

Iconic Places of the USDA Forest Service

Fall 2019



This is a joint project between the USDA Forest Service and the University of Oregon Ecosystem Workforce Program.

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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>.

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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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Introduction

In 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.

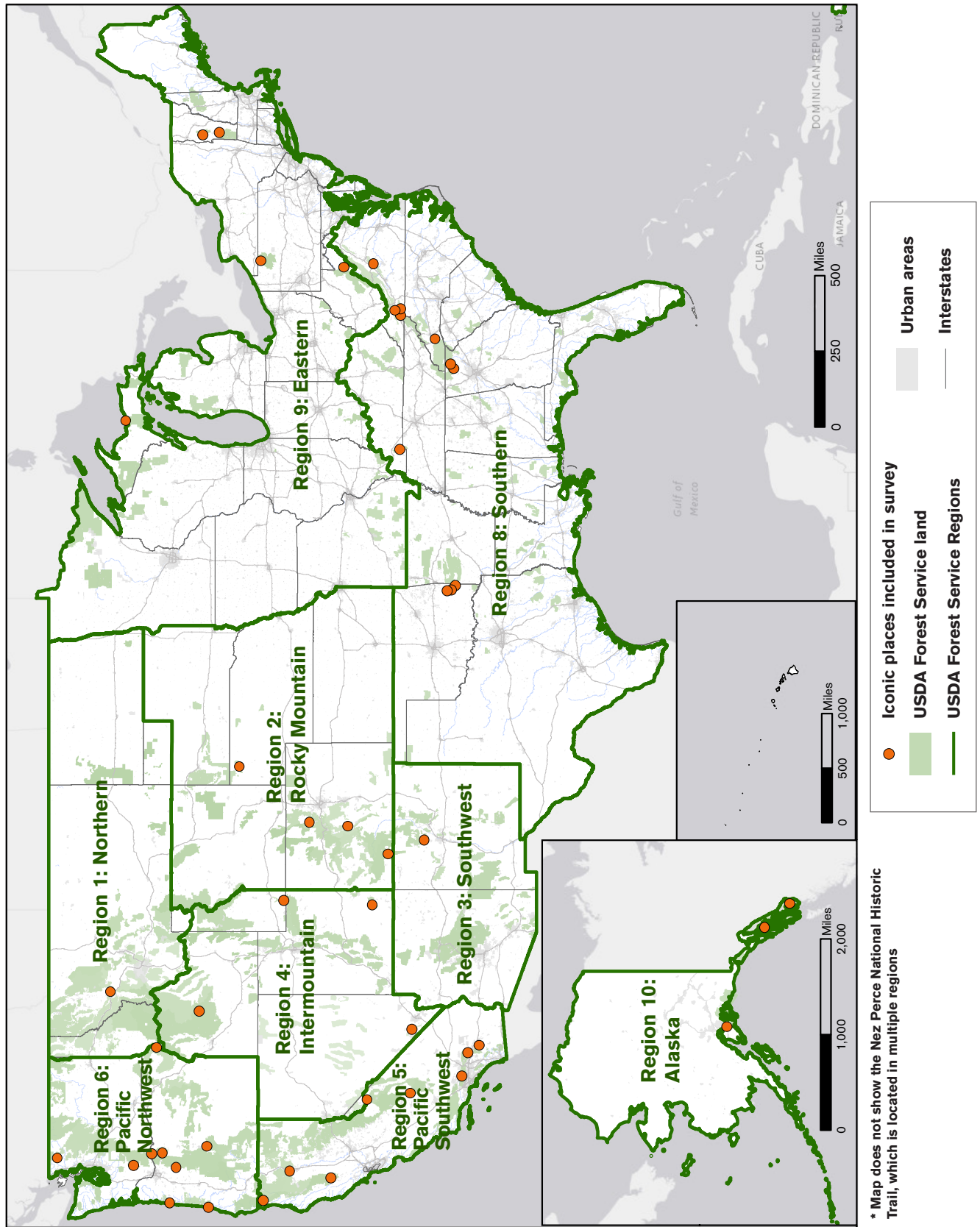
Table: Basic information for iconic places covered in this document

