
"The Importance of Wildlife Conservation: Preserving Our Planet for Future Generations"

Salena Amro

"The wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will..." This is a quote by Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States of America and an essential conservationist in our history. Roosevelt thought of wilderness as an integral part of our American identity. He is known for his efforts in protecting nature and the surrounding environment. Theodore Roosevelt and many others knew the importance and beauty of our natural ecosystems. Every species on the planet plays a vital role in the natural life cycle to maintain the ecological balance of nature. Wildlife is necessary to sustain life and maintain a healthy environment for future generations on Earth.

If you ponder at your car window or take a look outside, you will realize that wildlife is preserved everywhere around you. Today, our ecological footprint has massive environmental alterations and devastated habitats. According to the National Library of Medicine, "Environmental changes have negatively affected most biological systems on our planet and are becoming increasingly concerned for the well-being and survival of many species, including ours." Not only does human impact affect wildlife, but it also affects us as an entire civilization. Our dependence on animals has always been high; we rely on wildlife for food, clothing, and income. Without the diversity of different species on Earth, we cannot survive as human beings.

You may wonder, "Why is there a need to restore wildlife?" Currently, the greatest challenge is endangerment. Several species have become extinct because of habitat loss and forest management issues. The National Geographic Society claims that developments in housing,

industry, and agriculture reduce the habitat of native species. As development brings people deeper into the species range, they may be more exposed to wild animals, which may be detrimental to the environment. Although plants and animals appear and disappear over time, it is crucial to acknowledge their presence and mitigate their effects as much as possible. Water quality, habitat loss, and development all play a role in influencing wildlife. Today, organizations use techniques once employed by Native Americans to help sustain open habitats.

Similar to Roosevelt, it can also influence the continuation of endangered species. Theodore Roosevelt wanted to ensure the sustainability of natural resources. During his active presidency, he established 230 million acres of public land between 1901 and 1909, including 150 national forests, the first 55 federal bird reserves and game preserves, and five national parks. As a citizen scientist or healthy part of your community, there are several things you can do to attract essential animals. For example, monarch butterflies migrate throughout the year to find new resources. You can help them throughout their journey by planting milkweed gardens; monarchs use these plants to disperse their eggs. By creating a garden of milkweed, shelter can be provided for several migrating butterflies throughout the year. Based on the AARP, "Whether for science, food or greed, humans endanger animals, sometimes without considering the positive impact wildlife can have on the posterity of our planet." Creating change can be both large and small; this is just a modest example of what you can do for the environment.

"The wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will..." This quote, although written in the 1900s, still holds today. Without wildlife, there is no way to continue the human population on Earth. Today, researchers hope that improved ecological footprint practices will allow new animal populations to take hold and prosper. Our environment's considerable

complexity and diversity are still being uncovered. From wildlife to the trees of Kentucky, one is as important as the other. So, the next time you stroll outside or think about exploring squirrels, remind yourself that the continuation of wildlife is crucial for our future.

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