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About the Ecosystem Workforce Program

The Ecosystem Workforce Program is a bi-institutional program of University of Oregon’s Institute for a Sustainable Environment and the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. We conduct applied social science research and extension services at the interface of people and natural resources. Our publications aim to inform policy makers and practitioners, and contribute to scholarly and practical discourse. More information available at: http://ewp.uoregon.edu/about/intro.

Acknowledgments:

We thank the site managers of iconic places who participated in this project for their time and insights. This project was funded with a USDA Forest Service Agreement (#14-CS11132422-323) with funding from the Recreation Heritage and Volunteer Resources Program Area, Washington Office. We greatly appreciate the work of Cassandra Moseley, EWP Director and this project’s principal investigator, for her work in the initial stages of this project as well as her continued engagement.

Cover photo: Overlooking Flaming Gorge near the Red Canyon Visitor’s Center. Ashley National Forest. Credit: US Forest Service. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/107640324@N05/20800489293/in/album-72157637318087034/.

Intro (page 1) photo: Fall colors at Mount Saint Helens. Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/23563521879

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For more information about this project:
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n addition to national forests and grasslands, the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) manages other areas across the nation, including wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, national monuments, national scenic or recreation areas, and historic areas, among others. These special areas are protected for extraordinary characteristics and opportunities they provide. They are created either by Congress through legislation or by the Executive Branch via proclamation under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. Designations of special areas generally confer unique management guidelines and objectives.

As part of a larger effort to examine the values, conditions, and opportunities for the special areas that the Forest Service manage, this document is focused on a subset of non-wilderness, highly-visible areas referred to here as "iconic places." Iconic places include designations such as national scenic, recreation, historic, heritage and botanic areas along with national monuments. Iconic places are among the most visited areas in the National Forest System, and some have experienced rapidly increasing visitation in recent years. Many of the iconic places are culturally important to Native Americans or are culturally significant for local residents. Recreation use of these areas is often an important driver of local to regional economic activity and businesses.

The purpose of this document is to introduce 46 of the Forest Service’s iconic places and to provide basic information about the values they protect and their histories. These places are found in over 40 different national forests in all nine Forest Service regions, ranging in size from less than 5,000 acres to over 2 million acres. Designation of these iconic places began in the early 1960s to as recently as 2016. As such, these places represent over five decades of transitions in public land values, political administrations, and agency direction, as well as and other social, cultural, economic and ecological change. Through these transitions, the iconic places of the Forest Service have continued to expand in number, with their unique qualities and resources meriting special management or protection.

The special areas included in this project are diverse in their type, size, designated values, and history. Each type of designation comprises distinct guidelines, intents, policies, and place-specific management objectives. This document provides a baseline understanding of these iconic places for agency personnel as well as the interested public, and can serve as a resource for future research or exploration into these areas.

Introduction
### Table: Basic information for iconic places covered in this document

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<tr>
<th>USDA Forest Service region</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Area type</th>
<th>National forest</th>
<th>Year established</th>
<th>NFS area (acres)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1: Northern</td>
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<td>National Monument</td>
<td>Manti LaSal</td>
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<td>National Historic Trail</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
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Source: 2017 Land Areas of the National Forest System. [https://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/lar-index.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/lar-index.shtml). Areas for iconic places that are not individually identified in this report are noted as NA.
Map: Locations of iconic places covered in this document

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 3: Southwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Map does not show the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, which is located in multiple regions.
RATTLESNAKE
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Rattlesnake NRA quick facts

Date established: October 19, 1980
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 96–476
Forest Service region: 1, Northern Region
State: Montana
Associated national forest: Lolo
Total Forest Service acres: 60,081
Reasons designated: To preserve "lands with high value for municipal watershed, recreation, wildlife habitat, ecological, and educational opportunities." (U.S. Congress, 1980)

DESCRIPTION
The Rattlesnake National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in western Montana. It was designated at the same time as the adjacent Rattlesnake Wilderness, and the areas are collectively known as the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness (RNRAW). The RNRAW features alpine lakes, diverse wildlife, and Rattlesnake Creek, a municipal watershed for the city of Missoula. Elevation in the area ranges from 3,600-feet at the entrance to 8,620-feet at the top of McLeod Peak. The recreation area lies south of the wilderness area, with its southern boundary just four miles north of the city of Missoula. It includes 73 miles of trails open to hikers, mountain bikers, runners, cross-country skiers, horseback riders, and dog walkers. The recreation area receives heavy use, particularly in the “South Zone” that extends three miles from the main trailhead. The wilderness area to the north is much more remote and receives far less traffic.

BACKGROUND
The Salish used and resided in the RNRAW landscape for at least several hundred years before European settlers arrived in the 1800’s. Between 1911 and 1923 the Montana Power Company built ten dams on eight lakes in the area to help supply water to the growing city of Missoula; by 1937 they had purchased all the upper-drainage private land west of Rattlesnake Creek. In 1979 the Montana Power Company sold all the dams and water rights to Mountain Water Company.

When Congress passed Public Law 96-476 establishing the RNRAW in 1980, more than a third of the area was in private ownership. In 1983, the Forest Service acquired 21,000 acres in the area from the Montana Power Company. Today, the upper RNRAW is less developed than it was a hundred years ago when small settlements dotted the valley.
**USDA Forest Service Regions**

- **Region 1**: Northern
- **Region 2**: Rocky Mountain
- **Region 3**: Southwest
- **Region 4**: Intermountain
- **Region 5**: Pacific Southwest
- **Region 6**: Pacific Northwest
- **Region 7**: National Capital Region
- **Region 8**: Southern
- **Region 9**: Eastern
- **Region 10**: Alaska

**Iconic places**

- Rattlesnake National Recreation Area
- Lolo National Forest

Photo: Rattlesnake Wilderness in the Lolo National Forest. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/fsnorthernregion/26996619109/in/photolist-9UoUpG-H8AJja-225bNE8-DWfvYY/. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/.
ARAPAHO
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Arapaho NRA quick facts

Date established: October 11, 1978
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 95–450
Forest Service region: 2, Rocky Mountain Region
State: Colorado
Associated national forest(s): Arapaho & Roosevelt
Total Forest Service acres: 31,102
Reasons designated: “to preserve and protect the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and wildlife resources of the area and to enhance the recreational opportunities provided.” (U.S. Congress, 1978)

DESCRIPTION
The Arapaho National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in the upper reaches of the Colorado River Valley in north-central Colorado. It sits amid a network of other designated areas, including the neighboring Rocky Mountain National Park to the east and the adjacent Indian Peaks Wilderness on the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests. The recreation area is situated around five major reservoirs, sometimes called the “Great Lakes of Colorado”: Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Lake, Monarch Lake, Willow Creek Reservoir and Meadow Creek Reservoir. Grand Lake, the largest natural lake in Colorado, also lies adjacent to the Arapaho NRA. Water-based recreation, including boating and fishing, is the main draw. The area includes developed facilities such as marinas and campgrounds. Two of the five reservoirs allow both motorized and unmotorized boats, the other three allow unmotorized boating only. The NRA and the areas around it are also popular for hiking and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail crosses the east part of the NRA. The Arapaho NRA is home to the largest southern-most breeding colony of ospreys in the Pacific Flyway, and biologists have been monitoring summer breeding populations in the area for several decades.

BACKGROUND
The Arapaho NRA was congressionally-designated at the same time as the adjacent Indian Peaks Wilderness. Both designations afforded additional protection and preservation of the scenic, recreation, and ecological values present in the areas around the upper Colorado River Valley.
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Northern Rocky Mountain
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Iconic places
USDA Forest Service land
USDA Forest Service Regions
Urban areas
Interstates

BROWNS CANYON
NATIONAL MONUMENT

At a glance:
Browns Canyon NM quick facts

Date established: February 19, 2015
Established by: Presidential proclamation, President Barack Obama
Forest Service region: 2, Rocky Mountain
State: Colorado
Associated national forest: Pike-San Isabel
Total Forest Service acres: 11,836 (monument also includes 9,750 Bureau of Land Management acres)
Reasons designated: “a wealth of scientifically significant geological, ecological, riparian, cultural, and historic resources.” (Presidential Proclamation, 2015)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Colorado Springs, CO; 66 miles
Population within 25 miles: 43,824
Population within 100 miles: 7,879,147
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Pike-San Isabel National Forest: 4,433,985 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: White-water rafting and kayaking, backcountry hiking, fishing, photography, stargazing, off-highway vehicle use

DESCRIPTION

The Browns Canyon National Monument (NM) is located in the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, which is managed through a collaborative effort of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The upper Arkansas River Valley that contains Browns Canyon was a significant resource for the area’s Native Peoples historically and artifacts from the area date back over 10,000 years.

Browns Canyon NM is very popular seasonally for white-water rafting and kayaking. It also has a small system of non-motorized trails and one motorized trail. The area is characterized by steep topography, limited development, and a rugged, backcountry nature. Access is primarily through an unpaved road that runs adjacent to the monument’s east boundary and the Ruby Mountain Recreation Site, which has a campground, toilets, boater put-in to the Arkansas River, and trailheads leading into the monument.

BACKGROUND

Browns Canyon National Monument was designated after decades of interest in preserving the area and support from local non-profits, industries, and citizens. Concurrent efforts by both the Forest Service and BLM, dating back to 1972, established the area as a primitive, roadless area suitable for wilderness. A bipartisan effort to designate the area as wilderness began in the late 1990’s. Friends of Brown Canyon formed in 2003 and pushed politically for designation by collecting hundreds of letters of support from individuals, businesses, and other organizations and testifying in front of a congressional subcommittee. After several efforts to introduce stand-alone legislation to establish Browns Canyon as a wilderness area were unsuccessful, congressional members transitioned to a push for a national monument in 2014. On February 19th, 2015 President Obama designated Browns Canyon as a National Monument co-managed by the Forest Service and the BLM.
USDA Forest Service Regions

- Region 1: Northern
- Region 2: Rocky Mountain
- Region 4: Intermountain
- Region 5: Pacific Southwest
- Region 6: Pacific Northwest
- Region 3: Southwest
- Region 8: Southern
- Region 9: Eastern
- Region 10: Alaska

Iconic places

CHIMNEY ROCK
NATIONAL MONUMENT

At a glance:
Chimney Rock NM quick facts

Date established: September 21, 2012
Established by: Presidential Proclamation, President Barack Obama
Forest Service region: 2, Rocky Mountain
State: Colorado
Associated national forest: San Juan
Total Forest Service acres: 4,724 acres
Reasons designated: “spiritual, historic, and scientific resources of great value and significance... nationally significant archaeology, archaeoastronomy, visual and landscape characteristics, and geological and biological features, as well as objects of deep cultural and educational value” (Presidential Proclamation, 2012)

DESCRIPTION
Chimney Rock National Monument (NM) is located at the southern edge of the San Juan Mountains in southwestern Colorado. The area in and around the monument was home to ancient Pueblo Indians dating back 1,000 years. There are over 100 archaeological sites of significance related to Pueblo cultural history inside the monument, including 200 ancient homes and ceremonial buildings. Some of the buildings and artifacts at the site have been excavated for viewing and exploration. The area remains an important cultural place for descendants of the Ancestral Pueblo People, who return to visit their ancestors and for other spiritual and traditional purposes. The monument is also home to abundant wildlife. Mule deer and elk travel through the site on their migratory journeys every spring and fall.

BACKGROUND
Excavations and survey work in the monument area date back to 1921. In 1970, Chimney Rock was established as an Archaeological Area by the Forest Service, and ongoing excavations and stabilization work occurred off and on over the next several decades. In 1988, Friends of Chimney Rock, which the following year became the Chimney Rock Archaeology Group, was formed by volunteers to provide tours of the area. In 2004, the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) became a separate nonprofit organization that expanded programming and training for tours and educational opportunities alongside Forest Service management. This collaborative partnership helped the site gain recognition as an interpretive area. Excavation and stabilization work continued over the next several years, and an interpretive kiosk was built in 2011. In 2012, President Barack Obama designated the area as a national monument, with the Forest Service managing the monument in continued partnership with CRIA.

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Farmington, NM; 46 miles
Population within 25 miles: 31,418
Population within 100 miles: 357,991
Annual visitors estimate and geography: San Juan National Forest: 1,315,491 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM); “Approximately 12,000 visitors currently visit Chimney Rock annually” (USDA Forest Service, 2019)
Main recreational uses: Archaeological visitation, astronomical and geological interpretation activities, hiking, bicycling, hunting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90
DESCRIPTION
The Pine Ridge National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in the Nebraska Panhandle, occupying the north-facing Pine Ridge Escarpment. Rugged pine-covered hills and sandstone buttes rise out of the great plains and create an unexpected region of timbered canyons and mixed-grass prairies where visitors can enjoy hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. The 40-mile non-motorized Pine Ridge Trail spans the Pine Ridge NRA traveling through ponderosa pine forest, creek bottoms, canyons, and open ridges with great views of the nearby buttes. The area is rich in biodiversity; typical fauna includes coyotes, bighorn sheep, bobcats, elk, white-tailed and mule deer, eagles, hawks, and wild turkeys.

