

PUBLIC LAND DESIGNATIONS



NATIONAL FORESTS

Owned by the federal government and managed by the US Forest Service, a variety of recreation is allowed within **National Forests** including such activities as hiking, camping, boating, mountain biking and hunting.



NATIONAL PARKS

Owned by the federal government and managed by the National Park Service, **National Parks** are areas that are preserved for their natural or historic character. Recreation is encouraged, but limited in order to retain the integrity of the land. No pets are allowed.



WILDERNESS AREAS

A portion of federal land designated by Congress, **Wilderness** areas are pristine and unspoiled lands preserved for their natural character and values. A **Wilderness** designation is the highest form of protection for federal lands. Protected **Wilderness** areas offer some of the best opportunities for recreational activities including hiking, camping, fishing, snowshoeing, skiing, Kayaking and more. No roads or permanent structures are allowed in designated **Wilderness** areas, nor are activities like logging or mining.



ROADLESS AREAS

A portion of National Forest land with no roads, **Roadless** areas are usually larger than five thousand acres and managed by the US Forest Service. Along with offering a wealth of recreational opportunities, many **Roadless** areas supply clean water to local communities and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife including to a number of threatened, endangered or sensitive plants and animals. Road building and commercial logging are prohibited in **Roadless** areas as provided in the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.



WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS

These three river designations are enacted by Congress. **Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers** are preserved for their free-flowing condition and environmental quality and building dams is prohibited. Mining is not allowed on designated Wild Rivers only.



NATIONAL RECREATION AREAS

National Recreation Areas are protected areas that are often centered close to large reservoirs and promote water-related recreation. These areas are managed by different federal agencies. A wealth of activities is permitted in **National Recreation Areas** including biking, boating, camping, wildlife watching, hiking, hunting and more.





NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

A **National Wildlife Refuge** is an area managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that protects wildlife and wildlife habitat. There are more than 500 **National Wildlife Refuges** across the United States.



WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Wilderness Study Areas are roadless areas that are inventoried and studied for their wilderness characteristics. In order to be designated as an official **Wilderness Study Area**, the location must have at least 5,000 acres of public lands or of a manageable size; have special qualities such as ecological, geological, historical, scientific and scenic values; and provide outstanding recreational opportunities.



NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN LANDS

The Northwest Forest Plan covers 24.5 million acres of National Forest land in Oregon, Washington and northern California. The **Northwest Forest Plan Lands** are managed by multiple federal agencies and divided into different management categories to focus on scientifically sound, ecologically credible and legally responsible strategies and project implementation. **The Northwest Forest Plan Lands** are designated for the protection of long-term health of forests, wildlife and waterways.



MUNICIPAL WATERSHEDS

Municipal Watersheds are lands that communities rely upon as a water supply source. These areas are smaller than designated Roadless areas and generally closer to communities. The Forest Service often has agreements with communities to manage the watershed lands that supply their water.



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

A **Conservation Easements** is a land preservation agreement between a landowner and a municipality or qualified land protection organization (a.k.a. “land trust”) for the purposes of conserving and protecting valuable natural resources including wildlife habitats, clean water, scenic open space, etc. Activities such as real estate development, commercial and industrial uses are restricted on **Conservation Easements**.