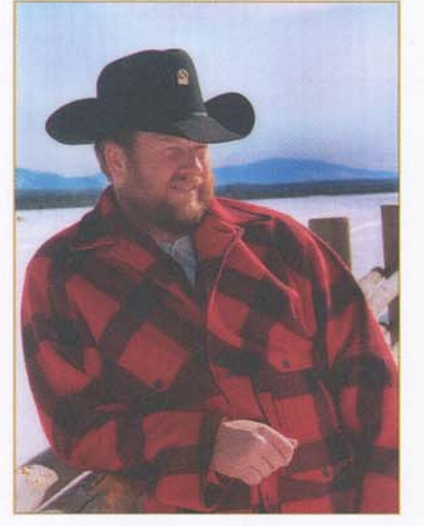


"When you are in these wild places, they give you the feeling of hope. Try to hike in the snow away from civilization... You will realize how important wilderness is... Wilderness is like the trunk of a tree; we are one of the branches...so we must protect it."

Sara, high school student



"Outfitting in wilderness has been our family's living for two generations. Over the years, we've hosted guests from every state in the union and every conceivable walk of life. Some of them already have the passion, but for those who don't, we're able to bring alive their passion for wild places."

Jack, outfitter and rancher



"The preservation of wilderness...is about preserving ourselves...is about preserving ourselves...We take great steps to preserve homes of famous and influential people. We make efforts to preserve historical areas in cities. Why not preserve wilderness areas - the environment that we all have derived from..."

Eugene, minister

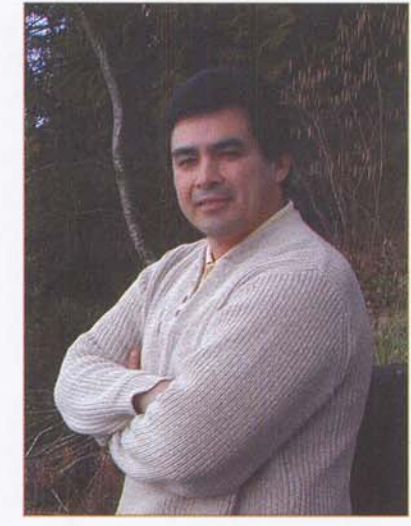
Wilderness is

Wilderness is an indispensable part of the American story. Native Americans depended on the bounty of wilderness for survival and held Earth and its wild places sacred. As Europeans arrived and settled the continent, they viewed the vast wilderness as places to be conquered. Lewis and Clark were inspired by the untamed beauty and foresaw how then-wild country would contribute to a burgeoning nation's wealth. Over time, wild lands were developed at an alarming rate to meet the demands of an exploding population. The essential wildness of America was tamed and transformed, and, in some cases, lost. As Americans realized that the long-term health and welfare of the nation was at risk, a vision for conservation emerged.

In 1964, our nation's leaders formally acknowledged the immediate and lasting benefits of wild places to the human spirit and fabric of our nation. That year, in a nearly-unanimous vote, Congress enacted landmark legislation that permanently protected some of the most natural and undisturbed places in America. The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System to "secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring and, in some cases, lost. As Americans realized that the long-term health and welfare of the nation was at risk, a vision for conservation emerged."