BACKGROUND
The area around Pine Ridge was first given federal status in 1902 as a Forest Reserve, with the purpose of creating a forest-planting experiment where seedlings would be planted and distributed throughout the west. In 1950, Nebraska's Pine Ridge area was officially given national forest status and the Pine Ridge National Recreation Area was officially designated in October of 1986 alongside the Soldier Creek Wilderness area, also located in the Nebraska National Forest. This was accomplished with the intent of providing backcountry recreation opportunities in the ponderosa pine forest of Nebraska.
Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Eastern
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

0 500 1,000 Miles

Jemez National Recreation Area

At a glance:
Jemez NRA quick facts

Date established: October 12, 1993
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 103-104
Forest Service region: 3, Southwestern
State: New Mexico
Associated national forest: Santa Fe
Total Forest Service acres: 48,841
Reasons designated: “to conserve, protect, and restore the recreational, ecological, cultural, religious, and wildlife resource values of the Jemez Mountains.” (U.S. Congress, 1993)

DESCRIPTION
The Jemez National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in the Santa Fe National Forest in north-central New Mexico, about 40 miles west of Los Alamos. The town of Jemez Springs is located within the boundaries of the Jemez NRA. The Jemez NRA is a high elevation area ranging from 5,800-feet to over 10,000-feet above sea level. The environment is arid, with only 20 inches of precipitation per year. Due to elevation gradients, vegetation ranges from high elevation mixed-conifer forest to dry ponderosa pine forest and open pinon-juniper forests at the lowest elevations. Lush riparian areas are characterized by deciduous trees such as cottonwoods, alders, and willows. Bare rock, cliff faces, flat topped mesas, canyons, and the domed peak of Redondo are scenic highlights. Aside from the dramatic scenery, historic Pueblo ruins and hot springs in Jemez Springs provide other attractions to visitors.

BACKGROUND
Native Americans have inhabited the Jemez NRA for millennia, illustrated by the Ancestral Puebloan homes scattered throughout. The Jemez Mountains continue to provide important cultural and economic significance to Native Americans and northern New Mexican communities today, with traditional activities such as grazing, hunting, medicinal plant collection, and timber cutting still important to local peoples. Spanish explorers arrived as early as the 1540s and colonists under the leadership of Don Juan de Onate followed in 1598. At this time, Jemez peoples were forced to abandon their homes, scatter amongst the mesas, and congregate around two centralized missions. Jemez people took part in the 1680 Pueblo revolt but were reconquered by 1696. In 1821, the area gained independence from Spain as part of Mexico and in 1848, it was annexed by the United States following the Mexican War. In 1905 the Jemez Forest Reserve was established, becoming part of the Santa Fe National Forest in 1925.

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Albuquerque, NM; 53 miles
Population within 25 miles: 85,909
Population within 100 miles: 1,327,517
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Santa Fe National Forest non-wilderness visits: 716,795 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, outdoor learning, picnicking, scenic driving, cross country skiing, soaking in hot and warm springs, rock climbing, horseback riding, swimming
Photo: Changing colors near Jemez, New Mexico on the Santa Fe National Forest. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/swregion/22331480390. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/.
BEARS EARS
NATIONAL MONUMENT

At a glance:
Bears Ears NM quick facts

Date established: December 28, 2016
Established by: Presidential proclamation, President Barack Obama
Forest Service region: 4, Intermountain Region
State: Utah
Associated national forest(s): Manti-LaSal
Total Forest Service acres: 289,00 (approx. 1.06 million Bureau of Land Management acres)
Reasons designated: to “preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans.” (Presidential Proclamation, 2016)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Grand Junction, CO; 104 miles
Population within 25 miles: 6,959
Population within 100 miles: 401,501
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Manti-LaSal National Forest: 295,353 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Hunting, fishing, climbing, hiking, off-highway vehicle use

DESCRIPTION

Bears Ears National Monument (NM) is located in Southeast Utah, south of Moab. The monument is named for a twin pair of buttes resembling bears ears rising over 8,700 feet in elevation. The landscape surrounding its namesake buttes is a mosaic of red rock arches, canyons, grassy plateaus, and mountain peaks. Engelmann spruce and aspen grow at higher elevations, with desert flora such as yucca and prickly pear common in the canyons. Recreational highlights in the NM include rock climbing on sandstone crags in the Indian Creek area, canyoneering in Fry Canyon, plentiful opportunities for hiking, and dark skies excellent for stargazing.

Bears Ears NM is jointly managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, with the council of a tribal commission formed to ensure integration of tribal experience and traditional knowledge with management. The Bears Ears area is the ancestral grounds of several tribes and continues to be an important location for traditional uses and ceremonies. Its boundaries contain a rich archaeological record of rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, and other sites sacred to Native American Tribes.

BACKGROUND

The Bears Ears area is the ancestral grounds of Native Americans going back at least 12,500 years and evidence of their occupation is prevalent throughout the monument. In the early 2010’s, a coalition of five federally recognized tribes developed a proposal to protect the archaeological heritage of the area under the Antiquities Act. Due to their efforts, nearly 80 years after the first calls for protection, Bears Ears National Monument was established by President Barack Obama on December 28, 2016 through presidential proclamation.

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90
USDA Forest Service land

Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in the northeast corner of Utah and the southwest corner of Wyoming. Explorer John Wesley Powell named the area for the fiery colors of its sandstone walls during an 1869 expedition down the Green River. The NRA is based around the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, and extends into the Uintah Mountains, hosting a mixture of climate, topography, and recreation opportunities. The reservoir is stocked with several species of fish and is well known for its fishing opportunities, as well as boating, swimming, picnicking, camping, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

The NRA hosts 43 campgrounds dispersed around approximately 360 miles of shoreline, as well as opportunities for more secluded or primitive camping. Although the area is located somewhat remotely from metropolitan areas, there are several nearby small communities that offer a variety of lodging accommodations, recreation services, and other resources to visitors.

BACKGROUND
In 1956, Congress authorized large-scale development of the Upper Colorado River Basin resources with the passage of the Colorado River Storage Project Act. In 1964, construction was completed on the Flaming Gorge Dam across the Green River, creating the Flaming Gorge Reservoir which extends 91 miles north of the dam. In 1968, the NRA was designated by Congress to “provide a highly significant water-based recreation area on lands largely in Federal ownership in the part of the United States where water is scarce... [and to] help meet the rapidly increasing needs of the American people for wholesome outdoor recreation, and preserve for them outstanding natural, historic, scenic, and recreation resources” (U.S. Congress, 1968).
Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Intertstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Intermountain
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Photo: View of Flaming Gorge Rim coming out of Kingfisher Canyon on the Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Public domain available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/107640324@N05/13944376317/
SAWTOOTH
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Sawtooth NRA quick facts

Date established: August 22, 1972
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 92-400
Forest Service region: 4, Intermountain
State: Idaho
Associated national forests: Sawtooth, Challis, and Boise
Total Forest Service acres: 731,774
Reasons designated: “to assure the preservation and protection of the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values and to provide for the enhancement of the recreational values associated therewith” (U.S. Congress, 1972)

DESCRIPTION
The Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in Central Idaho, north of Ketchum. At 756,000-acres, it is the largest of the Forest Service’s National Recreation Areas, encompassing the Sawtooth, Boulder, White Cloud, and Smoky Mountain Ranges with more than 50 peaks rising over 10,000-feet above sea level. It is also the headwaters of six of Idaho’s major rivers, including the Salmon and the Boise.

The Sawtooth NRA was sculpted by glaciers, leaving behind a landscape of glacial cirques, granite spires and jagged ridges, mountain meadows, and at least 300 high elevation alpine lakes. The diverse landscapes provide habitats for hundreds of species, including wolves, wolverines, mountain goats, native cutthroat and bull trout, and moose. Three scenic byways converge in Stanley nearby the NRA. The area provides summer and winter recreation opportunities, with over 700 miles of trails, 78 miles of groomed ski trails, and over 3,000 miles of streams and rivers where visitors can raft and fish.

BACKGROUND
There were several attempts to designate the country surrounding the Sawtooth Mountains as a National Park beginning in 1911, but none were successful. In the 1960’s, a proposed strip mine on the northeast flank of Castle Peak brought together a group of passionate scientists, fishermen, and other concerned citizens to create a campaign protesting the mine, ultimately founding the Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council. In August of 1972, the council triumphed with the designation of the NRA by Congress, effectively removing the land from mineral entry while allowing ranchers to continue utilizing the area. The Sawtooth NRA was officially established as a way to preserve not only the scenic and recreational value but also the way of life of ranchers in the area.

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Boise, ID; 85 miles
Population within 25 miles: 22,268
Population within 100 miles: 974,743
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Sawtooth National Recreation Area: 302,703 estimated annual visits (2015, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Camping, hiking, backpacking, fishing, boating and canoeing, rafting, observing nature, photography, bicycling

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90
SPRING MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Spring Mountains NRA quick facts

Date established: August 4, 1993
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 103-63
Forest Service region: 4, Intermountain
State: Nevada
Associated national forest: Humboldt-Toiyabe
Total Forest Service acres: 316,698
Reasons designated: to “(1) preserve scenic, scientific, historic, cultural, natural, wilderness, watershed, riparian, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and other values contributing to public enjoyment and biological diversity in the Spring Mountains of Nevada; (2) ensure appropriate conservation and management of natural and recreation resources in the Spring Mountains; and (3) provide for the development of public recreation opportunities in the Spring Mountains for the enjoyment of present and future generations.” (U.S. Congress, 1993)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Las Vegas, NV; 23 miles
Population within 25 miles: 1,874,658
Population within 100 miles: 2,287,779
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Spring Mountains National Recreation Area: 563,458 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Bicycling, camping, hiking, backpacking, picnicking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, sledding, tubing

DESCRIPTION
The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA) is a long, linear, north-south range of mountains located just 30 minutes west from downtown Las Vegas, adjacent to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. These snow-capped peaks offer a refuge from the surrounding Mojave Desert and the city, with an astounding array of biodiversity found within its many climate and vegetation zones. The NRA is home to over fifty sensitive animal and plant species found nowhere else on earth. Rising in elevation from 4,000-feet, the landscape quickly transitions from desert scrub through juniper and ponderosa pine woodlands, aspen-white fir forest, and stands of bristlecone pines up to the alpine tundra of Mount Charleston’s 11,916-foot summit. Common wildlife found within the towering crags, deep canyons, and steep slopes of the NRA include mule deer, bighorn sheep, elk, mountain lions, broad tailed hummingbirds, and Steller’s jays. The Spring Mountains are named for the large amount of springs lying within the range, with the largest concentration being found on the eastern side of the mountains.

BACKGROUND
The Spring Mountains were first recognized for their uniqueness in 1906 when, under the authority of the Forest Reserve Act of 1891, President Theodore Roosevelt designated the southern portion of the mountain range as the Charleston Forest Reserve. Following this designation, the reserve was combined with and transferred between national forests, eventually landing within the Toiyabe Forest.

In the 1930’s, the Civilian Conservation Corps played an instrumental role in developing the Spring Mountains, building many of the roads and campgrounds still standing within the NRA. Additional land was added to the Reserve in 1989 and the Spring Mountains NRA was officially designated by Congress in 1993.
First snow in 2012 in the Spring Mountains NRA. Photo by Michael Balen, December 2012. Credit: USDA Forest Service. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/107640324@N05/11951346644/in/album-72157639368480523/.
DESCRIPTION

The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (NM) is located in Northern California, north of Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area. The 330,780-acre monument, extends north from Lake Berryessa in Napa Valley at nearly sea level, up 7,000 feet of elevation to the Snow Mountain Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest. The monument’s scenery is dramatic and varied, characterized by mountains, hot springs, old growth forests, chaparral ecosystems, exposed rock formations, and views of the California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains. Waterways in the monument provide critical habitat for coastal Chinook salmon and northern California steelhead; some of the richest biological diversity in California is found within Snow Mountain’s upper elevations. The monument features three wilderness areas, world-class off-highway vehicle trails, and opportunities for whitewater rafting and kayaking on Cache Creek, among a variety of other recreational opportunities.

BACKGROUND

The Snow Mountain Wilderness, now incorporated within the monument, first came under protection under the California Wilderness Act of 1984, and was expanded in the 2006 Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act that also designated the nearby Cache Creek Wilderness. In 2009, the non-profit organization Tuleyome became interested in preserving the biodiversity of the area surrounding both the Snow Mountain and Cache Creek Wildernesses down to Lake Berryessa. The organization petitioned to have the Berryessa – Snow Mountain region designated as a National Conservation Area. Their effort gained national attention and the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument was officially designated by presidential proclamation on July 10, 2015 by President Obama.
GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

DESCRIPTION

Giant Sequoia National Monument (NM) is located in central California, south of Fresno near Kings Canyon National Park. The monument is named for the giant sequoia tree, the world’s largest tree. Giant sequoias grow within a narrow 60-mile band on the west slope of California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains. The tree sprouts from a seed less than a half-inch long and can grow more than 250-feet high and 20-feet in diameter. Giant sequoias are also important for the critically endangered California Condor, as they are the only trees large enough to provide the condors with nesting cavities.

