



WILDERNESS IS OUR COMMON GROUND

Growing up on the farm my grandfather bought in 1947, I spent a lot of time outside. We'd work the farm, tend the cattle, and when we had time, we'd hunt in season, and hike and camp and explore the rest of the year. In many of our favorite places, it would be just the wildlife and us. But with the increasing population, many of the places we used to love are not as clean and quiet and wild anymore. I recently followed an elk's tracks for two hours on foot, only to have it scared away by a guy on a four-wheeler, who never even knew the elk was there. When my dad asks, "Why can't we just leave it the way it is?" I have to tell him that as more and more people come here, it won't stay the way it is, unless we protect it. We need to act now to save our best wild places as wilderness—places like the Dominguez and Roubideau areas—so there will always be a few places where it can just be the wildlife and us.

Photo: Keith Distel, rancher & teacher, Olathe, CO; Photo credit: Todd Patrick

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