USDA Forest Service region	Name	Area type	National forest	Year established	NFS area (acres) ¹
1: Northern	Rattlesnake	National Recreation Area	Lolo	1980	60,081
	Arapaho	National Recreation Area	Arapaho and Roosevelt	1978	31,102
2: Rocky Mountain	Browns Canyon	National Monument	San Isabel	2015	11,819
	Chimney Rock	National Monument	San Juan	2012	4,724
	Pine Ridge	National Recreation Area	Nebraska	1986	6,636
	Jemez	National Recreation Area	Santa Fe	1993	48,841
3: Southwestern	Bears Ears	National Monument	Manti LaSal	2016	NA
	Flaming Gorge	National Recreation Area	Ashley	1968	187,121
	Sawtooth	National Recreation Area	Sawtooth	1972	731,774
	Spring Mountains	National Recreation Area	Humboldt-Toiyabe	1993	316,698
4: Intermountain	Berryessa Snow Mountain	National Monument	Mendocino	2015	197,360
	Giant Sequoia	National Monument	Sequoia	2000	328,411
	Mono Basin	National Scenic Area	Inyo	1984	51,320
	San Gabriel Mountains	National Monument	Angeles/San Bernadino	2014	336,534
5: Pacific Southwest	Sand to Snow	National Monument	San Bernadino	2016	70,942
	Santa Rosa and San Jacinto	National Monument	San Bernadino	2000	69,384
	Smith River	National Recreation Area	Six Rivers	1990	323,137
	Cascade Head	National Scenic & Research Area	Siuslaw	1974	7,162
6: Pacific Northwest	Columbia River Gorge	National Scenic Area	Administrative unit	1986	83,357
	Hells Canyon	National Recreation Area	Wallowa-Whitman	1975	634,579
	Mount Baker	National Recreation Area	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie	1984	8,789
	Mount Hood	National Recreation Area	Mount Hood	2009	34,465
	Mount Saint Helens	National Volcanic Monument	Gifford Pinchot	1982	112,864
	Newberry	National Volcanic Monument	Deschutes	1990	56,563
	Opal Creek	National Scenic & Recreation Area	Willamette	1998	13,666
	Oregon Dunes	National Recreation Area	Siuslaw	1972	30,230
8: Southern	Bear Creek	National Scenic Area	George Washington-Jefferson	2009	5,122
	Beech Creek	National Scenic and Botanical Area	Ouachita	1988	8,042
	Coosa Bald	National Scenic Area	Chattahoochee-Oconee	1991	7,044
	Cradle of Forestry in America	National Historic Area	Pisgah	1968	7,793
	Ed Jenkins	National Recreation Area	Chattahoochee-Oconee	1992	23,541
	Indian Nations	National Scenic and Wildlife Area	Ouachita	1988	44,519
	Land Between the Lakes	National Recreation Area	Administrative unit	1963	171,251
	Mount Pleasant	National Scenic Area	George Washington-Jefferson	1994	6,864
	Mount Rogers	National Recreation Area	George Washington-Jefferson	1966	114,223
	Seng Mountain	National Scenic Area	George Washington-Jefferson	2009	5,195
	Winding Stair Mountain	National Recreation Area	Ouachita	1988	26,617
9: Eastern	Allegheny	National Recreation Area	Allegheny	1984	23,790
	Grand Island	National Recreation Area	Hiawatha	1990	13,335
	Moosalamoo	National Recreation Area	Green Mountain	2006	15,913
	Robert T. Stafford White Rocks	National Recreation Area	Green Mountain	1984	36,563
	Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks	National Recreation Area	Monongahela	1965	57,511
10: Alaska	Admiralty Island	National Monument	Tongass	1980	997,226
	Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm	National Heritage Area	Chugach	2009	NA
	Misty Fiords	National Monument	Tongass	1980	2,293,162
NA	Nez Perce	National Historic Trail	Multiple	1986	NA

¹ Source: 2017 Land Areas of the National Forest System. <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.

8,374,557

Map: Locations of iconic places covered in this document





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)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Missoula, MT; 7 miles

Population within 25 miles: 122,641

Population within 100 miles: 441,817

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Lolo National Forest: 1,202,426 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Hiking, biking, picnicking, hunting, fishing, running

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.

