

Essay

A Call for More National Parks

Introduction

The American author, Wallace Stegner once said, "National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best." Since their creation in 1872, national parks have helped conserve natural beauty and given millions of people the opportunity to experience our shared land and history. We should create more national parks because they preserve the natural habitats of plants and animals, provide spaces for hands-on learning, and generate revenue through increased tourism.

Body Paragraph 1

Creating national parks will help preserve the natural habitats of many plant and animal species. Millions of acres of natural habitat are lost every year to make way for new housing and industry. Fortunately, many threatened species such as wolves and buffalo have been given a second chance thanks to the conservation efforts of our national parks. Since national parks are an effective tool for conservation, creating more parks will help to save the wild spaces we have left and protect more species.

Body Paragraph 2

In addition to furthering conservation, more national parks will mean more tourism and increased revenue. Hundreds of millions of people visit these parks every year, and they not only spend money in the park's, but also in the communities that the parks call home.

Body Paragraph 3

Finally, national parks provide spaces for us to learn about history and the environment. Our parks are living museums that show us how landscapes were formed and how they have changed over time. National parks are not like town parks because they don't have jungle gyms or swing sets. Here, life functions just as it did hundreds of years ago and we can learn the role that every plant and animal plays within the ecosystem. National parks are alive with human history and culture as well—offering a home to the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples, and a time capsule of America's westward expansion. This irreplaceable history, and everything it has to teach us, would be lost without national parks.

Conclusion

The benefits of expanding our national parks system cannot be understated. These parks help to preserve the environment and further education—all while encouraging tourism and generating revenue. For these reasons, new national parks are a gift we give ourselves, future generations, and our planet. Please write to your local congressperson and urge them to support the creation of more national parks.