



WILDERNESS IS OUR COMMON GROUND

Wild places have always been a big part of my life. Growing up, my dad took my brother and me camping and fishing every summer. My friends and I played in the woods—building forts out of fir branches and in the winter skiing for hours on end. Now my husband and I enjoy camping, hiking, and kayaking in the Eastern Sierra, and I take my school kids on trips to wild places. They have so much fun laughing, playing, and discovering the world around them. I hope to pass my love for the outdoors on to these children, like my dad did for my brother and me, so that they will grow to appreciate the importance of protecting nature's wonders as wilderness. *Photo: Sue Nickum, Elementary School Teacher, Lancaster, California; Photo credit: Lee Bergthold/Center for Wilderness Studies*

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