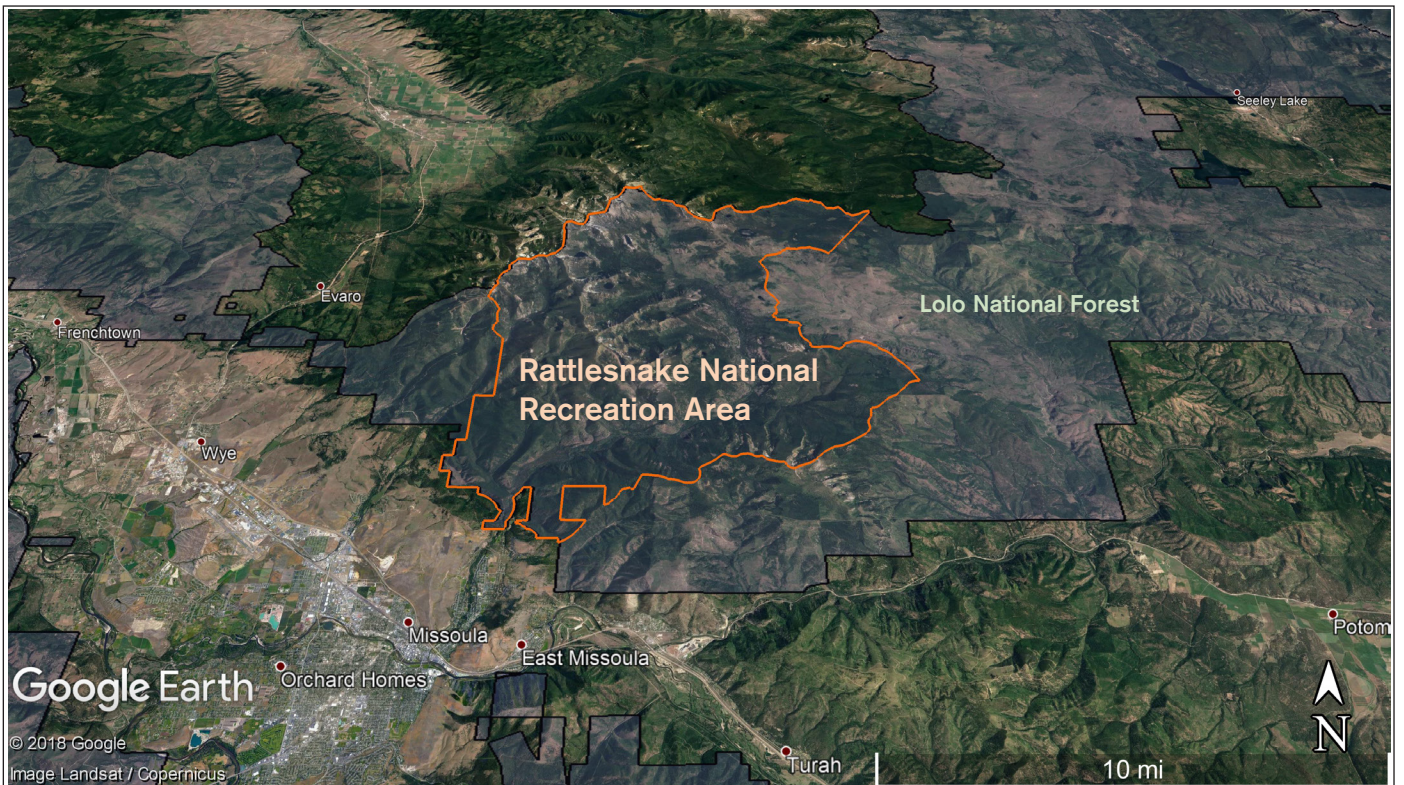
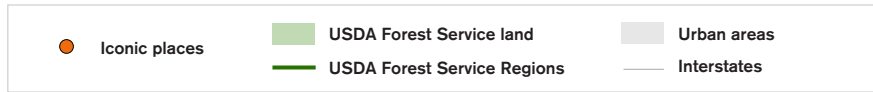
