RESERVATIONS PLEASE:

The “What” and “Why” of Natural Preserves

Wildlife preserves can be found
in every country,
every environment,
and every ecosystem.
Preserves retain as much of the
original character of a place as
possible, acting as sanctuaries for
vegetation and wildlife,
as well as the natural processes
unique to these special areas.

As development continues to consume available land, it is very important that wildlife preserves don’t simply act as tourist attractions…

They must become important tools that help us incorporate habitat preservation into development.

Official reserves may be designated
by government institutions,
private land owners,
charities,
research institutions,
or preservation organizations…

Wildlife preserves can be far ranging in type, scale, and purpose. Generally speaking, they should include various ecosystems, habitat for threatened or endangered species, and migration corridors.

Urbanization, sprawl, development of up to four million acres of land each year, climate shift, pollution, and industry have all led to a decline in available open space.

It is important to include habitat protection as part of any planning process and thoroughly identify important ecosystems and natural resources.

Arctic Wildlife Refuge

Recently, the United States has aided several countries in creating reserves and national parks.

The U.S. has also been known to trade debt for land set aside for nature preserves.

Gabon's National Parks

There are many non-profit organizations that dedicate their efforts toward conservation, including the
World Wildlife Foundation,
the Nature Conservancy,
Greenpeace, the Sierra Club
and many more.

Cloud Forest Reserve, Costa Rica

The moral of the story:
Wildlife preserves aid in informing us what's important to protect. Preservation should extend far beyond their boundaries and be a major consideration in all phases of planning and development.

“What is man without the beasts?
If all the beasts were gone, men would
die from a great loneliness of spirit.
For whatever happens to the beasts,
soon happens to man.
All things are connected.”

Chief Seattle

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