There are 33 giant sequoia groves in the NM, making it home to nearly half the giant sequoia groves in the world. In the southern section is the Belknap Grove, a complex of several groves where visitors can hike through old-growth sequoias along Bear Creek and the Middle Fork of the Tule River, passing through trunks of giant sequoias that have been hollowed out by fires, yet are still living. The northern section includes the Converse Basin Grove, once reputed to be the largest sequoia grove in the Sierra where 60 giant sequoias, including Boole Tree, the sixth largest tree in the world, remain standing surrounded by thousands of enormous stumps. In addition to these towering trees, the NM includes scenic glacial valleys, massive granite monoliths, alpine meadows, and mountain streams.

BACKGROUND

The giant sequoias were not seen by Europeans until the mid-1800s. By 1908, the northern portion of where the park is now located had been thoroughly logged. This widespread logging of the sequoias before the turn of the century led to public outcry for protection. Subsequently, by 1940, federal parks and reserves protected over 90% of the remaining giant sequoia. However, some logging of young trees remained permissible, causing the public to fight for stronger protection. This led to President George H. W. Bush signing an executive order further protecting the giant sequoias from mining and timber protection. Eight years later, in April of 2000, President Clinton designated the Giant Sequoia National Monument, bringing permanent protection to the remaining groves within the monument.

At a glance:

Giant Sequoia NM quick facts

Date established: April 15, 2000  
Established by: Presidential proclamation, President William Clinton  
Forest Service region: 5, Pacific Southwest  
State: California  
Associated national forest: Sequoia  
Total Forest Service acres: 328,411  
Reasons designated: the “diverse geologic formations, ecosystems, and human history [that] hold unique opportunities for public education, scientific study, and recreation” (USDA Forest Service, 2012).

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Porterville, CA; 21 miles  
Population within 25 miles: 354,838  
Population within 100 miles: 3,666,383  
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Sequoia National Forest: 777,072 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)  
Main recreational uses: Bicycling, camping, fishing, hiking, horse riding, nature viewing, OHV riding, scenic driving, swimming, boating, cross country skiing and sledding, snowmobiling

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

0 500 1,000 Miles
0 1,000 2,000 Miles
0 250 500 Miles

Iconic places
USDA Forest Service land
USDA Forest Service Regions
Urban areas
Interstates

Photo: Giant sequoia trees. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfsregion5/5631739299/in/album-72157626925537288/. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/.
MONO BASIN
NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

At a glance:
Mono Basin NSA quick facts

Date established: September 28, 1984
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 98-425
Forest Service region: 5, Pacific Southwest
State: California
Associated national forest: Inyo
Total Forest Service acres: 51,320
Reasons designated: “to help protect the unique ecological and cultural resources of the Mono Basin.” (USDA Forest Service, 2019)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Carson City, CA; 77 miles
Population within 25 miles: 17,807
Population within 100 miles: 2,080,792
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Inyo National Forest: 2,308,758 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Camping, fishing, hiking, nature viewing, outdoor learning, picnicking, non-motorized boating

DESCRIPTION
The Mono Basin National Scenic Area (NSA) is a unique high desert ecosystem located in California’s Eastern Sierra Mountains, one half-mile north of the town of Lee Vining. The area includes Mono Lake, an important desert oasis and inland sea that sits below 13,000-foot High Sierra peaks. The lake is over 700,000 years old, making it one of the oldest lakes in North America, and is two-and-a-half times as salty as the ocean. The brine shrimp and alkali fly larvae that find habitat in the lake attract millions of migratory birds as they make their way along their seasonal routes. There are many uncommon geological attractions at Mono Basin, including Panum Crater, a rhyolitic plug volcano that erupted 650 years ago, and the South Tufa area, where limestone towers protrude out of the lake surface. About half of the area’s ecosystem is characterized by a sagebrush-bitterbrush-rabbitbrush complex, with some wet meadow found along streams and dry meadows with greasewood swales covering areas with alkaline soils. Other vegetation includes open stands of Jeffrey pine and Utah juniper.

BACKGROUND
Native Americans likely occupied and utilized Mono Lake resources for thousands of years. Historically, Alkali fly larvae in Mono Lake were an important economic resource for the Mono Lake Indian Community. Now a ghost town, Mono Mills was once an active community in the basin, along with the mining town of Bodie. Title III of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 established Mono Basin as the first National Scenic Area in the United States.
Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 3: Southwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

0 500 1,000 Miles
0 1,000 2,000 Miles
0 250 500 Miles

Photo: Trona Pinnacles, California. Photo by Bob Wick, BLM. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/27515485656/in/album-72157624218061531/.
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL MONUMENT

DESCRIPTION
The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (NM) is located on the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, approximately 30 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles. The National Monument boundaries include four wilderness areas: Magic Mountain, Pleasant View Ridge, San Gabriel, and Sheep Mountain. The famous long distance hike, the Pacific Crest Trail, also traverses it. The landscape is mountainous, with steep canyons and thousands of miles of streams. The NM is located adjacent to the San Andreas Fault, and its mountains are currently migrating northwest two inches per year, on average. Biota in this Mediterranean climate is highly diverse and vegetation ranges from dense chaparral to stands of mixed pines and hardwoods to sub-alpine fir and alpine meadow. These ecosystems provide habitat for various iconic species, including the California condor, Nelson’s bighorn sheep, bald eagles, and mountain lions. The San Gabriel National Monument is estimated to provide 30% of the Los Angeles Basin’s drinking water. The San Gabriel Mountains are also significant scientific research locations with the Mount Wilson Observatory and the San Dimas Experimental Forest located within the NM’s boundaries.

At a glance:
San Gabriel Mountains NM quick facts

**Date established:** October 10, 2014
**Established by:** Presidential proclamation, President Barack Obama
**Forest Service region:** 5, Pacific Southwest
**State:** California
**Associated national forest(s):** Angeles and San Bernardino
**Total Forest Service acres:** 346,177
**Reasons designated:** “to preserve and protect the objects of scientific and historic interest at the San Gabriel Mountains.” (Presidential Proclamation 9194, 2014)

People and visitors

**Nearest metropolitan area:** Los Angeles/Long Beach/Santa Ana, CA; 10 miles
**Population within 25 miles:** 12,028,647
**Population within 100 miles:** 21,012,262
**Annual visitors estimate and geography:** Angeles National Forest: 2,879,953 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)
**Main recreational uses:** Camping, hiking, cross country skiing, hunting, nature viewing, picnicking, water activities, horseback riding

BACKGROUND
The significance of the San Gabriel Mountain’s watershed was recognized as early as the late 1800’s, when local citizens petitioned to have the mountains protected specifically for conservation of the watershed. In 1892, prior the Angeles National Forest’s establishment, President Benjamin Harrison established the San Gabriel Timberland Reserve. Over one hundred years later, further recognized for their significant ecological, recreational, and watershed values, President Barack Obama designated the San Gabriel National Monument in 2014.
SAND TO SNOW
NATIONAL MONUMENT

At a glance:
Sand to Snow NM quick facts

Date established: February 11, 2016
Established by: Presidential proclamation, President Barack Obama
Forest Service region: 5, Pacific Southwest
State: California
Associated national forest(s): San Bernardino
Total Forest Service acres: 70,942 (monument also includes approximately 83,000 acres of the Bureau of Land Management’s California Desert District)
Reasons designated: to “preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the historic and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans” and to “provide world class outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, and horseback riding.” (Presidential Proclamation, 2016)

DESCRIPTION
The Sand to Snow National Monument (NM) is located east of Los Angeles in Southern California, extending from the Sonoran Desert floor to over 10,000 feet at the summit of San Gorgonio Mountain, the highest mountain peak in California south of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The NM features a striking array of ecosystems and wildlife habitats, being one of the most biodiverse areas in Southern California, with twelve federally listed threatened and endangered animal species, over 240 species of birds, and one of the highest densities of black bears in Southern California. Some of the most rugged and steep topography in Southern California can also be found within its boundaries, including a granite ridge over seven miles long and two miles high. The soaring mountain peaks found within the monument create a variety of recreational opportunities for the large urban population less than a two-hour drive away.

BACKGROUND
The Sand to Snow NM area was first occupied by the Native Americans living at the base of San Gorgonio Mountain who depended on the mountains for gathering food, medicinal plants, and basket making materials, and to hunt deer and other game. In the late 1700’s, Europeans arrived bringing mining and grazing to the area. By the mid-1920’s, when the San Bernardino Mountains began attracting hordes of recreationalists from the nearby big cities, a movement to protect the unique and delicate area began. Inspired by the Wildlands Conservancy’s 20-year-long Sand to Snow Interface Project that had acquired over 60,000 acres of private property in the area, the NM was established in February, 2016 by President Obama through the Antiquities Act of 1906.

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Riverside/San Bernardino, CA; 9 miles
Population within 25 miles: 2,473,075
Population within 100 miles: 40,430,288
Annual visitors estimate and geography: San Bernardino National Forest: 1,941,103 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Hiking, camping, backpacking, climbing, horse packing, bird watching, hunting, fishing, stargazing, mountain biking
USDA Forest Service land

Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 3: Southwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

0 500 1,000 Miles

0 1,000 2,000 Miles

0 250 500 Miles

San Bernardino National Forest
Sand to Snow National Monument

San Jacinto and Santa Rosa National Monument

Photo: Sand to Snow National Monument from the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Photo by Bob Wick, BLM. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/33603863742/.
SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO
NATIONAL MONUMENT

**DESCRIPTION**
Jointly managed by the BLM and Forest Service, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument (NM) is located in Southern California, west of Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. This monument features palm oases, snow-capped mountains, a portion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, a designated wild and scenic river, and two wilderness areas. Rising abruptly from the desert floor to an elevation of 10,834-feet, the summit of San Jacinto Mountain exceeds the vertical relief in most other parts of the contiguous United States. This sudden elevation change is important for capturing significant amounts of rain and snow in an otherwise dry desert region home to millions of people. Water flowing from the San Jacinto Mountains sustains the nation’s largest native fan palm oasis. This water further recharges the many hot springs downslope in the Coachella Valley, heated by geothermal activity associated with the San Andreas Fault Zone. The unique ecosystem of the NM is also a biological hotspot, providing a home to more than 500 plant and animal species and serving as a refuge for the endangered peninsular bighorn sheep, the southwestern willow flycatcher, and many other sensitive songbirds.

**BACKGROUND**
The NM is the traditional homeland of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the area is rich with petroglyphs, village ruins, and other archaeological sites. Efforts to protect the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains have existed since the late 1900s, when the San Jacinto Forest Reserve was established by President Grover Cleveland. Efforts to preserve the area through the early 1900s as a wilderness led to the creation of a game refuge in 1927, and the establishment of the Mount San Jacinto State Park in 1937. Following this, the Civilian Conservation Corps began developing the area, building the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to transport visitors to the high country from the valley, over 8,000 feet below. Eventually, the San Jacinto Wilderness and the Santa Rosa Wilderness were designated (in 1964 and 1984, respectively). In 2000, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument was designated after a cooperative effort of the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, state agencies, and local governments.

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**At a glance:**
Santa Rosa & San Jacinto NM quick facts

**Date established:** October 24, 2000
**Established by:** Congressional designation, Public Law 106-351
**Forest Service region:** 5, Pacific Southwest
**State:** California
**Associated national forest(s):** San Bernardino
**Total Forest Service acres:** 69,984
(approximately 280,022 total acres of public land)
**Reasons designated:** “to preserve the nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, and scientific values found in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains” (U.S. Congress, 2000)

**People and visitors**

**Nearest metropolitan area:** Indio/ Cathedral City/Palm Springs, CA; 4 miles
**Population within 25 miles:** 889,487
**Population within 100 miles:** 19,477,328
**Annual visitors estimate and geography:** San Bernardino National Forest: 1,941,103 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)
**Main recreational uses:** Bicycling, camping, hiking, horse riding, hunting, nature viewing, scenic driving

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 3: Southwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

USDA Forest Service land

Iconic places

Urban areas

Interstates

Photo: Santa Rosa San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Photo by Bob Wick, BLM. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/15189284751/in/album-72157647007323877/.
SMITH RIVER
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Smith River NRA quick facts

Date established: November 16, 1990
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 101-612
Forest Service region: 5, Pacific Southwest
State: California
Associated national forest: Six Rivers
Total Forest Service acres: 323,137
Reasons designated: “the preservation, protection, enhancement, and interpretation for present and future generations of the Smith River watershed’s outstanding wild and scenic rivers, ecological diversity, and recreation opportunities while providing for the wise use and sustained productivity of its natural resources.” (U.S. Congress, 1990).

