

Edward Abbey, 1968-1975: Quotes from Protest Writings

Edward Abbey was an influential American writer and uncompromising environmentalist. He referred to Lake Powell as 'Lake Foul.' Throughout the 1960s and 70s, he protested the lake's through writing, including a protest novel called The Monkey Wrench Gang. These quotes are excerpts from his works, slightly modified for readability.

“The difference between the present reservoir, with its silent shores and debris-choked side canyons, and the original Glen Canyon, is the difference between life and death. Glen Canyon was alive. Lake Powell is a graveyard.”

—*The Damnation of a Canyon*, 1968

“Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, as vital to our lives as water and good bread. A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins and betraying the principle of civilization itself.”

— *Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness*, 1968

“Water, water, water....There is no shortage of water in the desert but exactly the right amount , a perfect ratio of water to rock, water to sand, insuring the wide, free, open, generous spacing among plants and animals, homes and towns and cities, which makes the arid West so different from any other part of the nation. There is no lack of water here unless you try to establish a city where no city should be.”

— *Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness*, 1968

"Lake Powell: storage pond, silt trap, evaporation tank and garbage dispose-all, a 180-mile-long incipient sewage lagoon."

— *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, 1975