



WILDERNESS

Where Hunting and Fishing are Best





More than 115 years ago, Theodore Roosevelt wrote of one of his passions, "Hunting in the wilderness is of all pastimes the most attractive. ...The wilderness hunter must not only show skill in the use of a rifle and address in finding and approaching game, but he must also show the qualities of hardihood, self-reliance, and the resolution needed for effectively grappling with his wild surroundings."

Those words ring as true today. As hunters and anglers across the country attest:



As a hunter, health of the habitat and well-being of game are my top priorities. Wilderness not only provides the best wildlife habitat, but also offers the finest, purest hunting experience. Only beyond the sound of truck and ATV engines can I feel that I am a part of the chain of life, and not just some observer on a noisy perimeter. As Arizona's human population continues to expand, it becomes ever more vital that we protect the remaining gems in our natural heritage.

Jonathan Hanson, Tuscon, Arizona



West Virginia's wild lands provide incredible sporting opportunities for hunters like me and my children. One of my favorite places is the amazing Seneca Creek — where I can track deer and wild turkey — far from roads and noise. Wild areas like Seneca Creek and Roaring Plains are part of what makes West Virginia an outdoor paradise for fishing, hiking, paddling, or riding horses. I want to make sure these natural treasures in the Monongahela National Forest are around for my young children to use and enjoy years from now.

Ed Kachmarek, Kerens, West Virginia

In years past, I spent a lot of time exploring wilderness areas across the western United States. There is just nothing like the peacefulness and solitude you find when you are away from the nearest road. That's why when I retired from my job as a firefighter, I moved to a place on the Elk River. Today, I spend my days fishing for native salmon and steelhead, hunting deer and elk and just enjoying all the wonders that this special place has to offer.

Monte Matheson, Port Orford, Oregon



Since I was a boy, I have always enjoyed the wilderness and all the treasures that it holds. Some of my fondest memories of childhood are hunting with my father. Today, I enjoy teaching my grandson to hunt and to simply enjoy the solitude that comes along with being far from roads and traffic.

Sandy Schemnitz, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Sportsmen have always been on the front lines of important conservation battles, recognizing that preserving wild land ensures the very best opportunities for hunting and fishing. They fought to expand the National Forest System, develop and create the National Wilderness Preservation System and defend special wild places across the country that we all use and enjoy today.



Wilderness — The Highest Form of Land Protection

The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines wilderness as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." The Act goes on to describe wilderness as "an area of undeveloped federal land" which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable...." Wilderness areas are designated by Congress.

Wilderness is the strongest form of protection we can give to our wild public lands to preserve our opportunities to enjoy these special places for hunting, fishing, camping, climbing and other non-mechanized activities. Today, designated wilderness areas exist in 44 of the 50 states, preserving important habitat for wildlife, sources of clean air and water, and a natural legacy for future generations.

Wilderness/Roadless Areas — Best for Elk Habitat

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), 80 percent of free-ranging elk in the United States reside on our national forests or grasslands. When elk are in areas with limited vehicular access, survival rates and productivity increase and poaching mortality is reduced. Clear-cuts in national forests have been found to increase elk vulnerability to human harassment.

Trout Unlimited reports that in Idaho roadless areas account for 88 percent of the land units yielding more than 90 percent branch bull elk hunting success. Similarly, "vast proportions of salmon, trout, elk, deer and bighorn sheep habitat, as well as the state's best quality hunting and longest hunting seasons lie in Idaho's roughly 17 million acres of roadless areas."

A Field and Stream article makes the same point, "Roadless areas may harbor twice the number of bull elk than roaded terrain holds. Where roads are open, few bulls live to maturity. Roadless areas are even better, often boasting a population of 30 percent mature bulls."