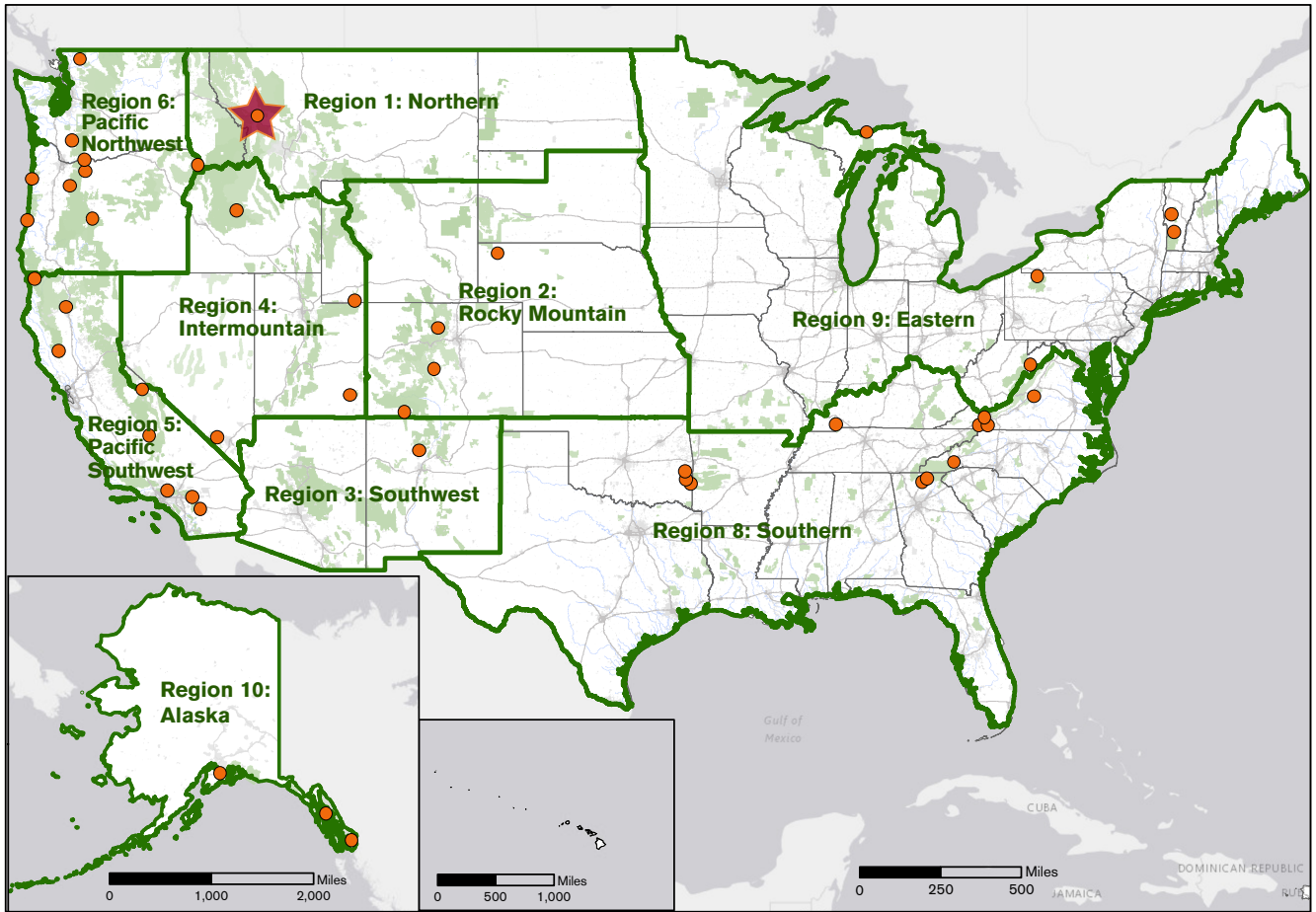
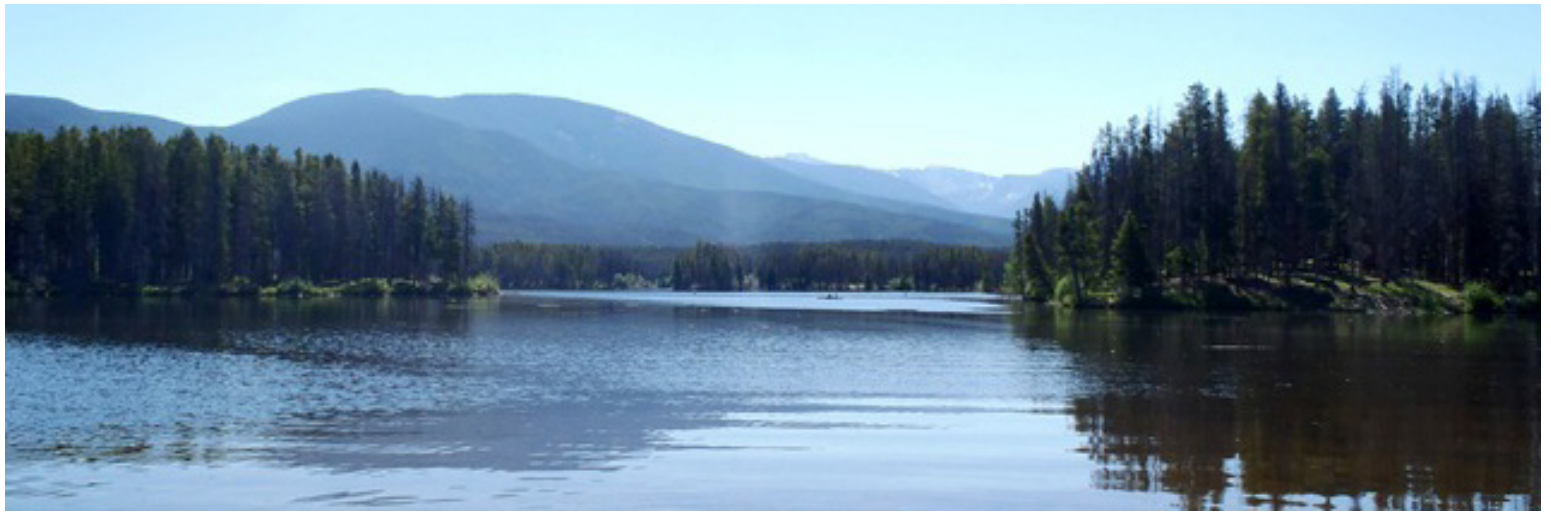


