

## The Wilderness Defense Fund

As a friend and fellow lover of Wilderness and Wild rivers I am writing to ask you to lend your support to my effort to assure Wilderness and Wild Rivers are managed with a focus on protecting the wilderness experience for the children of your children.

Wilderness has just lost the voice of one of its staunchest advocates. As many of you may know Clem, my brother and a 45-year Forest Service Wilderness veteran, has died. As these things go, Clem's death has caused me to ponder my own mortality and to consider what sort of legacy I would like to leave behind.



I know that among my friends some (actually, perhaps many) see me as a bit overboard, confrontational and unrealistic in my ideas about Wilderness. If so, it seems to be a family trait. Clem was a steadfast and unwavering critic of management that eroded Wilderness character. An avid defender of Wilderness Clem was vitally concerned about how Wilderness was being lost, piece by piece, as managers made decisions unrelated to Wilderness values.

I ask that you take ten minutes to view a presentation I put together from one of Clem's essays—an eloquent and wonderfully crafted piece that explains why the details of Wilderness management are so vitally important to the future of Wilderness. Clem's entire essay is also attached; it contains a dozen examples of the management actions that are impacting Wilderness every day.

Only weeks before he died, his mind still on Wilderness, Clem said, continue on down this road.”

In his essay *Being a Wilderness Purist* Clem wrote, “There is no one approach that will ensure the protection and propagation of Wilderness, but I am ready to accept that I am indeed a Wilderness purist, and if I am sincere in my desire to see Wilderness survive, I must contribute to the survival effort.”

In recognition of Clem’s lifetime dedicated to protecting the essence of Wilderness the Pope family established the **Wilderness Defense Fund** with an initial gift of one-hundred-thousand-dollars. This is an endowed fund, with the Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Annual earnings will be used exclusively to support legal fees associated with the protection of Wilderness values.

Like Clem, I find much of my life has centered around Wilderness. I can’t imagine my life without being able to step off pavement into Wilderness and immerse myself in a world “untrammelled by man”. And like



Clem, I have come to understand that, “if I am sincere in my desire to see Wilderness survive, I must contribute to the survival effort.”

As a fellow Wilderness traveler, I am asking you to help me grow the **Wilderness Defense Fund** to a size where it can play a pivotal role in the protection of the Wilderness. I ask that you make a donation today and that you give serious consideration to joining me in naming the **Wilderness Defense Fund** as the recipient of a legacy gift.

Contributions can be mailed to the:  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
**Wilderness Defense Fund**  
555 Rivergate Lane, B1-110  
Durango, Co 81310

Contributions can be made online at:

[www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org). (Add **Wilderness Defense Fund** to the memo box.)

I have been a Great Old Broads donor for five years and I have talked with four members of their national leadership team and met with three leaders of the local chapter. At every meeting I have been impressed with the organization's focus, professionalism, follow-through, and attention to detail.

View Art's 10-minute presentation based on Clem's essay about the challenges facing wilderness:

<https://drive.google.com/.../1UJGlmwZ8sGFuBzKqhcG.../view...>

Read Clem's entire Check essay "Being a Wilderness Purist".

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c7cgvjOEGcDjFd8C43RRHe6nzfV9dPWx/view?usp=sharing>

Review the endowment agreement stipulating how annual earnings will be used:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wuuwAgOv19x13CruXVVzkWQLMhEdu2fV/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117417539775062715109&rtopof=true&sd=true>

Thank you for listening. Give me a call if you have questions or just want to chat about Wilderness. I would love to hear from you.

Art