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Medford, OR; 61 miles
Population within 25 miles: 56,685
Population within 100 miles: 805,054
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Six Rivers National Forest: 184,505 estimated annual visits (2013, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Bicycling, camping, fishing, hiking, backpacking, horse riding, nature viewing, boating, swimming, tubing

DESCRIPTION
The Smith River National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in Northwestern California, stretching south from the Oregon Border. The NRA incorporates part of the Siskiyou Wilderness, the location of the Smith River’s headwaters. The Smith River is California’s last undammed, free-flowing river system, and is also the largest wild and scenic designated river in the United States. The 450-square mile area is tremendously diverse, characterized by high-elevation plateaus, peaks and meadows; densely forested mountain slopes; steep, rocky canyons through which the Smith River and its many tributaries flow; and coastal redwood forest.

The cold, emerald waters of the Smith River are considered a world-class location for fishing, being important habitat for Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead, rainbow, and cutthroat trout. Many other recreation opportunities abound, such as swimming, whitewater rafting the Smith River’s class I and II rapids, hiking, and viewing wildflowers on the forested slopes of the area.

BACKGROUND
Recognizing the value and significance of the free-flowing Smith River, California’s governor Jerry Brown requested it be given status as a National Wild and Scenic River. Over 300 miles of the Smith River were declared Wild and Scenic in 1981. Less than a decade later, Congress designated the Smith River NRA in 1990, further establishing the watershed surrounding the river as an important ecological and recreational area.
Smith River at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park in California. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/jeffhollettvancouverwa/26827007890/.
CASCADE HEAD
NATIONAL SCENIC AND RESEARCH AREA

At a glance:
Cascade Head NSRA quick facts

Date established: December 22, 1974
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 93-535
Forest Service region: 6, Pacific Northwest
State: Oregon
Associated national forest: Siuslaw
Total Forest Service acres: 7,162
Reasons designated: “to provide present and future generations with the use and enjoyment of certain ocean headlands, rivers, streams, estuaries, and forested areas, to insure the protection and encourage the study of significant areas for research and scientific purposes, and to promote a more sensitive relationship between man and his adjacent environment.” (U.S. Congress, 1974)

DESCRIPTION
The Cascade Head National Scenic and Research Area (NSRA) is located along the north-central coast of western Oregon. It contains both public and private land (total acreage of 9,670) with a variety of land uses including agriculture, rural development, and undeveloped natural systems such as meadows and estuaries. The area features native Sitka spruce and western hemlock forests and a coastal headland that provides important habitat for native prairie grasses, rare wildflowers, and the Oregon silverspot butterfly, among other species. It is home to more than 350 species of wildlife, including four federally listed endangered species. The area also includes the Salmon River estuary which “provides recreational, research, educational, scenic and estuarine resources, which have national significance” (USDA Forest Service, 2019).

BACKGROUND
In 1934, the Cascade Head Experimental Forest was established to represent typical Sitka spruce-western hemlock forests. In the early 1960s, a group of volunteers organized an effort to protect the Cascade Head headland from development. In 1966, The Nature Conservancy purchased the Cascade Head Preserve with donated funds. In 1974, the Cascade Head Recreational Scenic and Research Area was designated under Forest Service management; it was the first non-wilderness land in the United States to be designated by Congress to ensure protection of its scenic, ecological, and scientific values. The area included half of the experimental forest and added headland prairies and the Salmon River Estuary, resulting in a more diverse, coastal-related research program. The designation established a long-term goal of restoring the Salmon River estuary and its associated wetlands to a natural estuarine system. In 1980, the combined area of the Cascade Head Experimental Forest and Scenic-Research Area was recognized as a United Nations Biosphere Reserve. Today, the Forest Service works with the other landowners in the area to ensure the preservation of the values for which it was designated.

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Corvallis, OR; 48 miles
Population within 25 miles: 40,496
Population within 100 miles: 3,489,532
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Siuslaw National Forest, not including the Oregon Dunes NRA: 614,547 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Hiking, nature viewing

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
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Region 3: Southwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
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USDA Forest Service land
USDA Forest Service Regions
Urban areas
Interstates

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA) is located in both Washington and Oregon states, encompassing a portion of the western boundary between the states. It includes an 292,500-acre patchwork of public and private lands, making it the largest NSA in the country. It is a spectacular canyon created by the Columbia River as it cuts 80 miles through the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The gorge is nearly 4,000 feet deep in places, as the river winds past steep cliffs, Cascade Volcanoes, agricultural lands, and through temperate rainforest and grasslands. The gorge is home to 75,000 people in thirteen communities and provides a vital transportation corridor with U.S. Highway 84 running through it. It is a hot spot for recreationalists from around the world, as well as locals from nearby Portland, Oregon who visit the Columbia River to bike, hike, raft, kayak, fish, or any number of other activities possible within the Gorge. In addition to its dramatic physical attributes, the planning and management of the Columbia River Gorge makes it one of the most unique National Scenic Areas in the country. Management is overseen through a collaboration between the bi-state Columbia River Gorge Commission and the Forest Service.

Over 100 years of various efforts preceded the designation of the Columbia River Gorge as a National Scenic Area. Following the construction of U.S. Highway 84 and worried about urban sprawl into the area, the Friends of the Columbia Gorge organization formed to advocate for its designation as a National Scenic Area. In 1986, President Reagan designated the NSA to protect and enhance these resources and to promote economies within the area in a consistent way.
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
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Region 8: Southern
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Region 10: Alaska

Iconic places
USDA Forest Service land
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Interstates

Photo: View of the Columbia River Gorge from Rowena Crest. USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/39697540392/in/album-72157665028630056/.
HELLS CANYON
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Hells Canyon NRA quick facts

Date established: December 31, 1975
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 94-199
Forest Service region: administered by Region 6: Pacific Northwest
States: Oregon and Idaho
Associated national forests: Wallowa-Whitman (administrator), Nez Perce, and Payette
Total Forest Service acres: 619,488 (478,415 acres on the Wallowa-Whitman; 117,073 on the Nez Perce; 24,000 acres on the Payette)
Reasons designated: “to assure that the natural beauty, and historical and archeological values of the Hells Canyon area... are preserved for this and future generations, and the recreational and ecologic values and public enjoyment of the area are thereby enhanced.” (U.S. Congress, 1975)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Lewiston, ID; 53 miles
Population within 25 miles: 34,196
Population within 100 miles: 1,116,222
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Wallowa-Whitman National Forest: 246,037 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Bicycling, camping, fishing, hiking, horse riding, hunting, nature viewing, OHV riding, outdoor learning, picnicking, motorized and non-motorized boating, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, snowmobiling

DESCRIPTION
Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA) is located along the border of western Idaho and northeastern Oregon, straddling both sides of the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam. Access points to the canyon are a one-hour drive from Enterprise, Joseph, Imnaha, Halfway, and Pine Creek in Oregon or Riggins, Grangeville, Whitebird, Council, and Cambridge in Idaho. At 10 miles wide and 7,913-feet deep, Hells Canyon is the deepest river gorge in North America. The Seven Devils mountain range towers above the canyon, peaking at the 9,393-foot tall summit of He Devil Mountain. The canyon has an arid climate, with lower elevations characterized by barren, steep slopes and rim rocks, and upper elevations characterized by grassland benches and canyons sheltering groves of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine.

Hells Canyon offers scenic vistas, world-class whitewater boating, hiking, horseback riding, and climbing. It has numerous boat launches, campgrounds, interpretive sites, and historic ranches. Private and commercial aircraft and powerboats are allowed in the canyon.

BACKGROUND
Human occupation in the area dates back at least 7,100 years ago, with a Clovis point found at the southern end of the canyon suggesting an even longer history of inhabitation. Historically, the Nez Perce peoples occupied the Hells Canyon area, ceding their title to the United States in an 1855 treaty. Early explorers and settlers called the area Box Canyon or Snake River Canyon, but the 1895 edition of “McCurdy’s Marine History of the Pacific Northwest” referred to it as Hells Canyon. By the 1930s people from hiking clubs to Senators were widely referring to the canyon as Hells Canyon.

In 1975, Congress established the National Recreation Area as the Hells Canyon Wilderness and allocated $10 million for the development of recreation facilities in the area. Hells Canyon NRA is located in three different national forests and two regions, but has been administered by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Region 6 since 1982.

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90
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DESCRIPTION
The Mount Baker National Recreation Area (NRA) is located about 100 miles north of Seattle, just outside of the Mt. Baker Wilderness near Sedro-Woolley, Washington. 10,160-foot Mount Baker, for which the NRA is named, is the most northernmost volcano in the United States’ Cascade Range located just 15 miles south of the Canadian border. The area consists of four large meadows on the south slope of Mount Baker. Schiebers Meadow is the most popular for snowmobiling, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain climbing. The area is very scenic, with waist high huckleberry bushes, groves of western hemlocks and Alaska yellow cedar, glacially carved valleys and ridges, natural alpine meadows, and high elevation lakes. A trail through the NRA allows visitors to reach the summit of Mount Baker.

BACKGROUND
The northern Cascade Range has long been admired for its beauty, with John Muir visiting the region in 1888 and describing Mount Baker as “rising solitary over a dark breadth of forest making a glorious show” in his book Steep Trails. The first forest preserves in the north Cascades, later to become national forests throughout the region, were established during the 1890’s as a result of national concern over the loss of forestlands. The following 80 years saw many further protections throughout the northern Cascades and in 1984, the Washington Wilderness Act was passed establishing 18 new wilderness areas as well as the Mount Baker National Recreation Area, designated to accommodate mixed recreation use in Schieber’s Meadow.
MOUNT HOOD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Mount Hood NRA quick facts

Date established: March 30, 2009
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 111–11, Sec. 1204
Forest Service region: 6, Pacific Northwest
State: Oregon
Associated national forest: Mt. Hood
Total Forest Service acres: 34,465
Reasons designated: “To provide for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of recreational, ecological, scenic, cultural, watershed, and fish and wildlife values, there is established the Mount Hood National Recreation Area within the Mount Hood National Forest.” (U.S. Congress, 2009)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Portland, OR; 47 miles
Population within 25 miles: 70,757
Population within 100 miles: 3,623,599
Main recreational uses: Hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, skiing, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, horse riding, nature viewing, snowmobiling

DESCRIPTION
The Mount Hood NRA encompasses and protects three non-contiguous units east and south of Mount Hood and in close proximity of the Mount Hood Loop Highway. The Shellrock Unit, the smallest, northernmost unit, and the Fifteenmile Unit, located east of Mount Hood, both feature single-track mountain bike trails and excellent vantage points for viewing Mount Hood. The largest of the three units, the Mount Hood Unit, is located south of the Mount Hood Massif and incorporates three wilderness areas designated alongside the NRA: Twin Lakes, Barlow Ridge, and Bonney Butte wilderness areas. The Mount Hood Unit includes a segment of the Pacific Crest Trail on its western edge, and is popular among skiers, snowmobilers, hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

Much of the area within the Mount Hood NRA is a blend of ponderosa pine, western larch, and Oregon white oak forest mixed with high desert. The NRA has many viewpoints of Mt. Hood and includes Boulder Lake, an aquamarine alpine lake, and Surveyor’s Ridge, the location of a popular mountain bike trail.

BACKGROUND
The Mount Hood National Recreation Area was designated in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to provide permanent protections to the Shellrock, Fifteenmile, and Mount Hood areas from commercial development, road-building, and large-scale commercial logging while providing new opportunities for recreation, especially mountain biking.
# MOUNT SAINT HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT

**At a glance:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date established:</th>
<th>August 26, 1989</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Established by:</td>
<td>Congressional designation, Public Law 97-243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Service region:</td>
<td>6, Pacific Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State:</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated national forest:</td>
<td>Gifford Pinchot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Forest Service acres:</td>
<td>112,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasons designated:</td>
<td>“to protect distinctive features and processes for public education, interpretation and recreation, and for research” (U.S. Congress, 1989)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**People and visitors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nearest metropolitan area:</th>
<th>Portland, OR; 35 miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population within 25 miles:</td>
<td>104,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population within 100 miles:</td>
<td>7,217,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual visitors estimate and geography:</td>
<td>Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument: 183,190 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main recreational uses:</td>
<td>Mountain biking, camping, mountain climbing, hiking, backpacking, hunting, target shooting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPTION**

The Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument (NVM) is located in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in the Cascades Range of southwestern Washington State. Mount St. Helens is widely known for its violent eruption on May 18th, 1980, that irreparably changed the previously forested slopes of Mount St. Helens to a vast, gray landscape. Mount St. Helens remains active, continuing to quietly erupt, slowly forming a lava dome in the crater left behind by the 1980 eruption. The landscape of the NVM incorporates the bulk of Mount St. Helens and its recovering landscape, including lava caves, lakes, alpine ridges, glaciers, and forests. The monument offers visitors a plethora of recreation opportunities, including over 200 miles of trails, as well as educational opportunities for visitors to learn about the biological, geological, and human history of Mount St. Helens.

