Expanding the Public Trust Doctrine

Places Worth Preserving There is no significant representa-The United States pioneered the concept of preserving natural wonders for all people to enjoy. Yet tion of the Northern Great Plains grassland ecosystem in the park Park Service has fallen short in its implicit mission to protect the breadth of biodiversity found within the system. A proposed 2.5-million nation's borders. Less than 3.4 percent of the mainland falls within one of the Park Service's 410 unit: acre park would stretch from the ecosystems are underrepresented. In keeping with the original vision, here are five locations that deserve to b Missouri River to the Canadian bor national parks. - George Wu der and protect a large enough area to reestablish native bison herds while including a sufficient expanse for wolf and grizzly restoration The million-acre Red Desert Nationa Park would include the largest expanse of unfenced high desert and the second Burt's Bees cofounder Roxanne Ouimby has offered up her parcel of private land largest continuously moving sand dune for national monument status, and it could system in the United States. None of the ain that falls in the Red Desert-part of become the cornerstone of a proposed 150,000-acre Maine Woods National the Great Basin Desert-drains into an ocean. The Oregon, California, and Mor Park. The woods would become the largmon Trails all cross the Rocky Mountains est protected expanse of low-elevation at this spot, which is also one of the finest hardwood forest-and remain the most diverse carnivore habitat-east of the remaining tracts of the sagebrush steppe At 6 million acres and cov Rockies. The park would also serve as a three states, Owyhee Canyon model of large-scale carbon seguestration lands National Park would protect the Northern Great Basin eco-region, one of the most remote areas in the country and home to the world's largest herd of California bighon sheep, plus elk, deer, cougars, redband trout, sage grouse, and raptors. The many branching forks of the Owyhee River form deep, sheer-walled canyons between desert plateaus One of only three major hot spots of biodiversity east of the Mississippi River, the million-acre Apalachicola National Park would protect a large number of endangered and threatened species. As one of the most productive estuarine systems in the world, the Apalachicola River Basin has been designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and also lays claim to the greatest spe cies diversity of reptiles and amphibians in the country

"What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die of great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to man. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth..."





How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them? Every part of the earth is sacred to my people.

(Chief Seattle)

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"<u>Nature's Trust</u> argues for the extension of the public trust to include whatever aspects of the natural world are necessary for the wellbeing of present and future generations of the public..."