Photo: Rattlesnake Wilderness in the Lolo National Forest. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fsnorthernregion/26996619109/in/photolist-9UoUpG-H8AJja-225bNE8-DWfvYY/>. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>.



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)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Boulder, CO; 33 miles

Population within 25 miles: 150,980

Population within 100 miles: 4,552,603

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests: 4,458,829 estimated annual visits (2015, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Boating, camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing

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 and eastern-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.

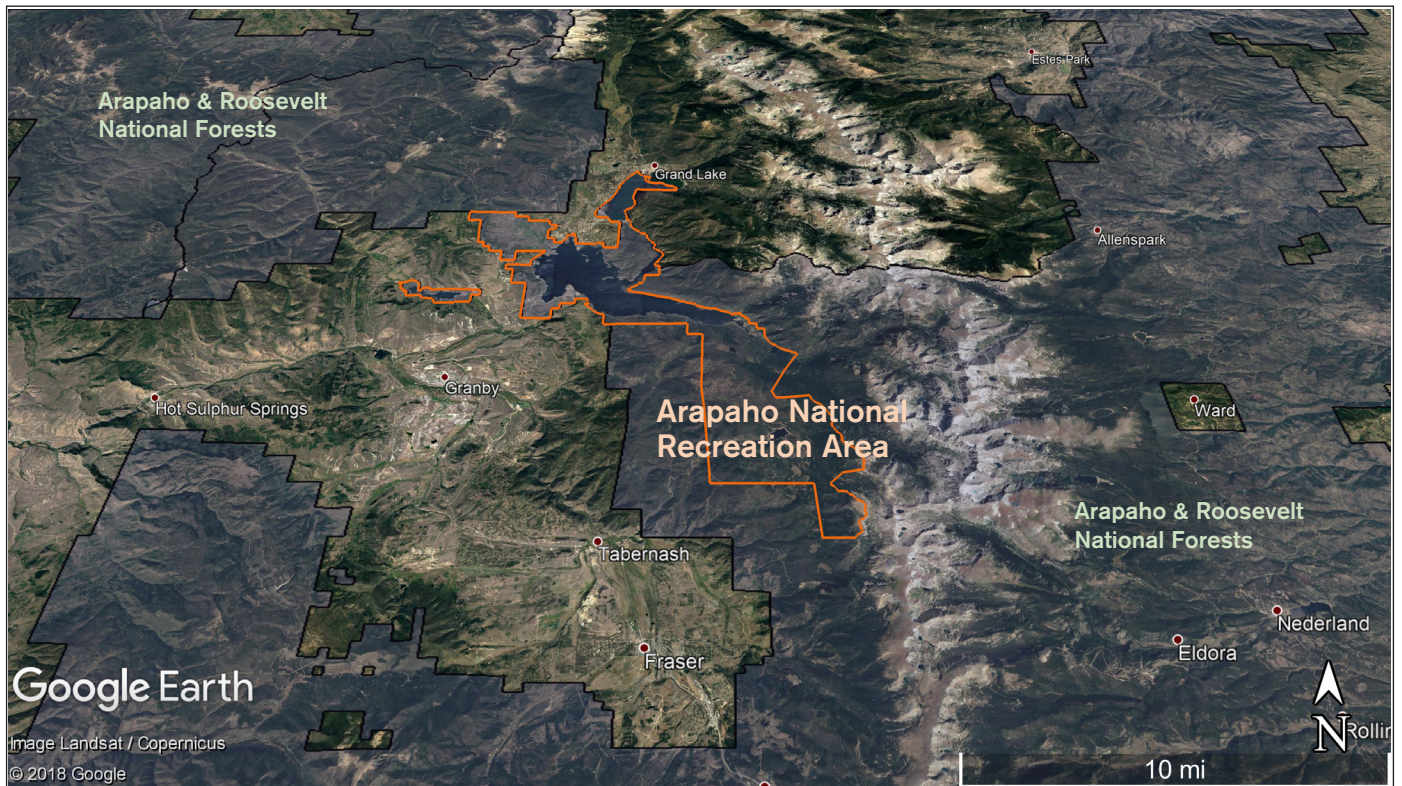
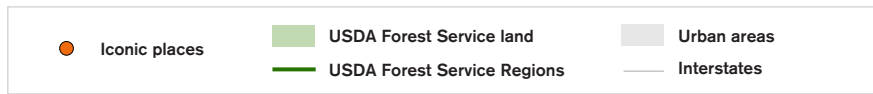
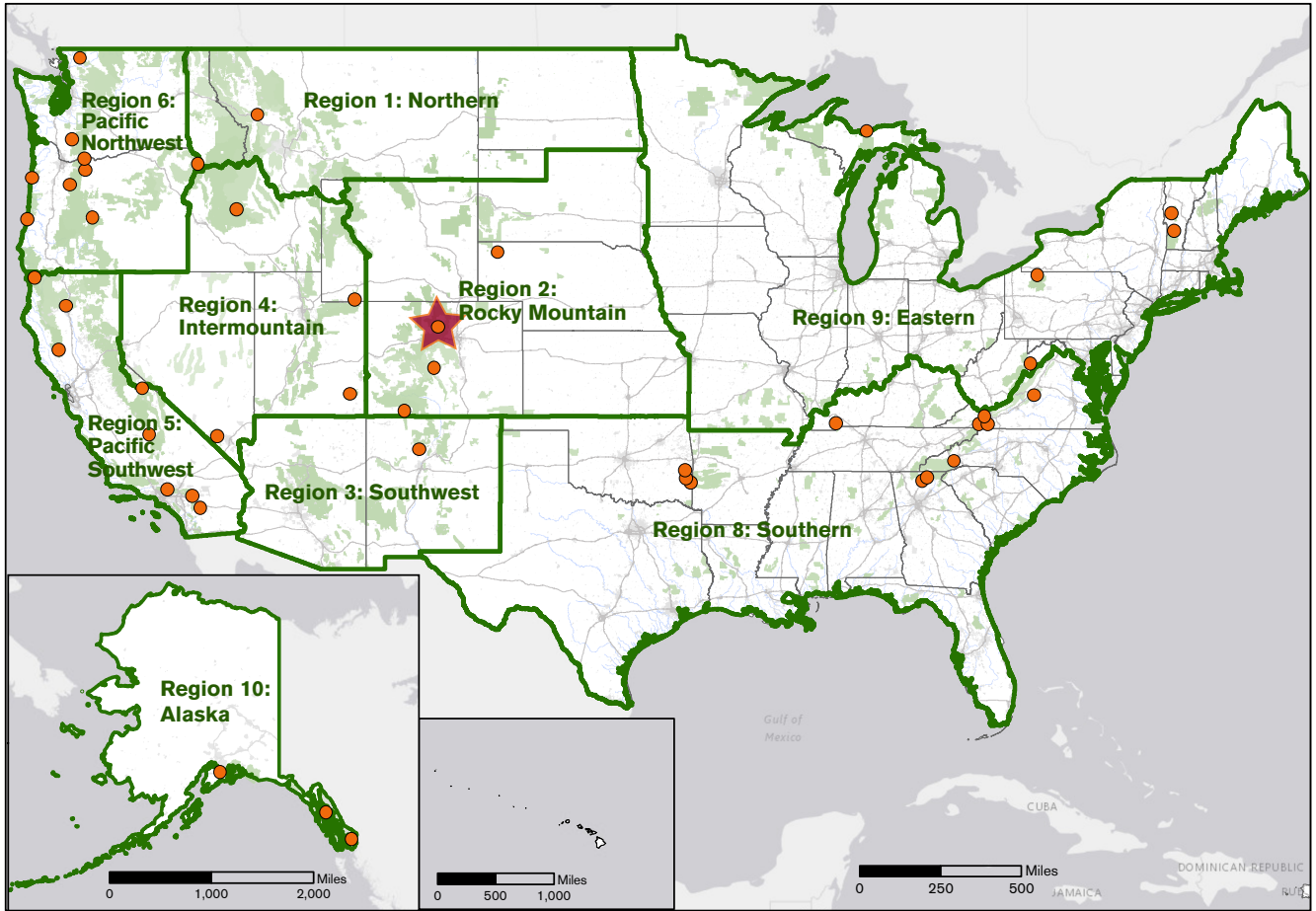