**BACKGROUND**

Following its 1980 eruption, thousands of people began to visit Mount St. Helens and the surrounding area. Spurred by the increase in visitors, President Reagan designated the 110,000-acres surrounding the volcano as the first National Volcanic Monument managed by the Forest Service. The monument today continues to preserve the site for scientific study, education, and recreation while monitoring the volcano to ensure the safety of the monument’s scientists and visitors.

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90
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Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
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Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Eastern
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

Photo: Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt. St. Helens NVM blast zone, from Mt Margaret. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/37175421105/in/album-72157662485451442/.
NEWBERRY
NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT

At a glance:
Newberry NVM quick facts

Date established: November 5, 1990
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 101-522
Forest Service region: 6, Pacific Northwest
State: Oregon
Associated national forest: Deschutes
Total Forest Service acres: 56,563
Reasons designated: “to preserve and protect for present and future generations its remarkable geologic landforms and for the purposes of providing for the conservation, protection, interpretation, and enhancement of its ecological, botanical, scientific, scenic, recreational, cultural, and fish and wildlife resources.” (U.S. Congress, 1990)

DESCRIPTION
The Newberry National Volcanic Monument (NVM) is located south of Bend, Oregon on the Deschutes National Forest. It includes Newberry Volcano, the largest volcano in the Cascade’s volcanic arc, and over 54,000 acres of lakes, lava flows, and geologic features in Central Oregon. The highest point in the NVM is the 7,985-foot summit of Paulina Peak, overlooking the High Desert and showcasing views of the Cascades and Newberry Caldera. The NVM also includes a mile-long lava tube, several cinder cone volcanoes, and the youngest lava flow in Oregon. Unlike many of the familiar conical-shaped Cascades Volcanoes, Newberry Volcano takes the form of a broad shield covering an area roughly the size of Rhode Island. The volcano last erupted around 1,300 years ago and it remains active, with present-day hot springs, a shallow magma body that heats lakes within the Newberry Caldera from below ground, and geologically young and mostly treeless lava flows.

BACKGROUND
The Forest Service first designated 5,120 acres in the region surrounding Newberry Volcano in 1942 as the Lava Cast Forest Geological Area and began promoting tourism to the area alongside the Bend Chamber of Commerce. By the mid-1940s, the volcanic sites were being visited by thousands of tourists annually. NASA developed interest in the lava fields in 1963 as a potential training location for the first moon landing due its assumed resemblance to the moon’s surface. At least 46 astronauts trained for lunar missions in the area between 1964 and 1966 causing tourism of the area to skyrocket. To accommodate this increased tourism, the Lava Lands Visitor Center was completed in 1975 and in 1990, the area was designated as the Newberry NVM to provide a unique opportunity to view the lava lands of Oregon.

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Bend, OR; 12 miles
Population within 25 miles: 161,086
Population within 100 miles: 840,951
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Deschutes National Forest: 1,376,373 estimated annual visits (2013, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Bicycling, camping, fishing, hiking, backpacking, horse riding, nature viewing, outdoor learning, picnicking, motorized and non-motorized boating, swimming, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, snowmobiling
Photo: View of Paulina Lake in winter in the Newberry Crater NVM. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest-servicenw/23848648221/in/album-7215767187/0012723/.
DESCRIPTION
The Opal Creek National Scenic Recreation Area (NSRA) is located in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon, north of Santiam Canyon and east of Salem. Alongside the neighboring Bull of the Woods Wilderness, the overall area comprises the largest contiguous expanse of low-elevation old growth forest remaining in Oregon. The area is steep, rugged, and forested with Douglas fir, Pacific silver fir, and Western hemlock. Huckleberry may be found during late summer months and various bird species, deer, black bear, cougars, and elk inhabit the area.

The Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area shares a boundary with the Opal Creek Wilderness to its north, and numerous trails connect the two. The Little North Santiam River and Elkhorn Creek, a designated wild and scenic river, flow through the area. The Three Pools Day Use Area on the North Fork of the Santiam River is one of the most visited swimming locations in Oregon, featuring a series of emerald pools, waterfalls, cliffs, and grottoes.

BACKGROUND
In 1989, the Friends of Opal Creek organized to secure permanent protections for the old growth forest and to increase public awareness of the area. In October of 1996, the efforts of the organization culminated with the congressional designation of the Opal Creek National Scenic Recreation Area, Opal Creek Wilderness, and the Wild and Scenic River designation of Elkhorn Creek.

At a glance:
Opal Creek NSRA quick facts

Date established: November 12, 1996
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 104-333
Forest Service region: 6, Pacific Northwest
State: Oregon
Associated national forest: Willamette
Total Forest Service acres: 13,666
Reasons designated: “(1) to establish a wilderness and scenic recreation area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the natural, scenic, recreational, historic and cultural resources; (2) to protect and support the economy of the communities of the Santiam Canyon; and (3) to provide increased protection for an important drinking water source for communities served by the North Santiam River.” (U.S. Congress, 1996)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Portland, OR; 32 miles
Population within 25 miles: 60,769
Population within 100 miles: 3,723,392
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Willamette National Forest: 1,074,057 estimated annual visits (2017, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Hiking, backpacking, gold panning, nature viewing, swimming
Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 3: Southwest
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Region 10: Alaska

Willamette National Forest
Opal Creek National Scenic and Recreation Area

Photo: Small Cascade at Three Pools on the Willamette National Forest near Opal Creek Wilderness. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/29491734443
**OREGON DUNES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

At a glance:
Oregon Dunes NRA quick facts

**Date established:** March 23, 1972  
**Established by:** Congressional designation, Public Law 92-260  
**Forest Service region:** 6, Pacific Northwest  
**State:** Oregon  
**Associated national forest:** Siuslaw  
**Total Forest Service acres:** 30,230  
**Reasons designated:** “to provide for the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of certain ocean shorelines and dunes, forested areas, fresh water lakes, and recreational facilities in the State of Oregon by present and future generations and the conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters.” (U.S. Congress, 1972)

**People and visitors**

**Nearest metropolitan area:** Eugene, OR; 64 miles  
**Population within 25 miles:** 78,741  
**Population within 100 miles:** 1,369,578  
**Annual visitors estimate and geography:** Oregon Dunes NRA: 381,755 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)  
**Main recreational uses:** Beachcombing, sand play, mountain biking, camping, fishing, hiking, backpacking, horse riding, nature viewing, off-highway vehicle riding, outdoor learning, picnicking, motorized and non-motorized boating, surfing

**DESCRIPTION**
The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (NRA) is located within the Siuslaw National Forest, extending for 40 miles along the Oregon Coast from Florence to Coos Bay. It is one of the largest spans of coastal sand dunes globally and the only part of the Oregon Coast covered by extensive sand dunes; this unique landscape is characterized by tree islands, open dunes, wetlands, and beaches. Over 400 wildlife species call the area home, including the threatened Western Snowy Plover, a small shorebird that breeds and raises its young on the flat, sandy beaches and vegetated dunes of the Oregon Dunes NRA. The NRA is a popular location for off-highway vehicle riding and about half of the area comprising the NRA is open to motorized vehicles.

**BACKGROUND**
In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated a large portion of the dunes area and coastal forests to the north as part of the Siuslaw National Forest. The Oregon Dunes were first considered for National Recreation Area status in 1959, however the bill introduced in the Senate failed to build support in Congress. In March of 1972, the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area was officially designated by Congress and recognized for its unique landscape. Due to the rapid spread of invasive species, grasses in particular, the dunes have begun to disappear, causing the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative to be formed in 2014 in an effort to develop a strategy for dune restoration.
USDA Forest Service land

Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
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Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Eastern
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Photo: Oregon Dunes NRA. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/30708190570/in/album-72157664507355910/.
BEAR CREEK & SENG MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL SCENIC AREAS

At a glance:
Bear Creek and Seng Mountain NSAs quick facts

Date established: March 30, 2009
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 111–11, Sec. 104
Forest Service region: 8, Southern Region
State: Virginia
Associated national forest: George Washington-Jefferson
Total Forest Service acres: Bear Creek: 5,122; Seng Mountain: 5,195
Reasons designated: “to ensure the protection and preservation of scenic quality, water quality, natural characteristics, and water resources; to protect wildlife and fish habitat; to protect areas in the scenic areas that may develop characteristics of old-growth forests; and to provide a variety of recreation opportunities in the scenic areas.” (U.S. Congress, 2009)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Bristol, VA and TN; 46 miles (Bear Creek); 32 miles (Seng Mountain)
Population within 25 miles: Bear Creek: 147,324; Seng Mountain: 147,218
Population within 100 miles: Bear Creek: 4,123,931; Seng Mountain: 4,605,590
Main recreational uses: Hiking, camping, fishing, mountain biking, backcountry exploration, hunting

DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND
The Bear Creek and Seng Mountain National Scenic Areas (NSAs) are located in southwest Virginia. The areas were designated at the same time under the same section of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. Both areas feature steep topography with numerous ridges, mountain crests, and valleys, and offer rugged and scenic backcountry experiences along with more developed trails and facilities.

The Bear Creek NSA covers an enclosed valley that runs from the crest of Walker Mountain (3,700 feet above sea level) on the north to the crest of Brushy Mountain on the south. Within the valley, visitors can experience solitude. The NSA area includes the headwaters of Bear Creek and a large network of trails, including several miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Forests in the area host diverse hardwood species and stands of Table Mountain pine.

The Seng Mountain NSA is located inside the boundaries of the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. It contains numerous ridges including Bear Ridge, Seng Mountain, Chestnut Ridge, Pine Spur, Round Top, and Double Top. Between the ridges, streams—some of which harbor brook trout—flow into the South Fork of the Holston River. Much of the terrain is steep and rugged, providing ample opportunity for primitive backcountry recreation. The NSA features a campground, picnic area, and network of recreational trails focused around Rowland Creek Falls, a 45-foot cascading waterfall. Although many of the forests in this area were logged and burned in the early 1900’s and prior, much of the vegetation, which is primarily hardwood trees, is over 100 years old and forms a dense canopy conducive to solitude and primitive backcountry recreation.
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Southern
Region 8: Eastern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Iconic places
USDA Forest Service land
USDA Forest Service Regions
Urban areas
Interstates

Photo: George Washington-Jefferson National Forest viewpoint. USDA Forest Service Southern Region. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest_service_southern_region/16551465013/in/album-72157650797623853/. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/.
BEECH CREEK
NATIONAL SCENIC AND BOTANICAL AREA

At a glance:
Beech Creek NSBA quick facts

Date established: October 18, 1988
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 100-499
Forest Service region: 8, Southern Region
State: Oklahoma
Associated national forest(s): Ouachita
Total Forest Service acres: 8,042
Reasons designated: “to protect and interpret to the public areas within the Ouachita National Forest which contain unique plant species and unique plant communities that are significant in their occurrence, variety and location” ... “to protect and enhance certain scenery and wildlife within the Ouachita National Forest.” (U.S. Congress, 1988)

DESCRIPTION
The Beech Creek National Scenic and Botanical Area (NSBA) is located in southeastern Oklahoma. The area is based around the headwaters of Beech Creek, a clear, free-flowing stream. It features mature vegetation, including American holly and old beech trees, which are rare in Oklahoma. Visitors are attracted to the area for its solitude and scenic vegetation. The area contains a 32-mile network of interconnecting trails that travel through different ecosystems and an old Forest Service road that provides access to hiking opportunities. The area does not have restrooms or camping areas, but these developed facilities are available at the nearby Winding Stair Mountain National Recreation Area.

BACKGROUND
In 1988, Congress passed a public law that designated several special areas on the Ouachita National Forest. These included the Beech Creek Botanical Area, designated to conserve 400 acres of mature beech trees near the headwaters of Beech Creek in Oklahoma, and the larger Beech Creek Scenic Area. The nearby Winding Stair Mountain National Recreation Area and the Indian Nations National Scenic and Wildlife Area were also designated at the same time. These areas, designated together, represent all of the Forest Service-managed special designations in the state of Oklahoma.

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Fort Smith, OK and AR; 44 miles
Population within 25 miles: 36,057
Population within 100 miles: 1,357,879
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Ouachita National Forest: 1,234,670 estimated annual visits (2015, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Hiking, nature viewing, scenic driving
Coosa Bald NSA quick facts

- **Date established:** December 11, 1991
- **Established by:** Congressional designation, Public Law 102-217
- **Forest Service region:** 8, Southern
- **State:** Georgia
- **Associated national forest:** Chattahoochee-Oconee
- **Total Forest Service acres:** 7,044
- **Reasons designated:** “For the purposes of protecting and enhancing the natural beauty, special ecological features, watershed integrity, mature-forest habitat, scenic recreation opportunities and other distinctive values of certain lands in Georgia.” (U.S. Congress, 1991).

