

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

**Proclamation 6009 of August 14, 1989**

**National Wilderness Week, 1989**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

When our Nation was founded, much of the land that eventually became part of the United States was unspoiled wilderness, teeming with wildlife and rich in natural resources. But after just 100 years, much of the American frontier had virtually disappeared. Railroads crisscrossed the continent, inviting settlement and industry. The rush for land and resources led to almost unchecked development.

The end of the 19th century, however, marked a turning point in the management of America's natural resources. For the benefit of the entire country, the U.S. Government began to reserve selected public land as National Parks, National Forests, and National Wildlife Refuges. In 1924, the Gila National Forest in New Mexico became the first public land allocated specifically for the purpose of preserving the ecological, geological, scientific, and historic value of the wilderness. Forty years later, the desire to protect our Nation's wilderness resource was codified with the signing of the Wilderness Act on September 3, 1964.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of that Act, which established the National Wilderness Preservation System. This System was the first of its kind in the world. Managed by the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, the System now includes more than 90 million acres of wilderness in 44 States. The Wilderness Act directs that these acres be managed to "secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness . . . unimpaired for future use and enjoyment." It requires that these areas be "devoted to the public purposes of recreation, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historical use."

When the Wilderness Act was passed, many assumed that simply designating an area as wilderness would assure its preservation. However, experience has shown us that preserving these beautiful, untamed lands requires a lasting commitment and cooperation from the public. Every American can demonstrate that commitment by supporting the careful management and protection of our wilderness.

In recognition of the values of wilderness, the Congress by Senate Joint Resolution 67, has designated the week of September 3 through September 9, 1989, as "National Wilderness Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of September 3 through September 9, 1989, as National Wilderness Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

**Proclamation 6010 of August 15, 1989**

### **Women's Equality Day, 1989**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

On August 26, 1989, we will commemorate the 69th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. The adoption of that amendment secured for women an equal voice in our representative system by guaranteeing their right to vote. Its ratification in 1920 marked a watershed in American history by ensuring that women, equally with men, could enjoy fully the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

The active role of women during World War I was one important factor in gathering the force of public opinion behind the women's suffrage movement. Women already had the vote in some States, but during the war, as they became essential workers in many industries, women gained increasing voice and stature throughout the country. Thus, after years of hard work and persistent lobbying by women's rights groups, the Congress passed the 19th Amendment in June 1919. It was finally ratified by the Tennessee legislature on August 18, 1920, and proclaimed as part of our Constitution on August 26.

By securing for women the right to vote—and allowing them full participation in the political life of our country—the 19th Amendment affirmed the principles upon which our Nation was founded. In essence, it called us to remain faithful to the vision of our Founders, who had pledged their lives and fortunes to defending the belief “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” The ratification of the 19th Amendment was a poignant reminder that the civil and political rights enshrined in our Constitution are the birthright of all.

By recognizing previously disenfranchised members of our society, the 19th Amendment took a place among other great landmarks in American history, such as President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. These legal milestones, and others that have since followed, such as the 1964 Civil Rights Act, have marked our Nation's progress in ensuring that all members of our society have the opportunity to reach their full potential.