



# WILDERNESS IS OUR COMMON GROUND

As an educator, it is a treat to see the look of accomplishment on the faces of students who have made it to the top of a steep hill, and marvel at the view all around them. A large part of my job is teaching children—and adults—the value of learning from the natural landscape. There is nothing like watching red-tailed hawks and golden eagles soar near craggy mountains, while listening to the near-deafening quiet that surrounds you in these special places. Spring Basin's desert ecosystem holds a wealth of hidden surprises, like the appearance in spring of the hedgehog cacti's bright pink flowers. I have hope that the people of Oregon will come together and support permanent wilderness protections for places like Spring Basin and Soda Mountain. Because wilderness is about more than just protecting Oregon's special places, it's about creating possibilities for everyone.

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for AMERICA'S WILDERNESS  
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*Photo Caption: Emily Prud'homme, Fossil, Oregon, natural science camp educator/manager; Photo By: Barbara I. Bond*