Photo: Arapaho National Recreation Area. Public Domain. Available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/arp/recarea/?recid=81813>.



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.

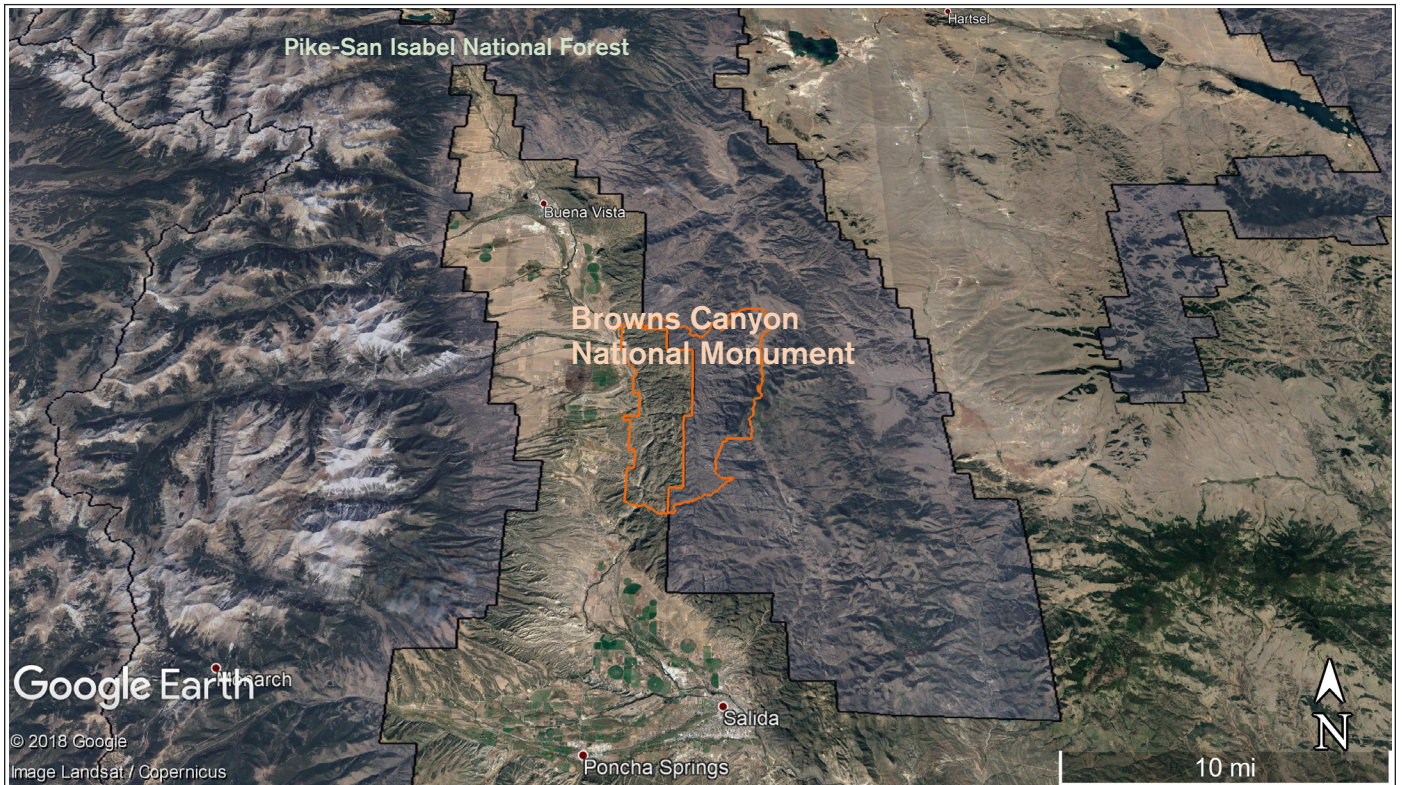
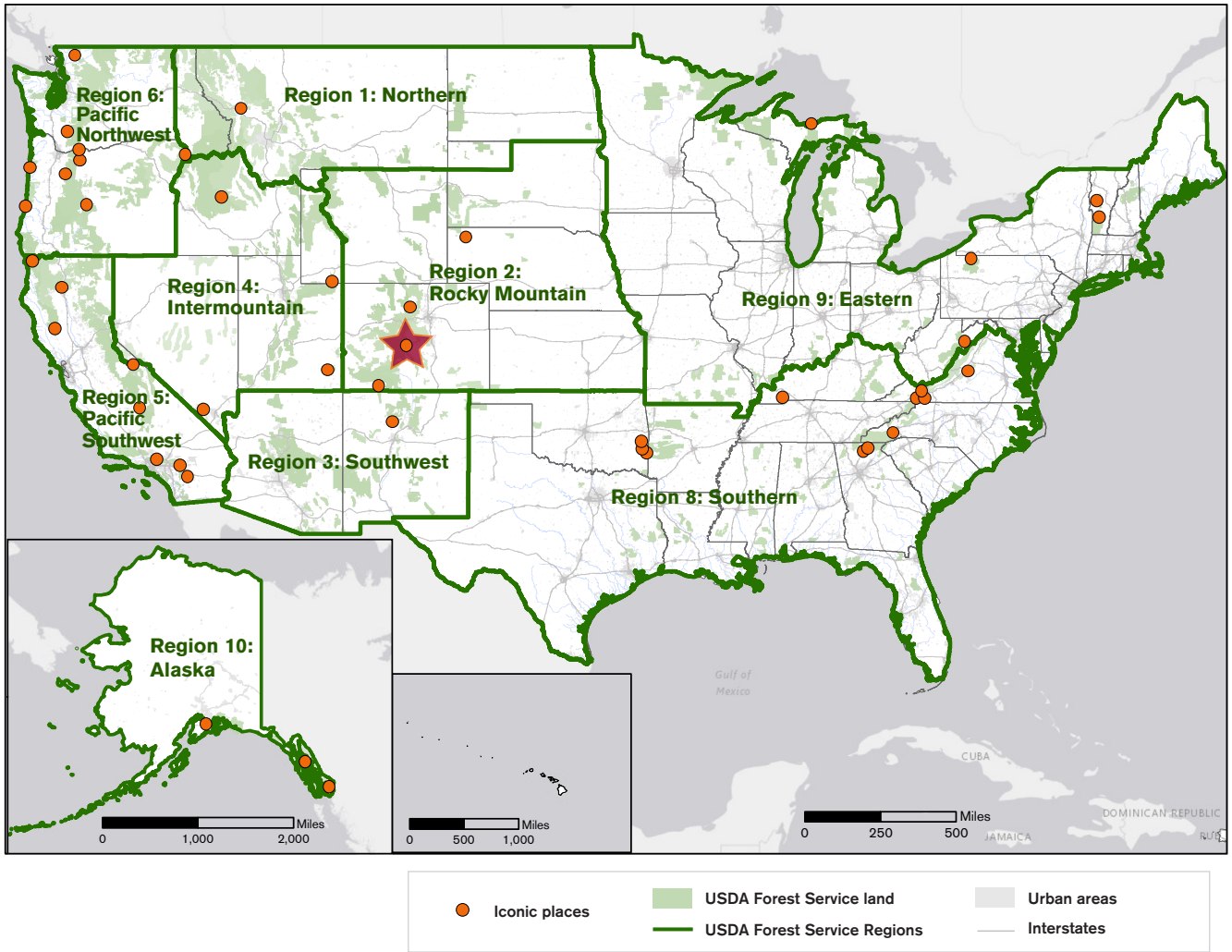


