



## Scant Protection

September 05, 2023

Our wilderness areas are the key to maintaining wildlife diversity—that is, protected habitats for a variety of animals native to North America. If you drive through some of the Western states, or along the Appalachian Mountains, you might get the impression that the U.S. has abundant wilderness space for animals to roam.

But you would be wrong. Overall, just 2.7% of the entire contiguous United States—a total area about the size of Minnesota—is protected as wilderness. That’s down from roughly 100% when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

The protected areas are kind of eclectic, ranging from Pelican Island Wilderness in Florida (5.5 acres) to the 9.4 million acres in Alaska’s Wrangell-Saint Elias Wilderness. California (154), Arizona (90), Nevada (73), Utah (51), and Alaska (48) have the most designated wilderness areas for wildlife to squeeze into, while Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, and Rhode Island lack any designated wildernesses at all.

The interested reader can see these various wilderness areas through an interactive map provided by an organization called Wilderness Connect (link: <https://umontana.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a415bca07f0a4bee9f0e894b0db5c3b6>) but be prepared to be startled by how small are these patches of green that mark the protected lands.

**Source:**

<https://wilderness.net/learn-about-wilderness/fast-facts/default.php>

If you have any questions about this article or want to discuss your family finances, investment portfolio, or financial planning advice, please call on me anytime at my number [\(215\) 325-1595](tel:2153251595) or you can [click here to schedule a meeting](#).

Please feel free to forward this article and offer to anyone you know who might have financial questions or need some unbiased advice. Most financial advice is sales advice. In stark contrast, we are fee-only (non-commissioned) fiduciary advisors. We just provide truthful, unbiased advice to our clients.



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