Ed Jenkins NRA quick facts

- **Date established:** December 11, 1991 as Springer Mountain NRA, redesignated as Ed Jenkins NRA in 1992.
- **Established by:** Congressional designation, Public Law 102-217
- **Forest Service region:** 8, Southern
- **State:** Georgia
- **Associated national forest:** Chattahoochee-Oconee
- **Total Forest Service acres:** 23,541
- **Reasons designated:** “For the purposes of ensuring the protection of certain natural, scenic, fish and wildlife, historic and archaeological, wildland and watershed values, and providing for the enhancement of the recreation opportunities associated with these values.” (U.S. Congress, 1991).

People and visitors

- **Nearest metropolitan area:** Gainesville, GA; 23 miles
- **Population within 25 miles:** 200,537
- **Population within 100 miles:** 9,752,885
- **Annual visitors estimate and geography:** Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest: 2,390,671 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)
- **Main recreational uses:** Hiking, camping, boating, fishing

People and visitors

- **Nearest metropolitan area:** Atlanta, GA; 22 miles
- **Population within 25 miles:** 375,229
- **Population within 100 miles:** 9,405,035
- **Annual visitors estimate and geography:** Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest: 2,390,671 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)
- **Main recreational uses:** Hiking, mountain biking, camping, boating, fishing

DESCRIPTION

The Coosa Bald National Scenic Area (NSA) and the Ed Jenkins National Recreation Area (NRA) are located in northern Georgia close to the border of Tennessee. The southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail is near the center of the Ed Jenkins NRA, at Springer Mountain.

BACKGROUND

The Coosa Bald NSA and Springer Mountain NRA were designated at the same time in 1991. In 1992, H.R. 6000 was introduced to redesignate Springer Mountain NRA as “Ed Jenkins” NRA, and was enacted on October 23, 1992.
ED JENKINS
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
USDA Forest Service land
Iconic places
USDA Forest Service Regions
Urban areas
Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 3: Southwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

0 500 1,000 Miles
0 1,000 2,000 Miles
0 250 500 Miles

Photo: Viewpoint from Springer Mountain in the Ed Jenkins NRA, Georgia. Public domain available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/93558439@N05/21991938539/.
CRADLE OF FORESTRY IN AMERICA
NATIONAL HISTORIC AREA

DESCRIPTION
The Cradle of Forestry in America National Historic Area (NHA) is a heritage site located in the Pink Beds Valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, North Carolina. Management of the NHA is shared between the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association and the Forest Service. Visitors may explore paved interpretative trails through the campus of America’s first forestry school, visit interactive exhibits in the Forest Discovery Center, or attend a number of scheduled special events and nature programs.

BACKGROUND
The Cradle of Forestry NHA is a legacy of the Vanderbilt family’s interest in and promotion of science-based forest management. In 1914, Edith Vanderbilt sold 87,000 acres of the Vanderbilt’s “Pisgah Forest” tract, which was part of the Vanderbilt’s “Biltmore Estate,” to the Forest Service. This 87,000-acre tract later became part of the Pisgah National Forest in 1916. The Cradle of Forestry NHA was established in 1968 from a portion of what was formerly the Vanderbilt’s Pisgah Forest tract. This natural historic area was designated with the explicit purpose of expanding upon the Vanderbilt’s desire to support science-based forest management, with public law 90-398 pronouncing the establishment of the Cradle of Forestry NHA “to promote, demonstrate, and stimulate interest in and knowledge of the management of forest lands” (U.S. Congress, 1968).

At a glance:
Cradle of Forestry NHA quick facts

Date established: July 11, 1968
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 90-398
Forest Service region: 8, Southern
State: North Carolina
Associated national forest: Pisgah
Total Forest Service acres: 7,793
Reasons designated: “to preserve, develop, and make available to this and future generations the birthplace of forestry and forestry education in America.” (U.S. Congress, 1968).

People and visitors
Nearest metropolitan area: Charlotte, NC; 8 miles
Population within 25 miles: 469,945
Population within 100 miles: 5,599,329
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests: 4,036,521 estimated annual visits (2013, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Outdoor learning, environmental education, walking
INDIAN NATIONS
NATIONAL SCENIC & WILDLIFE AREA
&
WINDING STAIR MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Indian Nations NSWA & Winding Stair NRA quick facts

Date established: October 18, 1988
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 100-499
Forest Service region: 8, Southern
State: Oklahoma
Associated national forest: Ouachita
Total Forest Service acres: Indian Nations: 44,519; Winding Stair Mountain: 26,617
Reasons designated: Indian Nations NSWA: “to protect and enhance certain scenery and wildlife within the Ouachita National Forest, Oklahoma;” Winding Stair NRA: “to ensure the conservation and protection of certain natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values and to provide for the enhancement of the recreational values associated there within.” (U.S. Congress, 1988)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Fort Smith, AR and OK; 39 miles
Population within 25 miles: Indian Nations: 62,936; Winding Stair Mountain: 64,311
Population within 100 miles: Indian Nations: 1,874,931; Winding Stair Mountain: 1,819,702
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Ouachita National Forest: 1,234,670 estimated annual visits (2015, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Fishing, hiking, horse riding, hunting, picnicking

DESCRIPTION

The Winding Stair Mountain Nation Recreation Area (NRA) and the Indian Nations National Wildlife and Scenic Area (NSWA) are located within the Ouachita Mountains, south of Heavener, Oklahoma, on the Oklahoma portion of the Ouachita National Forest. The Indian Nations NSWA sits mainly on the north slopes of Winding Stair Mountain. It includes the Homer L. Johnson Wildlife Management Area and features a 15-acre fishing lake on Post Mountain. The Winding Stair Mountain NRA includes campgrounds, an equestrian camp, an old military road, and several springs.

Both areas can be viewed from the Talimena National Scenic Byway, which runs through Winding Stair Mountain. The scenic drive is a 54-mile long byway following the crest of Rich Mountain and Winding Stair Mountain. Forests in the Ouachita National Forest are comprised of stunted northern red oak, white oak, post oak, and blackjack oak. In the fall, these areas offer panoramic views of the autumn foliage, and opportunities for hunting wild turkey and deer.

BACKGROUND

The Ouachita Mountains were inhabited by Native Americans for thousands of years prior to European settlement. The name “Ouachita” is derived from the French spelling of a Native American term meaning “good hunting grounds.” Timber in the Ouachita Mountains is of such low commercial value that a large proportion of its old growth was retained through the 19th and early 20th centuries. The entire forest nearly became a national park in the 1920s, but the effort was vetoed by President Calvin Coolidge. The Forest Service developed the 15-acre fishing lake at Indian Nations during the 1930s, constructing an earthen dam and road access. Both Winding Stair and the Indian Nations areas were congressional designated in 1988. The Talimena National Scenic Byway was constructed with federal public highway funds in the 1960s. It received its designation as a National Forest Scenic Byway in 1989 and as a National Scenic Byway in 2005.
USDA Forest Service land

Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Southern
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Land Between the Lakes NRA quick facts

Date established: October 21, 1998
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 105-277
Forest Service region: 8, Southern
State: Kentucky
Associated national forest: Independent administrative unit
Total Forest Service acres: 171,251
Reasons designated: “to protect and manage the resources of [the area] for optimum yield of outdoor recreation and environmental education through multiple use management.” (U.S. Congress, 1998)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Clarksville, TN and KY; 33 miles
Population within 25 miles: 289,264
Population within 100 miles: 4,333,132
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Land Between the Lakes NRA: 958,204 estimated annual visits (2017, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, water sports

DESCRIPTION
The Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in western Kentucky and Tennessee, comprising 170,000 acres of forest, wetlands, and open lands. The peninsula sits between Kentucky Lake on the west and Barkley Lake on the east, both reservoirs on the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, respectively. It ranges from one to nine miles wide and is 40 miles long. The NRA has 300 miles of shoreline with 26 boat ramps. It also boasts 500 miles of trails dedicated to hiking, biking, and horseback riding, as well as 444 miles of scenic drives that link wildlife viewing areas. Bird migrations bring as many as 240 different species to the NRA each year, in part due to an innovative management strategy that includes cover crops, timber, and 190 acres of wildlife refuges. There are four major attractions: Bison Prairie, the Homeplace 1850s Working Farm and Living History Museum, the Woodlands Nature Station, and the Golden Pond Planetarium, which has an observatory.

BACKGROUND
The Land Between the Lakes area has had human occupation for at least 6,000 years. The area was settled in the late 18th century and at that time referred to as the “land between the rivers.” During the Great Depression and the New Deal, the federal government began a program to obtain lands for wildlife conservation. The dam on the Tennessee River forming Kentucky Lake was completed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in the early 1940s as part of the 1933 Tennessee Valley Authority Act. However, TVA didn’t obtain all 170,000 acres of the Land Between the Lakes until the early 1960s when Lake Barkley on the Cumberland River was created. At that time, the town of Golden Pond was abolished and residents of the Land Between the Lakes were relocated. The NRA was declared in 1963 and in 1998, it was transferred from the TVA to the Forest Service, under the authority of the 1911 Weeks Act.
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 3: Southwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

Photo: Sunset at Land Between the Lakes NRA. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest_service_southern_region/16390824184/in/album-72157649387928943/. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/.
MOUNT PLEASANT
NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

At a glance:
Mount Pleasant NSA quick facts

Date established: August 26, 1994
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 103–314
Forest Service region: 8, Southern Region
State: Virginia
Associated national forest(s): George Washington-Jefferson
Total Forest Service acres: 6,864
Reasons designated: “to ensure the protection and preservation of scenic quality, water quality, natural characteristics, and water resources; to protect wildlife and fish habitat; to protect areas in the scenic areas that may develop characteristics of old-growth forests; and to provide a variety of recreation opportunities in the scenic areas” (U.S. Congress, 1994)

DESCRIPTION
The Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area (NSA) is located in central Virginia between the city of Roanoke and Shenandoah National Park. The area is named after 4,070-foot Mount Pleasant, one of several prominent mountains within its boundaries. Throughout the NSA, there are small virgin groves of hardwood forest and wild trout streams. Panoramic vistas in the area are provided by open, historically agricultural fields that today are maintained with prescribed fire. Approximately 110 miles of the Appalachian Trail also pass through the NSA, attracting many hikers each year. The area has become an increasingly popular destination for a variety of other activities, including ultra-running, mountain biking, and stargazing.

BACKGROUND
Designation for the Mount Pleasant NSA began with advocacy groups seeking stricter protection for the area as a wilderness. At that time, the local hunting community became concerned about losing access to the area if it were designated as wilderness. Congressional representatives, balancing both groups of stakeholders, compromised by designating it as a scenic area on August 26th, 1994, with the purpose of protecting and preserving the area’s water quality, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and scenic value.

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Lynchburg, VA; 13 miles
Population within 25 miles: 232,076
Population within 100 miles: 3,494,529
Main recreational uses: Wildlife viewing, hiking, backpacking, hunting, bird watching, stargazing
The USDA Forest Service manages lands in various regions across the United States. Here is a map showing the regions:

- Region 1: Northern
- Region 2: Rocky Mountain
- Region 3: Southwest
- Region 4: Intermountain
- Region 5: Pacific Southwest
- Region 6: Pacific Northwest
- Region 7: Intermountain West
- Region 8: Southern
- Region 9: Eastern
- Region 10: Alaska

The photo illustrates the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest and Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area in the Washington-Jefferson National Forest. The photo is available at [https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest_service_southern_region/17171030121/in/album-72157651591919220/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest_service_southern_region/17171030121/in/album-72157651591919220/) and is licensed under [https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/).
Mount Rogers NRA quick facts

- Date established: May 31, 1966
- Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 89-438
- Forest Service region: 8, Southern Region
- State: Virginia
- Associated national forest(s): George Washington-Jefferson
- Total Forest Service acres: 114,223
- Reasons designated: “to provide the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment... and to the extent feasible the conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values of the area.” (U.S. Congress, 1966).

People and visitors

- Nearest metropolitan area: Bristol, VA; 42 miles
- Population within 25 miles: 399,525
- Population within 100 miles: 6,511,761
- Main recreational uses: Camping, picnicking, sight-seeing, bird watching, trout fishing, hunting, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, swimming

DESCRIPTION
The Mount Rogers National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in southwest Virginia near the border with Tennessee and North Carolina. It is based around the 5,729-foot tall Mount Rogers, the highest peak in Virginia. The NRA contains four separate wilderness areas that comprise about 18,500 acres of the NRA: the Lewis Fork Wilderness (which contains Mount Rogers), the Little Wilson Creek Wilderness, the Raccoon Branch Wilderness, and the Little Dry Run Wilderness. The area has 11 developed campgrounds, and over 500 miles of trail, including 60 miles of the Appalachian Trail, 18 miles of the Virginia Creeper Trail, and 67 miles of the Virginia Highland Horse Trail. The area contains large rock formations, a mixture of mountain balds and spruce-fir forests; a herd of wild, free-ranging ponies; and the highest-elevation road in the state of Virginia, which leads to the summit of Whitetop Mountain. The NRA’s landscape contains sites of geologic interest, showing evidence of ancient volcanoes and glacial deposits from many ice ages ago.

