principled act of self-restraint that shows our gratitude and humility.

George Handley

Mormons believe that all life – plant, animal, mineral – has both a physical and spiritual being. It is our responsibility to respect the spirit of this world – to revere it as we would any human form of life. Wilderness is spirit.

Kristin Matthews

We have an ethical and moral obligation to care for the creation. Utah's wild lands are a small, but unique and ecologically important part of that creation. We must preserve and care for them. That is the morally correct thing to do.

Tom Yuill

I find in the wilderness a place where I can contemplate the things most important to me. The wide open spaces, the mountains, the lakes, and the flowered meadows of Utah's landscape seem to invite me to consider my values and my spirituality at their most fundamental level. My relationships with my family, my community, with the natural world and with God take on another, more profound face when I consider them from the vantage point of the wilderness. I love this earth and its beauty and the wilderness remaining on it and I consider it one of my most important responsibilities to care for, protect and love it.

MacKenzie Mayo

Wilderness contextualizes our lives and helps to teach us who we are. As I hike and sit in the wild places in Utah, I learn who I am and better understand the person that I should be.

Richard Gill

Wilderness gives me hope, sustains my faith, and helps me to remember who I am and my deep connections to other life on this earth. The wilderness reminds me that the earth is sacred and that life is sacred.

Mark Graham

Sharing experiences in wild places with family members and friends has enriched my relationships with them. Our shared memories that are connected to meaningful places bind us together in unique and wonderful ways and help me to appreciate our special relationship as brothers and sisters sharing our sojourn on earth.

Jane Bryner

The desert: a constellation of wonders, joy and a profound sense of reverence – the night sky constellations, river reflections, riparian wonders, wild critters, plants, (flora and fauna) flowers, bugs, blowing sand and stunning skylines – wild lands and wild places have a relevance and connection tantamount to a second home and it's the continuous and most important part of my life – whether a spiritual or secular connection, humans should preserve many of these wild corridors before they are lost.

Steve Lewis

Wilderness is so vital to my being that I find it difficult to put in words why wilderness is important to me. Through my connection to the earth – its wild places – I am reconnected to my spiritual and energetic center. Preservation of our wild places in Utah and all the earth is vital to our healthy, whole existence.

Pamela Vincent

Wallace Stegner called Utah's southern wilderness "a lively and terrible wilderness, such a wilderness as Christ and the prophets went out into; harshly and beautifully colored, broken and worn until its bones are exposed, its great sky without a smudge or taint from technocracy, and in hidden corners and pockets under its cliffs the sudden poetry of springs." This is what I want to protect for my children.

Stirling Adams

The analogy between wilderness and temples comes to mind; sacred to some; not to others. Places of solitude, prayerfulness, retreat. Spots that bind generations together. Will we fight to defend the one as we would the other?

Wade Jacoby

In the remote areas of Utah, whether alone or surrounded by family, I feel a sense of awe and peace in almost every instance. I cherish those quiet, spiritual, predictable moments, ones that are great at making lasting memories. I have a harder time finding this consistent calm indoors or at organized meetings, but know I can find it within a short distance from home in Utah.

Kindra Jacoby

I see the hand of my Creator in the beauty of Utah wilderness. I believe that God has shown his creations to prophets through the centuries as a way to bring them closer to understanding Him. I understand God better through witnessing His creations, too.

Derrick Clements

We don't own the land; it is a gift. It has intrinsic value and we love it. We are obligated to care for it for the sake of our future generations.

Barren, remote wilderness with no "commercial" or "practical" value is a gift from God. It is His way of telling us, showing us, that he loves us and wants us to be happy and take joy in all things.

Mark England