

Life. Diversity. Independence. Identity. Wilderness.

Preserving nature, preserves human nature. Preserving the state in which one was created, preserves the instinct, origins, and uniqueness of a species. No matter the species, when its origins are destroyed the nature of that species is destroyed. When humans move into the habitat of bears, the bears entire paradigm for survival is altered. The bears no longer rely on instincts, nor do they rely on the wilderness, they rely on trash cans, open windows, and unsuspecting refrigerators.

The difference between the metaphor of the bears, and the state of man, is that we, as a species, are destroying our very own nature. We are destroying what defines, what created, and what sustains us. The Proposed Scotchman's Peak wilderness area is an attempt to preserve a small portion of what defines human beings as a species. It's an attempt to preserve what human beings have typically run from, and always strived to conquer. Preserving Scotchman's Peak Wilderness is a statement of acceptance, an acceptance of our nature and our origins, and an affirmation of the strong tie that exists therein.

The landscape doesn't matter. Let's say a species was created on Mars, and as it grows it's civilization is made of lush forests, flowers, rivers, and animals; everything that defines the beauty of wilderness for human beings. There would still be a need to retain some of the original red, rocky, seemingly useless territory, because on that territory a species was created, and through that territory, a species is defined. No matter the beauty, success, and need for civilization, there exists an imperative to preserve original nature. When society abandons nature, it abandons purpose. Unlike Mars, the nature in which man was created, is extraordinarily diverse. This dictates a greater obligation on the part of man to preserve a wide variety of wilderness areas. The proposed Scotchman's Peak Wilderness represents an attempt at preserving numerous species of plants, fungi, animals, and terrain. Each species holds an inherent value in defining human nature, and further, holds an unmeasurable amount of aesthetic value.

In order to fully appreciate the Scotchman's Peak wilderness a hike up a challenging grade is required. A challenge that requires the use of calories and energy for the sole purpose of observing unused, untouched resources. Thus it requires, the use of energy to observe potential resources, without the need to exploit those resources. This is true beauty.

When one is in nature they are able to appreciate potential without the need to exploit it, appreciate beauty without need of justification, and accept our nature, instead of living in denial of it. If an individual came from Mars and viewed a completely civilized world, they would only understand the artificial structures derived from nature, and not true nature in itself. They would only understand the social definition of human nature, not the foundation on which that nature was constructed. Thus, there is a inherent need to preserve the Scotchman's Peak wilderness, and other diverse wilderness areas around the world, in order to protect,

life, diversity, independence, identity, and wilderness.