

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **National forest:** Covering almost 200 million acres, the National Forest System is the largest land ownership in the U.S. National forests make up about 25 percent of the land in the United States. They are in all 48 states, mostly in the mountains of the West and Alaska. Long guided by the concept of multiple use, the National Forest System manages a wide range of resources: timber, grazing, recreation, scenic values, scientific resources, and historic sites. Recent policies focus on managing whole ecosystems.
- **National grassland:** Seventeen of the twenty national grasslands are in the western U.S., preserving four million acres.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:**
 - **National marine sanctuary:** Established following the Saint Barbara, 1966, oil spill, the National Marine Sanctuaries Program promotes balance between healthy ecosystems and coastal economies. The 12 sites protect historic shipwrecks, coral reefs, and open ocean habitats.
 - **National estuarine research reserve:** Twenty-one reserves on state- and federal-owned lands provide natural laboratories and classrooms for studying estuarine ecosystems. Habitats include salt marshes, mangrove forests, and sandy beaches.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- **Military reservation and installation:** The 27 million acres of military reservation and installation land are home to more than 220 threatened or endangered species and contain 100,000 archeological sites.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **Research facility or other site:** DOE's 50 major sites, totaling 2.4 million acres, are used for research and development. The larger sites are in the West, where some grazing is permitted as well as limited public access.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- **Bureau of Indian Affairs:** The agency acts as trustee for the 55 million acres of 27 percent of the total territory under federal stewardship. The 300 reservations are managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which includes public camping, hunting, and fishing, as well as gambling at casinos.
- **Bureau of Land Management:** The bureau oversees some 270 million acres, about one-eighth of the country's land surface. BLM also manages the public lands, which include public lands for multiple uses while protecting the long-term health of the land. BLM oversees more acreage than any other federal agency.

- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** A network of 550 refuges, preserves, and sanctuaries for migratory birds, big game, and endangered species of all kinds. The system's 90 million-plus acres include some 17 million acres of water. The Service's 3,400 sites also provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Most are open for activities ranging from nature observation to hunting and fishing.
- **National Park Service:** With some 83 million acres, the park system oversees 11 percent of public lands. National parks are managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. The 63 million-acre system, offering an increasingly important natural heritage, covers a wide range of landscapes, from the Grand Canyon to the Statue of Liberty. National preserves, covering 10 million acres, protect scientific and historic resources. The park system's 3,400 sites also provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Most are open for activities ranging from nature observation to hunting and fishing.

OTHER FEDERAL LANDS

- **National recreation area:** The first established in 1908, the National Recreation Area is the largest of its kind. The 19 million-acre system, offering an increasingly important natural heritage, covers a wide range of landscapes, from the Grand Canyon to the Statue of Liberty. National preserves, covering 10 million acres, protect scientific and historic resources. The park system's 3,400 sites also provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Most are open for activities ranging from nature observation to hunting and fishing.

National wild and scenic river

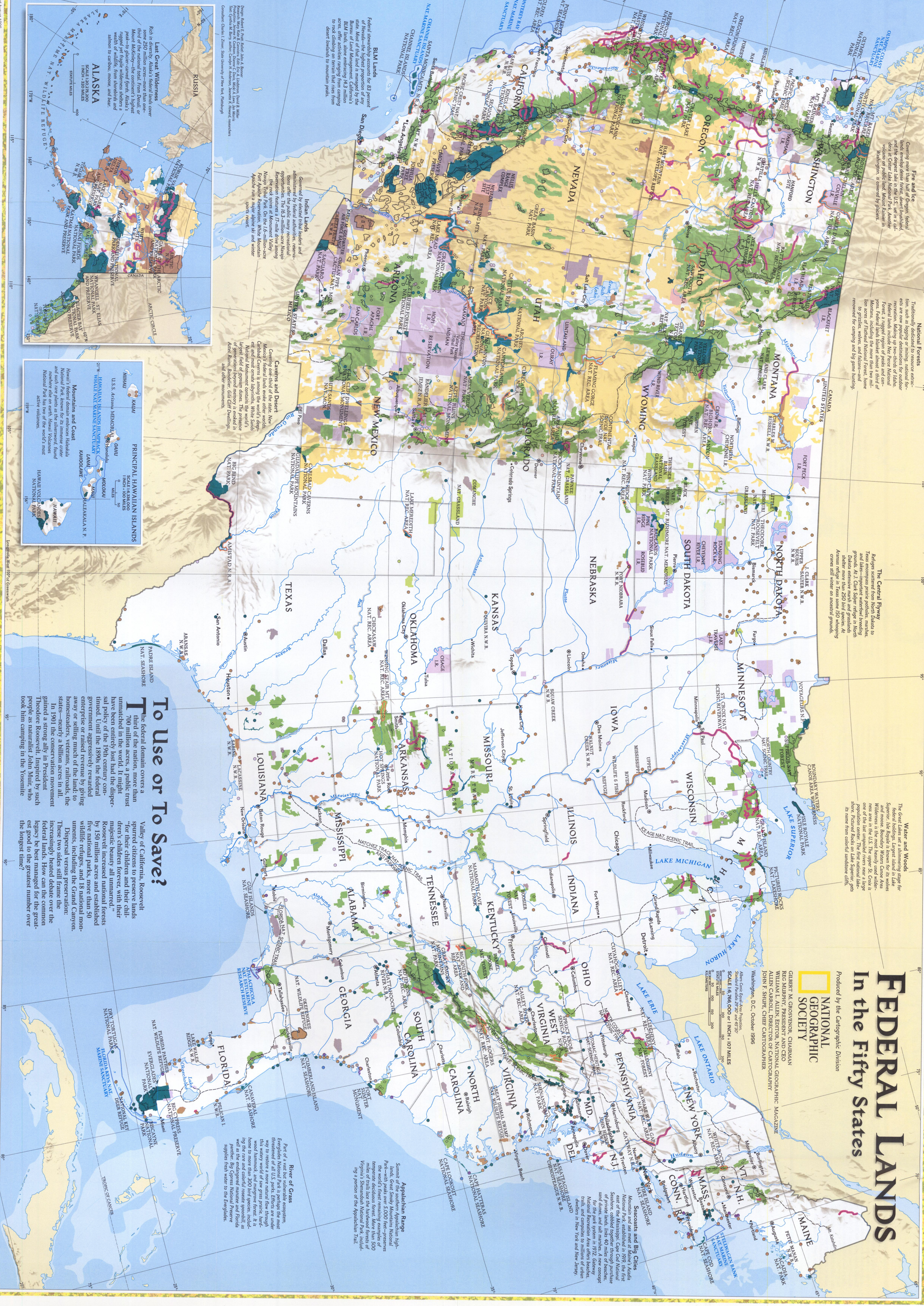
The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 established this network to protect free-flowing rivers. Begun with eight rivers totaling 772 miles, the system now includes 150 stretches of river for a total of 10,700 miles.

