



North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River, Oregon / BLM

ABOUT AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS

America's public lands are among the country's most iconic and cherished places, from Yellowstone National Park to the vast wilderness of Alaska and the wilds of Maine. More than 600 million acres are held in the federal trust. These lands provide respite and inspiration, clean air and clean water, and some of the last, best habitat for safeguarding wildlife and plants, many that are threatened or endangered. More than 500 million people visit public lands each year. Logging, mining, fracking, drilling and grazing threaten many of our public lands.

There are four federal public land systems. National monuments are found in all of them.

1. National Forest System – U.S. Forest Service

Mission: "To sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."

- 193 million acres; 155 National Forest system units in 43 states
- 20 national grasslands, covering 4 million acres
- More than 66 million Americans rely on National Forest System lands for their drinking water. Wildlife including bears, bobcats, mountain lions, wolves, spotted owls, frogs and myriad other species.

2. National System of Public Lands – U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Mission: "To sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

- 245 million acres of desert, grasslands, canyons, tundra and forests, mostly in 12 western states.
- Wildlife that make their home on BLM lands include sage grouse, desert tortoise, wolves, hundreds of song birds, reptiles and fish.

3. National Park System – National Park Service

Mission: "To conserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects and the wildlife in United States' national parks, and to provide for the public's enjoyment of these features in a manner that will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

- 84 million acres (57 million acres of it in Alaska)
- 58 National Parks; 397 units total, in every state

4. National Wildlife Refuge System – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

"The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

- 96 million acres (76.8 million acres of it in Alaska)
- 556 National Wildlife Refuges, in all states and various territories
- Wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 reptile and amphibian species and more than 200 species of fish.

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