

Relevant Federal Lands Designations

Type of Designation	Description	Uses & Management
Wilderness	<p>“[A]n area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” The area should be managed “for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness...”</p>	<p>Wilderness Act established a single consistent wilderness management directive for all agencies. FLMAs (Federal Land Management Agencies) incorporate these directives into land use plans. Plans are tailored to also address legislation specifications called for in creating the new wilderness.</p> <p>Permitted Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Primitive” recreation, hunting, fishing. • Valid existing mineral rights. • Motorized access for management, emergencies; nonfederal inholdings; and fire, insect, and disease control. • Existing continued motorized access and grazing. • Water project development. • Commercial recreation activities (related to wilderness-type recreation). <p>Prohibited Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial activities. • Motorized and mechanical access (generally). • Permanent roads, structures, and other facilities (generally). • Timber harvesting. <p>Note: Congress has specified exceptions for particular sites in the various laws designating Wilderness areas. Examples include:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted construction, operations, maintenance, and associated motorized access for water infrastructure. • Preserving other jurisdiction and authorities. • Allowing nonconforming uses and conditions. • Allowing the construction of pit toilets. • Directing the intensification of outdoor recreation development.
<p>National Monument</p>	<p>Federal lands containing “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest.”</p>	<p>Management plan is developed by the FLMA and is based on requirements laid out in legislation or proclamation establishing the monument.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overriding management goal is the protection of the object described in the proclamation or legislation. • Permitted and prohibited uses are often the same as in national parks, but ultimately depend on language of the proclamation or legislation and management plans. <p>Commonly Permitted Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of dispersed recreation activities typically allowed in national parks. • Existing uses of the land that aren’t precluded by the proclamation, and do not conflict with the purposes of the Monument. <p>Commonly Prohibited/Restricted Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial activities, new mining activities, timber cutting, grazing, development. • Vehicle use. • Hunting, fishing.

<p>National Conservation Area (NCA)</p>	<p>Lands that feature exceptional scientific, cultural, ecological, historical, and recreational values. The purpose is to conserve, protect, enhance, and manage the lands for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.</p>	<p>Management plan is developed by the FLMA and is based on requirements laid out in legislation. NCAs allow for proactive management and restoration.</p> <p>Commonly Permitted Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typical dispersed recreation activities, camping, hunting, fishing, ORV and motorcycles on designated routes. • Forestry projects that protect natural resources. • Mining on existing mining claims, abandoned mine remediation, grazing, commercial outfitter and guide services. • Firefighting and fuels reduction, habitat enhancement and restoration. <p>Commonly Prohibited Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining, oil and gas development, road-building, erection of man-made structures such as dams and buildings, large-scale logging, new roads.
<p>Conservation Management Area</p>		<p>Legislation essentially codifies the FLMA's existing management plan in order to keep things the way they are and protect against an uncertain future.</p> <p>Permitted and prohibited uses are often the same as those in existing management plan.</p>

<p>National Recreation Area (NRA)</p>	<p>Typically extraordinary in scenic and recreation appeal but of lesser significance than that of the National Parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed with a priority for recreation rather than preservation or resource development. A management plan is developed by the FLMA and is based on requirements laid out in legislation. • There are no standard permitted and prohibited uses. The primary use is recreation, but each NRA is unique, tailored to the characteristics of the area, the management philosophy of the FLMA, and directions from Congress. • Permitted uses can include recovery of timber or mineral resources, livestock grazing, watershed protection, and resource preservation, as long as these uses are compatible with the primary purpose for which the area was set aside.
<p>National Scenic Area</p>	<p>An area of outstanding natural and scenic value that receives a level of protection that is less stringent than wilderness designation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically occupied or used in some manner by people and either cannot be considered for wilderness designation, or is more suitable for a wider range of uses than those permitted under a wilderness designation. • Congress specifies how the area is to be managed in the legislation designating the scenic area. • No standard permitted and prohibited uses. Each is unique, tailored to the characteristics and needs of the area, the management of the FLMA or other authority, and statutory directives.