

human perception.”

Each of us will find something different, something personal in coming to wilderness. The wilderness experience is, as Nash declares, “...a state of mind.” Following are the words of some who were inspired to share their experience after time spent in the wilderness.

### Inspiration

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees.

John Muir

### Discovery

It is fortunate, perhaps, that no matter how intently one studies the hundred little dramas of the woods and meadows, one can never learn all the salient facts about any one of them.

Aldo Leopold

### Challenge

A man must work for his wilderness enjoyment. Only when he's hungry, thirsty and dog-tired can he really know what it means.

Bob Marshall

### Balance

...the greatest happiness possible...is to become civilized, know the pageant of the past, to love the beautiful, to have just ideas of values and proportions, and then, retaining (our) animal spirits and appetites, to live in the wilderness.

J. Frank Dobie

### Biological Diversity

Man is a manipulator of nature...but he is far from a complete understanding of the processes he manipulates. In the complex ecosystems of natural domains he has a laboratory in which to study the interac-

tion of species, environmental trends, evolution. And in undisturbed flora and fauna he has a storehouse of genetic diversity the future may prize.

Sigurd Olson

### Wilderness Statement

The tendency nowadays to wander in wilderness is delightful to see. Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.

John Muir

Long live the wilderness.

Edward Abbey

The staff at Guadalupe Mountains National Park encourages you to visit the wilderness, be inspired, experience the discovery, face the challenge, witness the balance and stand in awe at the diversity. Then, maybe you too will develop a wilderness statement.



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## WILDERNESS: The Guadalupe Mountains



“Going to the woods and the wild places has little to do with recreation, and much to do with creation.”  
Wendell Berry,  
*Words from the Land*



## WHAT IS WILDERNESS?

Howard Zahniser, one of the primary authors of the Wilderness Act of September 1964, wrote: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." These words are part of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Today, in the United States, there are 488 Congressionally designated wilderness areas covering over 90 million acres. The majority of wilderness in the United States is west of the Mississippi River and the largest areas are in the State of Alaska. The National Park Service, as part of the Department of the Interior, manages 43 of the nation's wilderness areas.

Nominating criteria apply when Congress considers designation of a wilderness area. Is the area federally owned and managed by one of the land administering agencies? Is the area undeveloped (roadless) and absent of human technology and primarily affected by natural forces? Is the area of sufficient size to warrant designation (generally 5,000 acres or greater)? Does the area offer a primitive and unconfined experience for visitors? Special provisions can be made regarding some activities such as the use of aircraft and watercraft, water and power development, livestock grazing and mining.

Wilderness designation is not the sole domain of the Federal Government. Many states have designated wilderness areas as well. The standards the states use differ from those of the Federal Government, though the basic concept is still the same—undeveloped, primitive and primarily affected by the forces of nature.

## THE GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS

The ninety-fifth Congress designated 46,850 acres of wilderness in Guadalupe Mountains National Park in November, 1978: over half of the park. As with other wilderness designations, public hearings and the ensuing debate were conducted for a number of years. At the end, over 2,000 comments and views were received from public agencies, private organizations and individuals. Only eleven of the total opposed the wilderness designation (5 private organizations and 6 individuals).

The administration of the Guadalupe Mountains Wilderness is the responsibility of the staff of Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Guidelines and management plans are used to set management direction. To meet aspects of management policy, some areas within the wilderness are closed and recognized for "...scientific value of wilderness areas as natural outdoor laboratories." Individuals with valid research projects requiring a natural laboratory may enter with a special permit. You, as a visitor to wilderness, act as a manager of sorts as well. Recall the word "untrammled" in the opening paragraph of this brochure meaning not to control or restrict the land. Consider the individual and his or her interaction with the wilderness. Consider your actions and how they might impact and "trammel" the land. Think how you might alter your wilderness travel behavior so as to help maintain the quality of the Guadalupe Mountains Wilderness.

### WILDERNESS ETHIC

The high peaks, the deep canyons, the abundant wildlife and plant life of the Guadalupe Mountains Wilderness are all integral parts of a dynamic and diverse

natural system. We, too, are part of that system, if only as visitors. Our actions in the wilderness, if not appropriate, may cause everlasting scars. In recognition of this potential harm and our responsibility to future generations, those whom we borrow this wilderness from, we solicit your pledge to leave no trace of your having visited here.

### Before Your Wilderness Trip:

- Plan your trip carefully and ahead of time: obtain maps and determine trail and weather conditions. A map is a necessary guide to your wilderness experience in Guadalupe Mountains National Park.
- Select backcountry equipment that will blend in with the environment: avoid bright colored tents and packs.
- Plan to use a lightweight backpack stove on overnight trips: avoid the possibility of starting a wildland fire. No fires may be built in the backcountry of Guadalupe Mountains National Park.



- Plan to carry all your water: natural water sources are rare and fragile, let the wildlife have them. A gallon of water per day is recommended.

- Plan to repack your food: avoid packing heavy glass and canned food items. This helps create a lighter load.

- Check on required permits for overnight stays: you are required to obtain a free backcountry permit in Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

### During Your Wilderness Trip:

- Stay on the established trail system: short cutting causes erosion.

- Wilderness sanitation habits are important: carry a small trowel to make cat holes for human waste. Bury waste in the upper 6-8 inches of soil.

- Carry out all trash and litter: clean your camping and picnic sites thoroughly before leaving. Carry out any trash found along the trail as well.

- Be respectful of the wilderness and other wilderness travelers: don't spoil another person's trip with loud and excessive noise. Protect wilderness resources: collecting of anything is wrong and illegal.

- Leave no trace of your wilderness stay: those who follow should not find anything that speaks of your visit.

### WILDERNESS: AN EXPERIENCE

Roderick Nash, Author of *Wilderness and the American Mind* wrote, "One man's wilderness may be another's roadside picnic ground...Wilderness, in the final analysis, is a state of mind. It is a resource, in other words, that is defined by