



Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts... **There is something infinitely healing in the repeated**

**refrains of nature** —the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter. The lasting pleasures of contact with the natural world are not reserved for scientists but are available to anyone who will place himself under the influence of earth, sea, and sky, and their amazing life.

—Rachel Carson, *The Sense of Wonder*

[We have] preserved for now and for generations unborn, areas of unspoiled wilderness, accessible by a system of trails, unmarred by roads or buildings, but open to use and enjoyment of hikers, mountain climbers, hunters, fishermen, and trail riders, and of all those who find, in high and lonely places, a refreshment of the spirit, and life's closest communion with God.

—Senator Frank Church, as the US Senate passed the Wilderness Act, 1961

[The] real function [of wilderness] will always be as a spiritual backlog in the high-speed mechanical world in which we live. We have discovered that the presence of wilderness in itself is a balance wheel and an aid to equilibrium.

—Sigurd F. Olson, nature writer

In God's wilderness lies the hope of the world...Whether as seen carving the lines of the mountains with glaciers, or gathering matter into stars, or planning the movements of water,—still all is Beauty!

—John Muir, unpublished journals

