

# The American Declaration of Stewardship

## A Unifying Statement of Our Responsibility to Land, Community, Democracy, and Future Generations

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the people who walk the fields, forests, river valleys, coasts, and communities of this nation, recognize that the wellbeing of our future depends upon the care we give to the places we call home. Across landscapes shaped by centuries of change—rural, suburban, and urban—we have witnessed the consequences of neglect as well as the power of renewal. We understand that stewardship is not only about nature; it is about how we live together, how we govern ourselves, and how we honor the responsibilities that bind one generation to the next.



### **SELF-EVIDENT TRUTHS OF STEWARDSHIP**

We hold these truths to be clear:

- That human wellbeing is inseparable from the health of the natural world.
- That economic strength, social stability, and environmental integrity are interdependent.
- That every person belongs to a place, and every place requires care.
- That the prosperity of future generations must not be sacrificed for short-term convenience.
- That stewardship includes democratic responsibility: truthfulness, transparency, participation, and accountability.
- That communities thrive when people care for both the land beneath their feet and the systems they rely on to govern shared life.

### **THE CHALLENGES WE FACE**

We acknowledge the challenges of our time:

- the decline of biodiversity and the degradation of natural systems;
- the loss of farmland, forests, and healthy waterways;
- the impacts of shortsighted development and unsustainable resource use;
- the erosion of trust within our communities;
- the spread of misinformation and the weakening of civic engagement;
- and the fragmentation of the social fabric that once bound neighbors together.

These challenges are not separate—they are interconnected failures of stewardship. They remind us that caring for land, community, and democracy must be understood as one unified responsibility.

**OUR COMMITMENT TO STEWARDSHIP**

Therefore, we commit ourselves to a renewed ethic of stewardship in three spheres:

**1. Environmental Stewardship**

We will care for the places where we live and work. We will restore and protect the natural systems that sustain us—soil, water, air, wildlife, and the rhythms of the land. We will use resources wisely, reduce harm, and act in ways that respect the long arc of time.

**2. Community Stewardship**

We will strengthen the communities to which we belong. We will foster resilience, connection, and fairness. We will help ensure that our neighborhoods, towns, and regions are places of belonging, safety, and opportunity for all who call them home.

**3. Democratic Stewardship**

We will care for the systems through which we govern our shared life. We will support honesty, transparency, accountability, and the free flow of truthful information. We will participate in civic decisions with integrity and respect, knowing that democracy requires the same attentive care as our land and communities.

**A CALL TO ACTION**

Let this Declaration stand as a reminder that stewardship is not the work of experts alone. It is the shared duty of every person who benefits from the gifts of this land and the labor of those who came before us. The future of this nation—its landscapes, its communities, its freedoms—depends on the choices we make today.

We invite all who read these words to join in a renewed commitment to care, responsibility, and hope. Through stewardship of the natural world, stewardship of each other, and stewardship of our democracy, we can build a flourishing and enduring American future.

**Signed,**

Those Who Choose to Be Stewards

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---