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National Park Service News Release

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Spanish Translation of Wilderness Website Now Available

(Washington, D.C.) -- A new Spanish language website launched by the National Park Service showcases the beauty and importance of America's wilderness areas.

The interactive site, http://www.nature.nps.gov/views/index_wilderness_sp.htm, explores wild places through activities, maps, information, videos, and interviews. It was developed in partnership with the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center and the University of Montana's Wilderness Institute.

"This website will connect more people to the concept of wilderness," said Roger Rivera, Founding President of the National Hispanic Environmental Council. "Wilderness is important for science, for outdoor recreation, and for personal renewal. Wilderness areas are places where we can challenge ourselves, connect with the earth, enjoy the wild, and make memories with our families."

The website provides details about the country's 702 designated wilderness areas and their significance to each of us. Visitors can learn about the land beyond the frontier; those rare, untamed places where one can leave civilization, reconnect with nature, and find healing and meaning.

About 5% of the United States, roughly the same size as the state of California, has been preserved under the Wilderness Act of 1964. The website, a part of the "Views of National Parks" program, will allow people to take virtual tours of magnificent public lands including rain forests, swamps, glaciers, caves, deserts, and tundra and, hopefully, inspire personal visits to wilderness areas.

The website was commissioned by the Interagency Wilderness Policy Council, consisting of representatives from the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey.

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