Hunting and Fishing in Wilderness

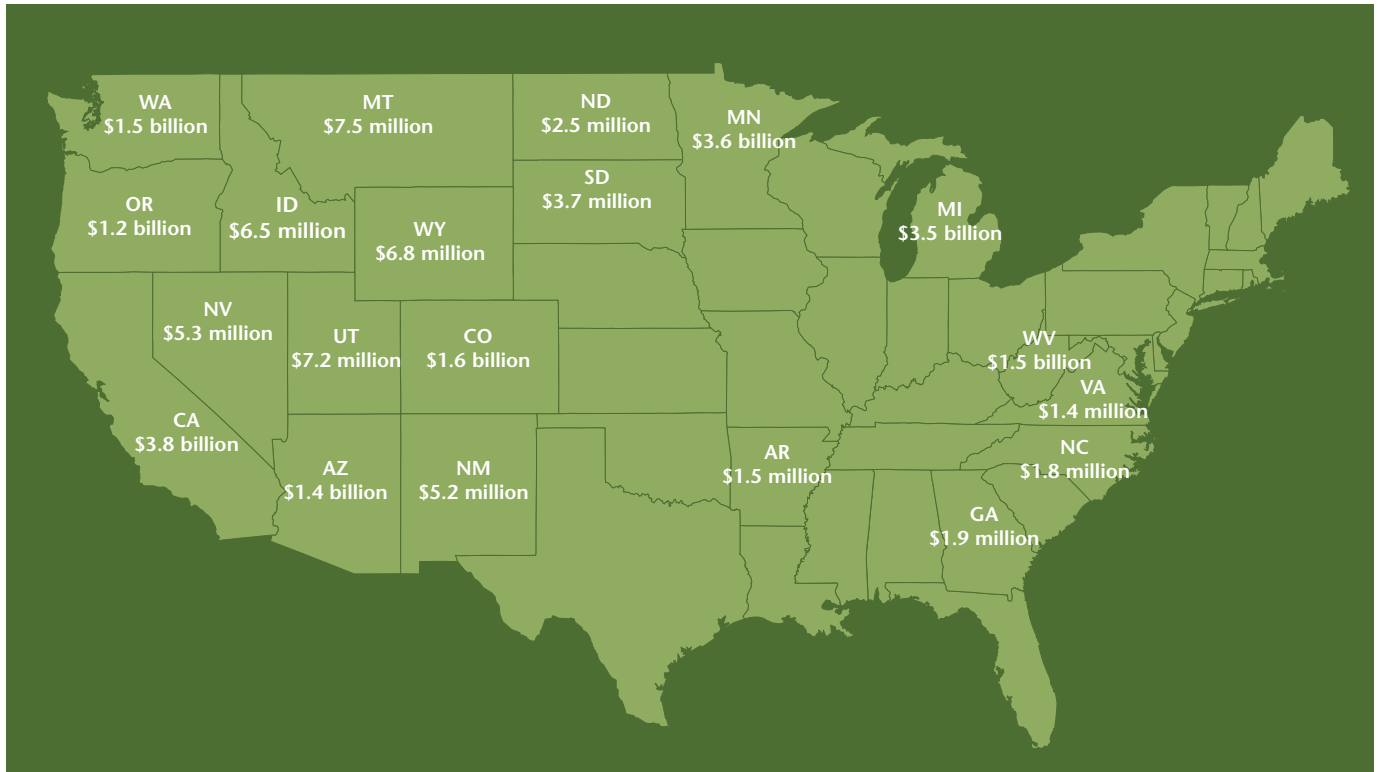
The Wilderness Act helps ensure the survival of hunting and fishing habitat by protecting our wilderness areas from oil and gas drilling, logging, road-building, and vehicle use, including both motor vehicles (such as snowmobiles, off-road vehicles and dirt bikes) and other mechanical vehicles, including mountain bikes.

Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, picnicking, kayaking and canoeing, swimming, backpacking, horseback riding, rock climbing, rafting, skiing, snow-shoeing, bird-watching, and many other forms of recreation are allowed in wilderness areas. Any form of non-mechanized use is generally permitted, and motorized travel is allowed in cases of emergencies.



Sportsmen help keep the economy strong

Hunters and anglers spent \$76.6 billion nationwide in 2006, according to the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Expenditures for fishing and hunting in selected states (residents and non-residents):



As Teddy Roosevelt taught us, conservation is about our obligations to future generations. Working together, we will ensure a wilderness heritage — a gift of special wild places so this tradition can be passed down to the next generation of sportsmen — and women.

Few experiences are more enjoyable in life than sitting in a quiet woods on a crisp autumn morning as the sun rises and things begin to come to life. The expectation that one of those stirrings might be an elk within range is one the greatest feelings I know. It's a potent mixture of anticipation and apprehension that people have felt for millenium when they've been in this gorgeous setting, amidst mountains, near a pond, with aspen leave glittering gold in the brightening daylight. It's hard to match.

Mike Matz, executive director, Campaign for America's Wilderness

The Campaign for America's Wilderness works with hunters and anglers from coast to coast to protect some of the nation's remaining wilderness areas as a natural legacy for our children and their children.

For more information, visit www.leaveitwild.org



CAMPAIGN
for AMERICA'S WILDERNESS

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Colorado elk

(am waiting for photo credit)

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Frank Church-River of No Return
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