

Even if you never set foot in wilderness,

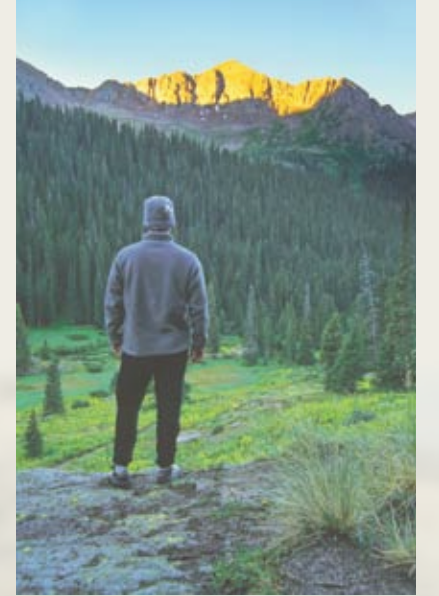
observing wilderness and wildlife from a road or developed picnic site can be the experience of a lifetime. Though many Americans enter wilderness areas to enjoy their wonders up close, many more are drawn to the edges of wilderness to glory in its wild scenic beauty.

People want to be close to nature, to live with wilderness areas on their horizon. More and more Americans choose to live in rural places, often near national forests or other federal lands, to enjoy the abundant recreational opportunities they offer. For others, it is enough to look up from the deck or the kitchen counter at sweeping vistas of nature—the wilder the better.



We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.

—Wallace Stegner, *The Sound of Mountain Water*



The very existence of wilderness adds quality to what surrounds it and to what people experience as they merely look inside...Wilderness adds quality in roadside scenery. Wilderness lets a place have a beyond to it. Wilderness symbolizes the freedom to choose what kinds of terrain you want to look at, or hope someday to enter or to save for your children to enter.

—David R. Brower, first executive director, Sierra Club