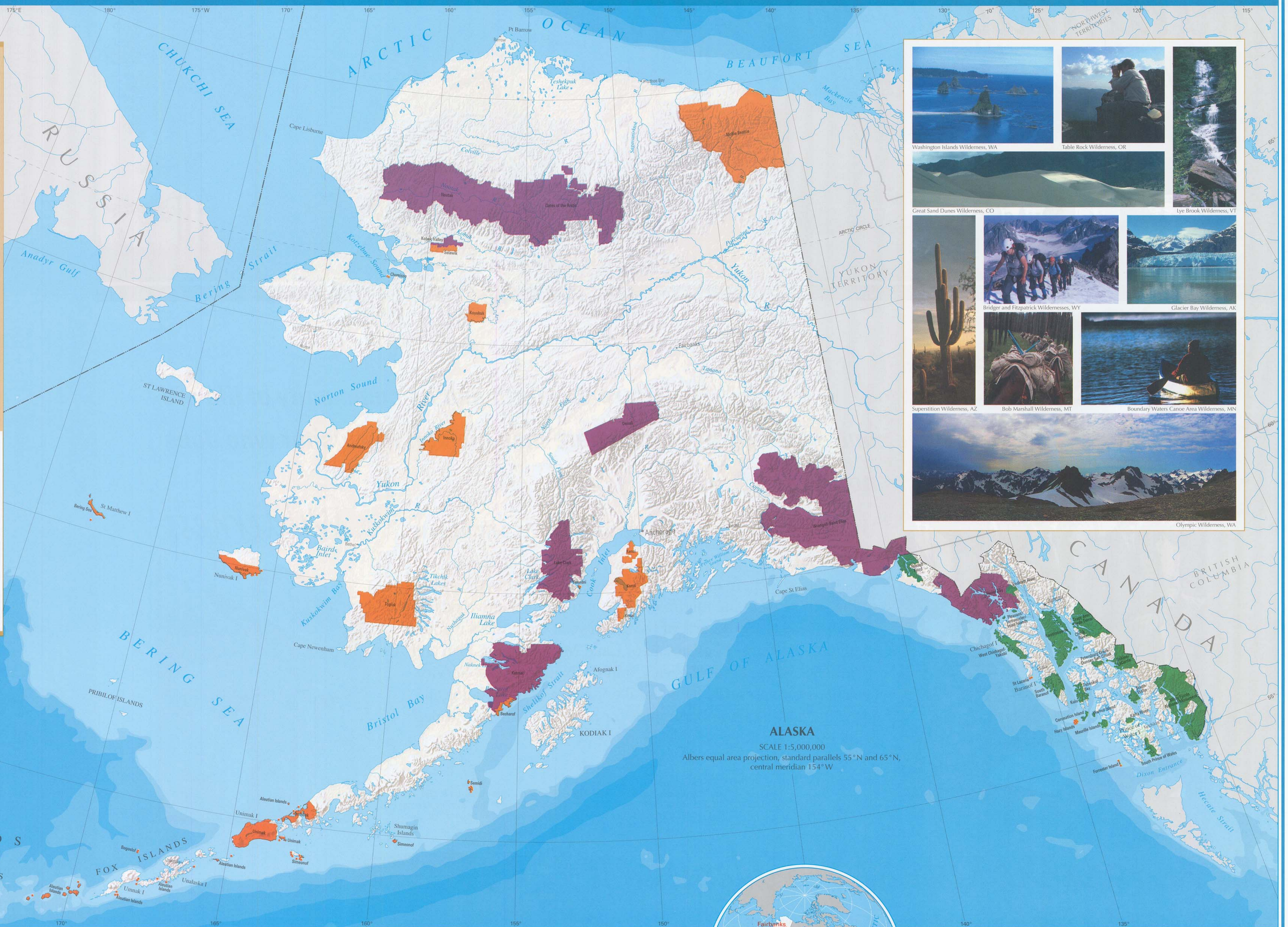
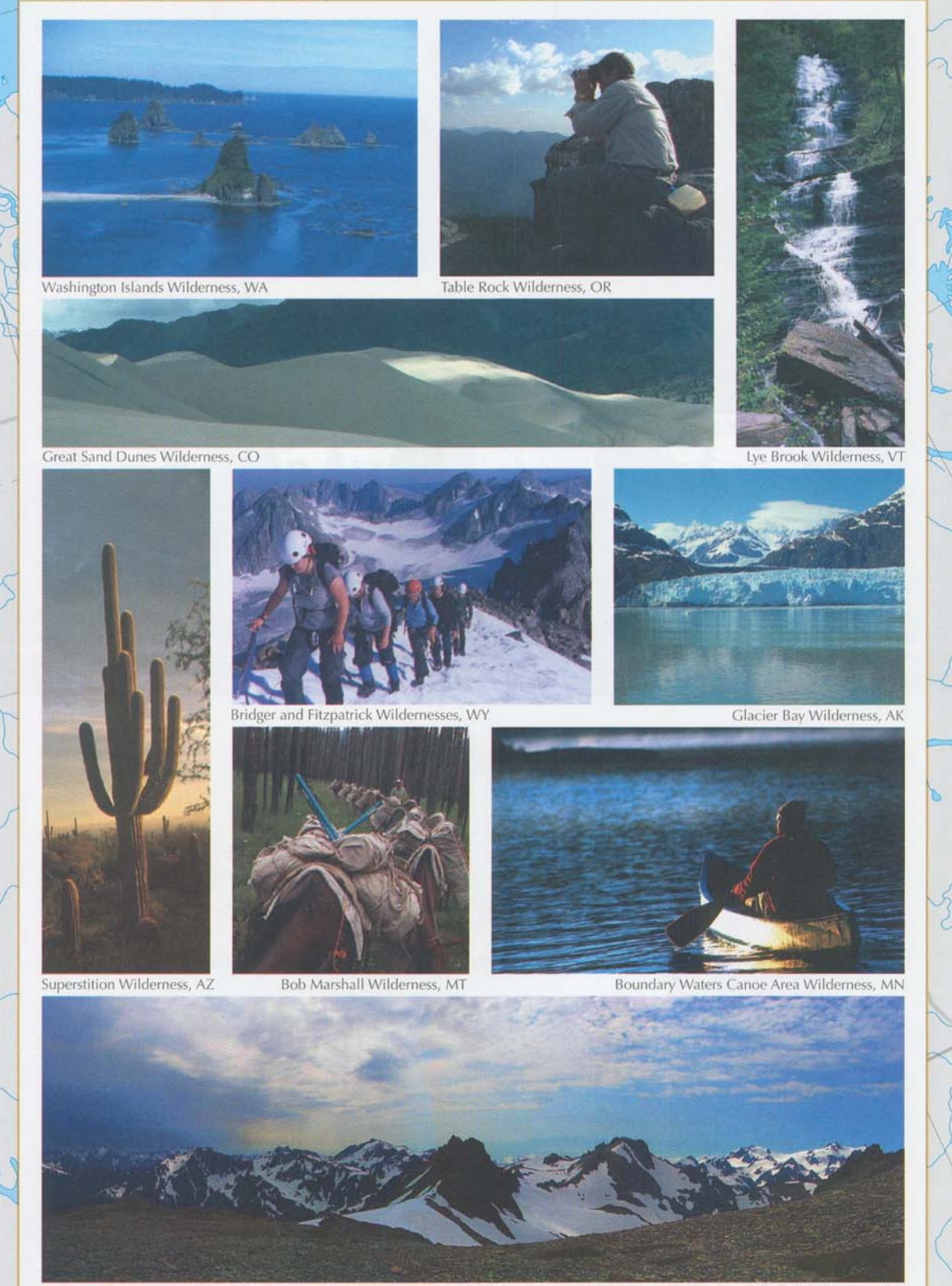
2004 marks the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and Americans from all walks of life can value wilderness as part of their heritage. Indispensable to the American past, the wilderness legacy will remain indispensable to the American future. Wilderness is every American's story.

"Wilderness is home to our most special family memories. Jumping into icy, crystal clean water, watching the pinks and golds of sunset paint the mountains, and listening in our tent under the stars in hopes of hearing wolves howling are memories that warm our hearts."



"Today, we continue to draw hope from our connection to the land. The land has a great memory for it holds our history with places reminding us of our victories and sacrifices. Wilderness is the provider of life granting us bounties for physical and spiritual nourishment."

Jaime, Nez Perce tribe member



WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service

- Units of 2,500 acres or more
- Units less than 2,500 acres

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

- Units of 2,500 acres or more
- Units less than 2,500 acres

Fish and Wildlife Service

- Units of 2,500 acres or more
- Units less than 2,500 acres

National Park Service

- Units of 2,500 acres or more
- Units less than 2,500 acres

Where data are not available to delineate administrative units within a wilderness, the color of the preservative agency is shown. See the agency table on the reverse side for actual wilderness acreage by administrative unit.

SCALE 1:5,000,000
0 100 200 300 400 MILES
0 100 200 300 400 KILOMETERS
Albers equal area projection, standard parallels 29° 10' N and 45° 10' N, central meridian 96° W

Compiled by Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute and U.S. Geological Survey
2004