BACKGROUND
The Mount Rogers NRA was one of the Forest Service’s first special areas, with congressional designation in 1966. The area was designated due to a recognized need to preserve the high country around Mount Rogers. It was also intended to act as an economic catalyst through natural resource management activities and by drawing people and businesses to the area. The mountain and National Recreation Area are named after William Barton Rogers, the first Virginian state geologist and founder of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Southern
Region 8: Eastern
Region 9: Northern
Region 10: Alaska

Photo: Fall colors in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. USDA Forest Service, Southern Region. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest_service_southern_region/16984105320/in/album-72157650797623853/. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/.
ALLEGHENY
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Allegeny NRA quick facts

Date established: October 30, 1984
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 98–585
Forest Service region: 9, Eastern Region
State: Pennsylvania
Associated national forest(s): Allegheny
Total Forest Service acres: 23,790
Reasons designated: “to ensure the preservation and protection of the area’s natural, scenic, scientific, historic, archaeological, ecological, educational, watershed, and wildlife values and to provide for the enhancement of recreational opportunities, particularly undeveloped recreational opportunities.” (U.S. Congress, 1984)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Buffalo, NY; 45 miles
Population within 25 miles: 225,960
Population within 100 miles: 5,718,675
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Allegheny National Forest: 910,000 estimated annual visits (2015, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, camping, nature study, motorized and non-motorized boating

DESCRIPTION
The Allegheny National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in northwest Pennsylvania on the border of New York State in the Allegheny National Forest, which is the only national forest in Pennsylvania. It is based around the Allegheny Reservoir, which is 27 miles long with 90 miles of shoreline at summer levels. The recreation area is comprised of three sections. Two of the three sections are situated around the Allegheny Reservoir: the Cornplanter section lies west of the reservoir from the state line south to the northern short of the Branch Run Bay, and the Tracy Ridge section lies east of the reservoir from Willow Bay to Sugar Bay. The third section, Allegheny Front, borders the eastern side of the Allegheny River and is the most primitive of the sections.

The area around the reservoir is generally heavily forested with a mix of hardwoods including black cherry, maples, birch, beech, and oak species, with some hemlock and white pine often mixed in. Some parts of the NRA have steep hillsides, with rock ledges and large boulders. The area hosts white-tailed deer and black bear, as well as many types of birds, amphibians and reptiles, and both sport and non-sport fish.

BACKGROUND
The Allegheny Reservoir was created in the 1960s when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed the Kinzua Dam on the upper Allegheny River. In 1984, the Allegheny NRA was designated by Congress under the Pennsylvania Wilderness Act in an effort to meet the urgent need to protect natural areas to meet the recreational needs of Americans. Although there are developed campgrounds, trails, and boat launches in some areas of the NRA, the designation language specifically highlights the importance of the area for undeveloped recreational opportunities. The Allegheny Reservoir shoreline, as well as some forested sections of the NRA, remain relatively undeveloped and primarily roadless.
USDA Forest Service land
Iconic places
USDA Forest Service Regions
Urban areas
Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 3: Southwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

GRAND ISLAND
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Grand Island NRA quick facts

Date established: May 17, 1990
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 101-292
Forest Service region: 9, Eastern
State: Michigan
Associated national forest: Hiawatha
Total Forest Service acres: 13,335
Reasons designated: “to preserve and protect for present and future generations the outstanding resources and values of Grand Island in Lake Superior, Michigan, and for the purposes of providing for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of its scenery, recreation, fish and wildlife, vegetation and historical and cultural resources.” (U.S. Congress, 1990)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Green Bay, WI; 142 miles
Population within 25 miles: 13,104
Population within 100 miles: 263,745
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Hiawatha National Forest: 489,843 estimated annual visits (2017, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Beachcombing, swimming, bicycling, camping, hiking, nature viewing, outdoor learning, motorized and non-motorized boating

DESCRIPTION
The Grand Island National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in Lake Superior, about one half-mile offshore from the town of Munising, Michigan. The island is 8 miles long from north to south. It is accessible by private watercraft, over the ice in winter, or a short passenger ferry ride across the West Channel of Munising Bay. Once on the island, visitors can explore the exhibits displayed on Williams Landing, take a bus tour around the southern part of the island, and explore the island by hike, mountain bike, paddle board, or sea kayak. Scenery is varied, with white sand beaches, sheltered bays, inland lakes, dense forests, and 300-foot cliffs. There are two lighthouses on the island and numerous shipwrecks can be observed in the waters surrounding the island.

BACKGROUND
Grand Island has a rich history, with archaeological evidence for occupation going back at least 3,300 years when Native Americans used its rich fisheries. The first European settlers traded furs from the island and settled the island in 1840. During the early 1900’s, the island was purchased by the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company (CCIC) who began to developing the island into a vacation resort and selectively logging between 1953 and 1990. A group of citizens in the late 1980s urged the government to buy Grand Island; on May 17th, 1990, the Forest Service became authorized to purchase the island from CCIC, buying it for less than $5 million, further extending the boundaries of the Hiawatha National Forest.
Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Southern
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Grand Island National Recreation Area

Hiawatha National Forest

MOOSALAMOO
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:
Moosalamoo NRA quick facts

Date established: December 1, 2006
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 109-382
Forest Service region: 9, Eastern
State: Vermont
Associated national forest: Green Mountain
Total Forest Service acres: 15,913
Reasons designated: In recognition of the “recreational appeal of the area surrounding Mount Moosalamoo in the northern half of the [Green Mountain National] forest” (U.S. Senate, 2006).

DESCRIPTION
The Moosalamoo National Recreation Area (NRA) is located east of Middlebury, Vermont on the western slopes of the Green Mountains. The area is bound to the north by Vermont Route 125 (Middlebury Gap) and Ripton, and to the south by Route 73 and Lake Dunmore. Moosalamoo contains over 70 miles of trails, including a segment of the Vermont Long Trail (a long-distance trail that traverses Vermont’s Green Mountains), and 37 miles of mountain biking trails. Robert Frost, who spent much time in the northern area of the NRA, is commemorated along the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail, where hikers can view his poetry mounted along the 1.2-mile loop trail traveling through woods and fields. The area includes 2,643-foot Mount Moosalamoo, a popular hiking destination with panoramic views of the surrounding area. Scenery includes waterfalls, secluded lakes and streams, softwood and hardwood forests, and sprawling mountain vistas.

BACKGROUND
The Moosalamoo Association was established to bring attention to the Moosalamoo Area and promote the idea of its formal designation as a recreational area. As a result of their efforts, the Moosalamoo NRA was signed into law on December 1st, 2006 as part of the New England Wilderness Act. The organization continues to collaborate with the Green Mountain National Forest to steward the area and stimulate tourism.

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Burlington, VT; 30 miles
Population within 25 miles: 142,149
Population within 100 miles: 2,820,030
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Green Mountain National Forest: 2,139,185 estimated annual visits (2015, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Bicycling, camping, hiking, horse riding, outdoor learning, picnicking, skiing, snowmobiling

Sources used and cited for this text are listed by location starting on page 90.
Photo: Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake from Rattlesnake Cliffs in the Moosalamoo NRA. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_eastern_region/36287025761/in/photolist-LiQvjQ-Xhyuxc.
ROBERT T. STAFFORD WHITE ROCKS
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

DESCRIPTION
The Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area (NRA) is located in southern Vermont’s Green Mountain National Forest, just south of Rutland. The White Rock Cliffs, for which the NRA is named, are made up of Cheshire quartzite that was scoured and exposed by glaciers during the last Ice Age. The cliffs and ice beds are major attractions for visitors to the NRA. The area encompasses Peru Peak and the Big Branch Wilderness areas (declared in the same 1984 act as the National Recreation Area) and is traversed by a 30-mile section of the Appalachian Trail. Peaks in the Peru Peak Wilderness top out at 3,000 feet. The NRA has several lakes and vegetation that is characterized by northern hardwoods such as maple, beech, and birch, with patches of red spruce, balsam fir, and hemlock, depending on the microclimate. The NRA attracts hunters of black bear and white-tailed deer. There are 61 miles of snowmobile trails within the NRA.

BACKGROUND
The White Rocks Cliffs were designated as the “White Rocks National Recreation Area” in the Vermont Wilderness Act of 1984 for their backcountry recreation values and to ensure continuous wildlife habitat. The area was redesignated as the Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area by Public Law 110-1 in 2007 to honor Robert Stafford, a staunch supporter of wilderness and recreational areas on public lands and former Governor, U.S. Representative, and U.S. Senator of Vermont.
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Northern Pacific
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Iconic places
USDA Forest Service land
USDA Forest Service Regions
Urban areas
Interstates

Photo: Fall foliage on the Green Mountain National Forest. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_eastern_region/22012874961/in/album-72157656058429224/.
At a glance:
Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA quick facts

Date established: September 28, 1965
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 89-207
Forest Service region: 9, Eastern
State: West Virginia
Associated national forest: Monongahela
Total Forest Service acres: 57,511
Reasons designated: “to provide for the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment thereof by the people of the United States” (U.S. Congress, 1965)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Harrisonburg, VA; 36 miles
Population within 25 miles: 98,731
Population within 100 miles: 4,935,069
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Monongahela National Forest: 365,063 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Camping, fishing, hiking, backpacking, nature viewing, caving

DESCRIPTION
Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area (NRA) is a popular tourist destination located in northeast West Virginia. Spruce Knob is the highest peak in West Virginia at 4,863-feet; visitors can climb a stone and steel observation tower at the summit for a panoramic view of its forested ridges. A paved road and trail allow visitors to reach its surprisingly alpine summit, named for the dense stand of red spruce growing atop its high, rocky summit. A popular location for rock climbers, Seneca Rocks is a towering rock formation rising nearly 900 feet above the confluence of Seneca Creek and the South Branch of the Potomac River. Smoke Hole Canyon, also located within the NRA, is a half-mile deep gorge with nearly vertical walls for twenty miles carved by the South Branch of the Potomac River. A misty fog that often hangs over the river as it travels through the “hole” is likely the source of the canyon’s name. Wildlife in the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA includes bald eagles, peregrine falcons, black bears, and white-tailed deer.

BACKGROUND
The NRA’s landscape was home to several Native American tribes during the Archaic Period. It was first settled by Europeans around 1746 and has been utilized as a rural agricultural area for nearly 200 years. The federal government used Seneca Rocks during World War II as a training area for Tenth Mountain Division soldiers. In 1965, the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks became the first NRA designated on a national forest.
The Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in West Virginia. USDA Forest Service Eastern Region. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_eastern_region/33305708492/in/album-72157677987895954/.
ADMIRALTY ISLAND
NATIONAL MONUMENT

At a glance:
Admiralty Island NM quick facts

**Date established:** Dec. 1, 1978; Dec. 2, 1980
**Established by:** Presidential proclamation, President Jimmy Carter (1978); Congressional designation, Public Law 96-487 (1980)
**Forest Service region:** 10, Alaska Region
**State:** Alaska
**Associated national forest:** Tongass
**Total Forest Service acres:** 997,226
**Reasons designated:** “archaeological, cultural, and historical resources, ecological and scientific value” (Presidential Proclamation, 1978)

People and visitors

**Nearest metropolitan area:** no metro areas within 500 miles
**Population within 25 miles:** 30,740
**Population within 100 miles:** 53,034
**Annual visitors estimate and geography:** Tongass National Forest–Juneau and Admiralty National Monument area: 491,923 estimated annual visits (2010, NVUM)
**Main recreational uses:** Boating and water sports, swimming, tide-pooling, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, wildlife and nature viewing

DESCRIPTION
Admiralty Island National Monument (NM) is located on Admiralty Island, 15 miles southwest of Juneau in southeast Alaska, and is accessible only by water or air. The island is characterized by rugged coastline, remote old growth rainforest, towering mountains, and alpine tundra with permanent icefields. It hosts the largest concentration of brown bears and nesting bald eagles in the world, as well as harbor seals, porpoises and sea lions, humpback whales, and all five species of Pacific salmon in its waters. More than 90 percent of the monument is designated as the Kootznoowoo Wilderness, nearly 1 million acres. Admiralty Island has been the home to the Tlingit people for approximately 10,000 years. The monument area continues to provide subsistence for these Alaskan Natives. Angoon, Admiralty Island’s only permanent community, continues to be an important cultural base.

