



Smithsonian  
Institution  
Nature's Best  
Photography

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## **“Wilderness Forever” Nationwide Photography Competition Accepting Entries for Smithsonian Exhibition**

Raising Public Awareness of Wilderness Lands to Celebrate the  
50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

**Washington, DC.** – The “Wilderness Forever” public photography competition is accepting entries of images illustrating the sheer majesty, diversity, and value of our nation’s wilderness areas. This professionally-juried contest is conducted by the 50th Anniversary National Wilderness Planning Team (*Wilderness50*), Nature’s Best Photography, and the Smithsonian Institution, and will run through September 3, 2013. Approximately 50 winning contest entries will be chosen for display as large format prints in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History as part of a 2014 exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

“Photography delivers immediate and long-lasting impact. What better way to celebrate the beauty and diversity of nature than through the eyes of the public and their shared experiences in our wilderness areas,” says Steve Freligh, Nature’s Best Photography Editor-in-Chief, and “Wilderness Forever” contest judge.

“We’re excited to share the public’s own visions of America’s beautiful wilderness lands and to educate visitors about the importance of preserving our natural heritage through this remarkable photography exhibition,” says Charles Chen of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

Millions of visitors to the National Museum of Natural History will experience this exhibition representing a centerpiece of nationwide celebrations commemorating the establishment of the wilderness system, and bringing together the voices of Americans depicting the beauty and importance of these special places.



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Professional, amateur and student photographers are encouraged to submit their photographs accompanied by personal stories and memories about the scenes depicted. Contest guidelines and entry instructions are found online at <http://www.naturesbestphotography.com/wilderness>.

Entry Categories are as follows:

- SCENIC LANDSCAPE: Dramatic scenes and unusual perspectives of protected wilderness land, providing expansive views, including plant life: flowers, trees, and other flora in natural habitat. Close-ups, wide-open spaces, storms, sunsets, and other natural views.
- WILDLIFE: Wild animals (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects, etc.) photographed within the boundaries of wilderness areas. Animal portraits, behavior, predation, adults with young. (NOTE: No captive animals allowed in this category.)
- PEOPLE IN WILDERNESS: People enjoying wilderness lands: Adventurers, backpackers, hikers, canoers and other activities; groups, families, and individuals in natural settings. Action, artistic perspectives and artistic compositions (silhouettes, motion shots, creative lighting, portrayals of solitude and primitive recreation etc.)
- MOST INSPIRATIONAL MOMENT: Images of wilderness locations that have a very special story and personal meaning to entrants.

Please join *Wilderness50*, Nature's Best Photography, and the Smithsonian Institution in celebrating "50 Years of American Wilderness" by participating in the "Wilderness Forever" photography contest to enter your chance to win a spot in the 2014 exhibition.

*Wilderness50* is a coalition of more than 25 non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies that is planning and implementing local, regional, and national events and projects. This coalition is charged with raising public awareness of wilderness and engaging youth during 2014, the 50th anniversary year. Our nation's wilderness system, now encompassing over 109 million acres, was established in 1964 for the use and enjoyment of the American people and provides many direct and in-direct benefits, such as those relating to ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, spiritual, economic, recreational, historical, and cultural uses and activities. The 757 wilderness areas that exist today are managed by all four federal land managing agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

You can learn more about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act and *Wilderness50* by visiting our website at <http://www.wilderness50th.org> or you can follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/50thAnniversaryOfTheWildernessAct> and Twitter at <http://twitter.com/wild50th>.