- **Wilderness area:** In 1963 Congress passed the Wilderness Act, which established the National Wilderness Preservation System. The system's 100 million acres, offering an increasingly important natural heritage, covers a wide range of landscapes, from the Grand Canyon to the Statue of Liberty. National preserves, covering 10 million acres, protect scientific and historic resources. The park system's 3,400 sites also provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Most are open for activities ranging from nature observation to hunting and fishing.

- **National scenic trail:** The National Trails System Act of 1968 established the National Scenic Trail System. The system's 100 million acres, offering an increasingly important natural heritage, covers a wide range of landscapes, from the Grand Canyon to the Statue of Liberty. National preserves, covering 10 million acres, protect scientific and historic resources. The park system's 3,400 sites also provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Most are open for activities ranging from nature observation to hunting and fishing.

Federal area of 25,000 acres or less

Parcels of nonfederal land too small to distinguish at this scale are included in the shaded federal-managed areas.



FEDERAL LANDS

In the Fifty States

Produced by the Cartographic Division
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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Scale: 1:60,000 or 1:100,000
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To Use or To Save?

The federal domain covers a third of the nation, more than 700 million acres, a public trust unmatched in the world. It might best be described as the nation's largest, most diverse, and most valuable asset. Until the 1890s the federal government aggressively rewarded entrepreneurs or raised revenue by giving away or selling much of the land: to homesteaders, veterans, railroads, the states—nearly a billion acres in all. In 1901 the conservation movement gained a strong ally in President Theodore Roosevelt. Inspired by such people as naturalist John Muir, who took him camping in the Yosemite

Valley of California, Roosevelt spurred citizens to preserve lands "for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unimpaired." Roosevelt increased national forests by 150 million acres and established 150 national parks, more than 50 million acres of land, including monuments, including the Grand Canyon. Dispersed versus preservation. These two sides still frame the interestingly heated debate over the federal lands. How can the common legacy be best managed for the greatest good to the greatest number over the longest time?

Water and Woods
The Great Lakes set a shimmering stage for federal holdings. Largest island in Lake Superior is Isle Royale National Park, an island of 34 square miles. The park is the most heavily used wilderness in the U.S. The upper St. Croix is the first national large population center. The first national large shore. Pictured Rocks on Lake Superior gets its name from colorful sandstone cliffs.

The Central Flyway
Baldpate, a migratory waterfowl, travels to feed on aquatic plants, insects, and other food. At J. Clark Sawyer refuge in North Dakota, more than 250 bird species. At Arkansas refuge in Texas some 150 whooping cranes still winter on wetland grounds.

National Forests
Traditional logging or mining, national forests are now popular destinations for outdoor recreation. Making up two-thirds of outdoor recreation, a rugged region of peaks and canyons. Federal lands blanket almost a third of Montana, including the more than two million acres of the Yellowstone National Park. To graze, wolves, and fawns—and renowned for camping and big game hunting.

Fire and Ice
Covering more than half of Oregon, federal lands envelope dense forest, desert brushland, and a variety of habitats. In the 1930s, as in earlier times, the forest was a source of public land. Mount Rainier National Park is covered by glaciers.

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Alaska
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Hawaii
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