BACKGROUND
The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANSCA) of 1971 honored the rights of Alaska Natives to select approximately 44 million acres of Federal land in Alaska and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw 80 million acres of land to be studied for possible additions to the National Park, Wildlife Refuge, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Forest systems. As Congress worked to pass a comprehensive act based on study recommendations, President Jimmy Carter in 1978 proclaimed over 55 million acres of Alaskan land as national monuments to be administered by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service. Admiralty Island National Monument was included in that proclamation. Two years later, in 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA; P.L. 96-487), which honored ANSCA and congressionally-designated Admiralty Island NM, was signed into law.
USDA Forest Service land

Iconic places

USDA Forest Service Regions

Urban areas

Interstates

Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 3: Southwest
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska
Region 6: Pacific Northwest

Admiralty Island
Tongass National Forest

Photo: Admiralty Island, Alaska. Photo credit: Don MacDougall. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaska_region/14281280208/in/album-72157645301350823/. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/
KENAI MOUNTAINS-TURNAGAIN ARM NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

At a glance: Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm NHA quick facts

Date established: March 30, 2009
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 111–11, S. 3045
Forest Service region: 10, Alaska
State: Alaska
Associated national forest: Chugach
Reasons designated: “to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area” (U.S. Congress, 2009)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Anchorage, AK; 40 miles
Population within 25 miles: 307,968
Population within 100 miles: 459,652
Annual visitors estimate and geography: Chugach National Forest: 590,963 estimated annual visits (2013, NVUM)
Main recreational uses: Bicycling, camping, cabins, skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, kayaking, whitewater rafting, and fishing

DESCRIPTION
The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (NHA) is located on the northern part of the Kenai Peninsula, north and east of Kenai Fjords National Park in the state of Alaska. The area consists of a rugged landscape with mountains, lakes, rivers, fiords and several transportation corridors of historical significance, including the Iditarod Trail, Seward Highway Scenic Byway, and the Alaska Railroad. Two major terminals for summer cruise ship traffic and several settled communities are located within the boundaries of the NHA. The area also encompasses Kenai Lake and several mining districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm NHA has a rich history of occupation by indigenous peoples, Russian miners, dog-sled mail carriers, and other employees of resource extraction activities.

BACKGROUND
Focusing on the historic transportation routes through the Kenai Peninsula, the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Corridor Communities Association formed in 2000 to study the potential of Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula for designation as a National Heritage Area. A bill to create the NHA failed within the U.S. House of Congress twice until the bill, sponsored by Alaskan Senator Lisa Murkowski, was finally passed into law March 30th, 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009.
Photo: Kenai River Canyon in the Chugach National Forest. Photo by Marion Glaser. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaska_region/8056608950/in/gallery-befuddledsenses-72157637538953223/. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/.
**MISTY FIORDS NATIONAL MONUMENT**

**At a glance:**
Misty Fiords NM quick facts

- **Date established:** Dec. 1, 1978; Dec. 2, 1980
- **Established by:** Presidential proclamation, President Jimmy Carter (1978); Congressional designation of Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness, Public Law 96-487 (1980)
- **Forest Service region:** 10, Alaska Region
- **State:** Alaska
- **Associated national forest:** Tongass
- **Total Forest Service acres:** 2,293,162
- **Reasons designated:** For the “unique ecosystem and remarkable geologic and biological objects and features it contains, [possessing] a collective array of objects of outstanding value for continuing scientific study” (Presidential Proclamation, 1978)

**People and visitors**

- **Nearest metropolitan area:** no metro areas within 500 miles
- **Population within 25 miles:** 16,164
- **Population within 100 miles:** 24,580
- **Annual visitors estimate and geography:** Tongass National Forest–Ketchikan Misty, Craig, and Thorne Bay area: 748,295 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)
- **Main recreational uses:** Hiking, camping, non-motorized boating, fishing, hunting, wildlife and nature viewing

**DESCRIPTION**
Misty Fiords National Monument (NM) is located 22 miles east of Ketchikan in southeast Alaska. Its landscape is characterized by sea cliffs, steep fiords, rock walls, dramatic waterfalls, thick rainforests on vertical slopes, and lakes and streams that receive more than 150 inches of rainfall annually. The NM is home to bald eagles, brown and black bears, moose, wolves, mountain goats, Sitka black-tailed deer, and numerous bird species. It is a major producer of all five species of Pacific salmon, especially king salmon, and includes a diversity of virgin forests from coastal spruce-hemlock to alpine forests. The entire monument is designated as wilderness. It is the largest wilderness in Alaskan national forests and is strategically managed to preserve the undeveloped ecosystem.

**BACKGROUND**
The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANSCA) of 1971 honored the rights of Alaska Natives to select approximately 44 million acres of Federal land in Alaska and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw 80 million acres of land to be studied for possible additions to the National Park, Wildlife Refuge, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Forest systems. As Congress worked to pass a comprehensive act based on study recommendations, President Jimmy Carter in 1978 withdrew by proclamation over 55 million acres of Alaskan land and designated them as national monuments to be administered by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service. Misty Fiords National Monument was included in that proclamation. Two years later, in 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA; P.L. 96-487), was signed into law. ANILCA honored the ANSCA and congressionally-designated the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness.
Region 1: Northern
Region 2: Rocky Mountain
Region 3: Southwest
Region 4: Intermountain
Region 5: Pacific Southwest
Region 6: Pacific Northwest
Region 7: Intermountain
Region 8: Southern
Region 9: Eastern
Region 10: Alaska

Iconic places
USDA Forest Service land
USDA Forest Service Regions
Urban areas
Interstates

Photo: Misty Fiords National Monument. USDA Forest Service Alaska Region. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaska_region/11316163953/in/album-72157638563702744/. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/.
DESCRIPTION
The Nez Perce National Historic Trail traces the 1,170 mile route that the Nez Perce (in their language, Nimi’ipuu or Nee-Me-Poo) took in 1877 as they fled the U.S. Army. About 750 men, women, and children with about 2,000 horses were pursued from their homelands by U.S. Army Generals Howard, Sturgis, and Miles between June and October of 1877. The trail begins in Wallowa, Oregon and ends at the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana, where the fleeing Nez Perce ultimately surrendered. This Battlefield is 40 miles from the Canadian Border, where they were hoping to find sanctuary. The trail winds through exceptionally rugged scenery, crossing canyons, traversing over the Continental Divide and a succession of other ridges, through forests and plains, across the Snake River, and through Yellowstone’s National Park. Although this historic route was used in its entirety only once, travelers today can retrace the approximate route by following the Nez Perce Trail auto route. The route is marked by Nez Perce Trail signs crossing three-season, all-weather roadways ranging from interstates to high-standard gravel roads traveling through Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.

BACKGROUND
Congress established the framework for a national system of scenic, recreational, and historic trails with the passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968. The Nez Perce National Historic Trail was added to this system in 1986 by Congress as a way to commemorate the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce.

At a glance:
Nez Perce National Historic Trail quick facts

Date established: October 6, 1986
Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 99-445
Forest Service region(s): 6, Pacific Northwest and 1: Northern
State(s): Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming
Associated national forests: The trail crosses multiple forests: Caribou-Targhee, Lolo, Clearwater, Bitterroot, Nez Perce, Gallatin, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Shoshone, Salmon-Challis, Wallowa-Whitman
Reasons designated: to “best protect a historically significant event, provides additional opportunities for low impact recreation, and respond to public demand.” (USDA Forest Service, 1990)
Main recreational uses: Geocaching, nature viewing, and scenic driving
The USDA Forest Service manages lands across the United States, organizing them into ten regions:

- **Region 1**: Northern
- **Region 2**: Rocky Mountain
- **Region 4**: Intermountain
- **Region 5**: Pacific Southwest
- **Region 6**: Pacific Northwest
- **Region 7**: Southern
- **Region 8**: Southern
- **Region 9**: Eastern
- **Region 10**: Alaska

The map highlights iconic places, USDA Forest Service land, urban areas, and interstates.

**Photo:** The Nez Perce National Historic Trail from Big Hole Valley, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Photo by Roger M. Peterson. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usforestservice/41283155260/.
Sources and citations

All Iconic Places


Region 1: Northern

Rattlesnake National Recreation Area, Lolo National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Region 2: Rocky Mountain

Arapaho National Recreation Area, Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Browns Canyon National Monument, San Isabel National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:

Chimney Rock National Monument, San Juan National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:

Pine Ridge National Recreation Area, Nebraska National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Region 3: Southwestern

Jemez National Recreation Area, Santa Fe National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Region 4: Intermountain

Bears Ears National Monument, Manti LaSal National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Ashley National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:

Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Sawtooth National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Region 5: Pacific Southwest

Berryessa National Monument, Mendocino National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sequoia National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:

Mono Basin Scenic Area, Inyo National Forest

**Sources cited:**

**Other Sources Used:**


San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Angeles and San Bernadino National Forest

**Sources cited:**

**Other sources used:**


Sand to Snow National Monument, San Bernadino National Forest

**Sources cited:**

**Other sources used:**


Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument, San Bernadino National Forest

**Sources cited:**

**Other sources used:**


Smith River National Recreation Area, Six Rivers National Forest

**Sources cited:**

**Other sources used:**

Region 6: Pacific Northwest

Cascade Head National Scenic and Research Area, Siuslaw National Forest

Sources cited:


Other sources used:


Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Mount Baker National Recreation Area, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Mount Hood National Recreation Area, Mount Hood National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:

Mount St. Helens national Volcanic Monument, Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Newberry National Volcanic Monument, Deschutes National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Opal Creek national Scenic Recreation Area, Willamette National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Siuslaw National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Region 8: Southern

Bear Creek and Seng Mountain National Scenic Areas, George Washington-Jefferson National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Beech Creek National Scenic Area, Ouachita National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Coosa Bald and Ed Jenkins National Scenic Areas, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

Sources cited:


Cradle of Forestry in America National Historic Area, Pisgah National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Land between the Lakes National Recreation Area

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area, George Washington-Jefferson National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:
Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, George Washington-Jefferson National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Indian Nations and Winding Stair Mountain National Recreation Area, Ouachita National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Region 9: Eastern

Allegheny National Recreation Area, Allegheny National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Grand Island National Recreation Area, Hiawatha National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:

Moosalamoo National Recreation Area, Green Mountain National Forest

Sources cited:


Other sources used:


Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area, Green Mountain National Forest

Sources cited:


Other sources used:


Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, Monongahela National Forest

Sources cited:


Other sources used:


Region 10: Alaska

Admiralty Island National Monument, Tongass National Forest

Sources cited:


Other sources used:


Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area, Chugach National Forest

Sources cited:

Other sources used:


Misty Fiords National Monument, Tongass National Forest

Sources cited:


Other sources used:


Multiple Regions

Nez Perce National Historic Trail, Multiple National Forests

Sources cited:


Other sources used:


## Data sources and methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>Methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service 2017 Land Area Report (LAR)</td>
<td>For each iconic place, we looked up the NFS acres (National Forest System acres) listed in the Land Area Report (available at: <a href="https://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/lar-index.shtml">https://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/lar-index.shtml</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance to nearest metropolitan area</td>
<td>ArcGIS 10.4, ArcToolbox</td>
<td>We estimated the distance from each iconic place to the nearest metropolitan area using ArcToolbox near tool. The ArcToolbox near tool calculates the Euclidian distance between an input feature (iconic places boundaries) and the closest feature in another layer (metropolitan area boundaries). We used the definition of metropolitan areas (defined by the United States Office of Management and Budget and used by the U.S. Census) as population centers over 50,000 people. We downloaded the “USA Major Cities” shapefile from ArcGIS, which uses 2017 projected populations from 2010 census data (available at: <a href="https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=4e02a13f5ec6412bb56bd8d3dad59dd">https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=4e02a13f5ec6412bb56bd8d3dad59dd</a>) and selected urban areas with equal to or greater than 50,000 residents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population estimates</td>
<td>ArcGIS 10.4, ArcToolbox</td>
<td>We estimated the magnitude of human populations in proximity to the iconic places of the Forest Service using polygon feature data (ESRI shapefile format) of the iconic places and U.S. Census Tracts. Census tracts are geospatially defined subdivisions of a county that the U.S. Census uses to calculate sub-county demographic statistics. We created 25- and 100-mile buffer layers for each iconic place using the ArcGIS toolbox buffer tool. The buffer tool creates a new polygon shapefile based on a specified radius offset from the outline of an input feature, in our case the iconic places feature layer. Next, we used the ArcGIS toolbox intersect tool to create a new layer consisting of the areas of overlap between census tracts and the 25- and 100- mile buffered iconic places layers (intersection layers). We analyzed this intersection layer for population per unit area using the ArcGIS field calculator. Population data was based on the US Census 2015 projections from 2010 data. Population per intersect area was calculated by multiplying the census tract population count by the percent of original tract area within the intersection layer. Finally, we used the ArcGIS toolbox sum tool to create a summation of population estimates for all intersection areas associated with each individual iconic place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual visitor estimates</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) Program; Results application</td>
<td>We used the NVUM results application (available at: <a href="https://apps.fs.usda.gov/nvum/results">https://apps.fs.usda.gov/nvum/results</a>) to retrieve the most recent annual visitation estimate for the most accurate geography available. For many iconic places, the associated national forest was the most accurate geography available. Other iconic places had estimates specific to the area available through the application. The geography and year used are listed with each estimate in this document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main recreational uses</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service webpages</td>
<td>We went to the official Forest Service webpages for each iconic place, and recorded the recreation activities listed for the area. For areas without an official Forest Service webpage, we recorded recreational activities noted in the other sources we used to gather information for the iconic place. Sources used for each iconic place are listed by location starting on page 90 of this document.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>