Photo: The Chalk Cliffs of Mt. Princeton, seen from above Railroad Gulch, Browns Canyon National Monument, CO. Susan Mayfield.



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)

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

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.

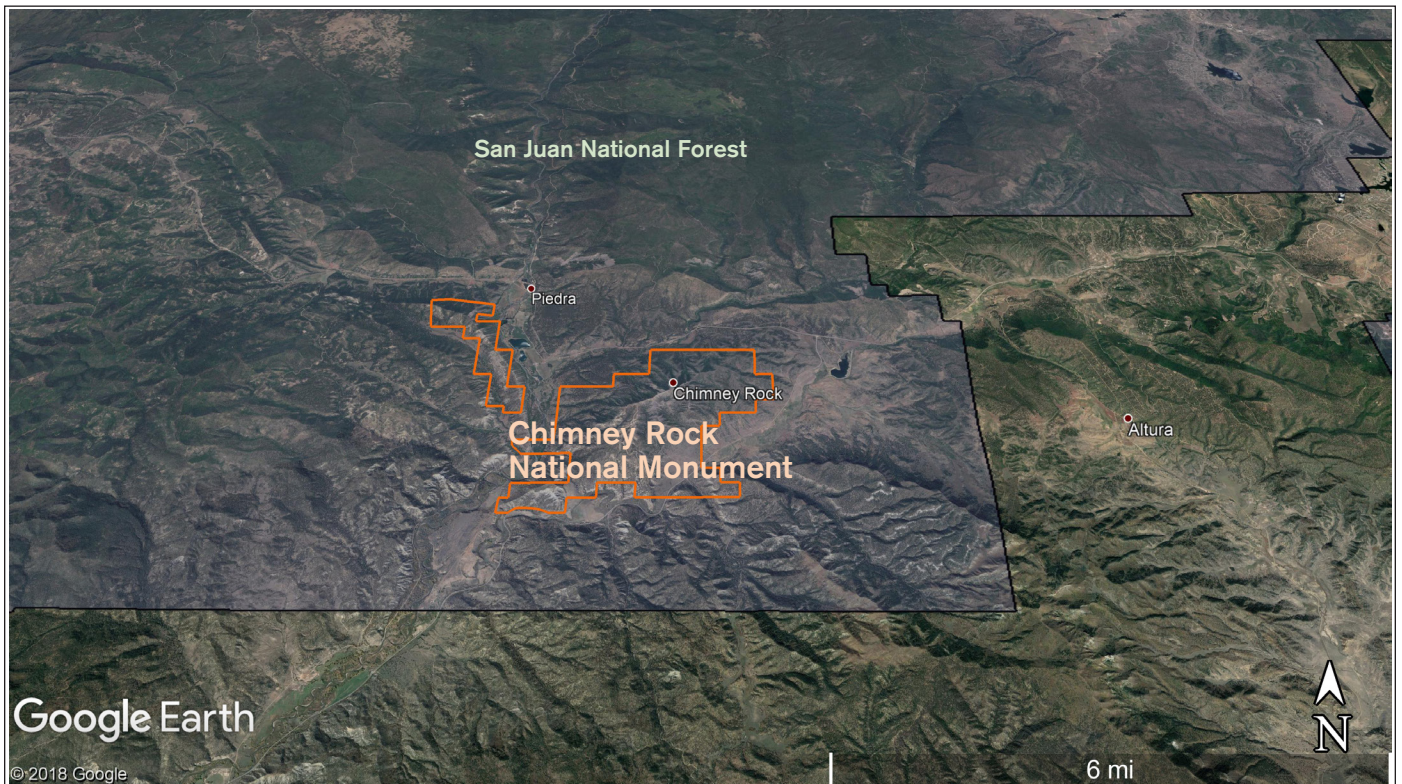
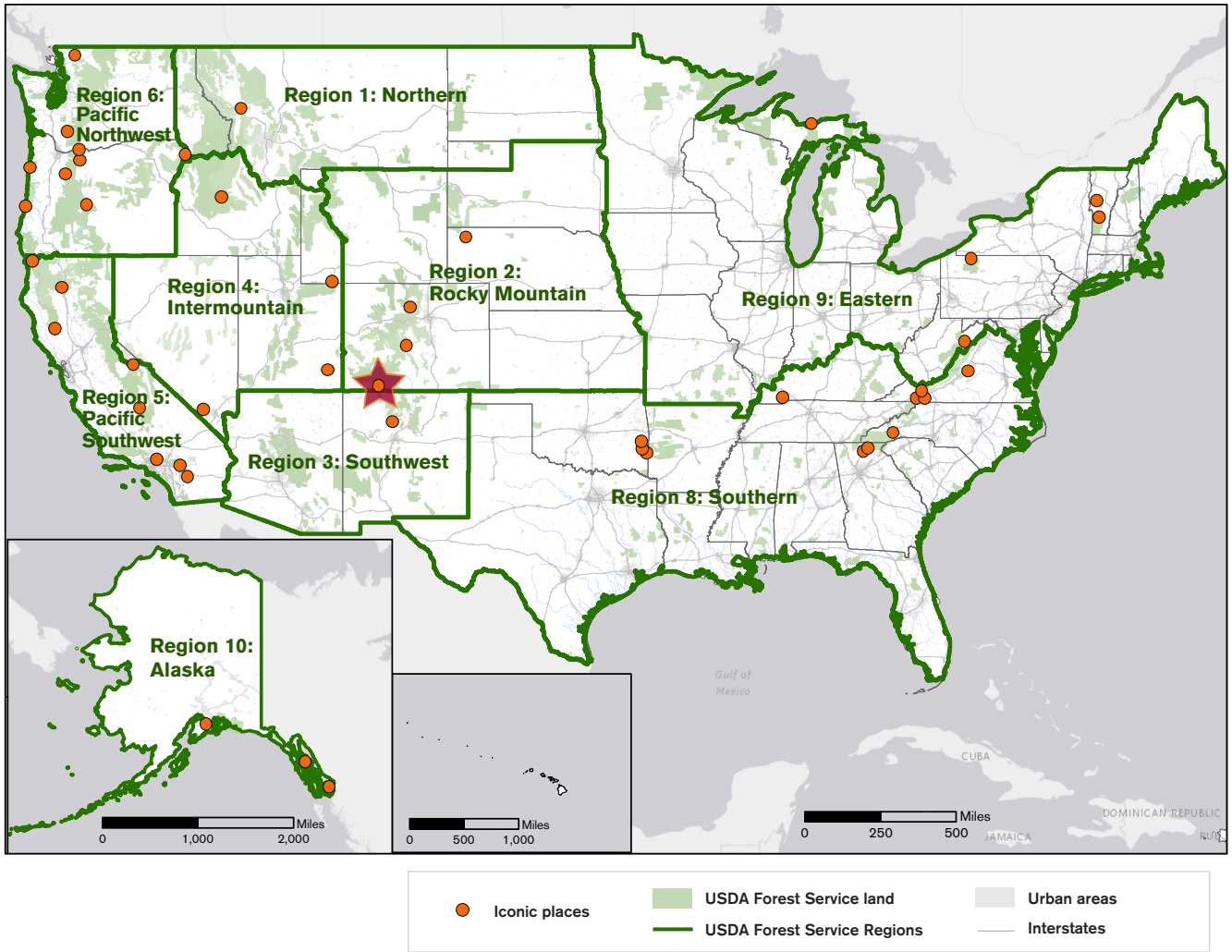


Photo: Pinnacles and structures at Chimney Rock National Monument. Chimney Rock Interpretive Association. Available at: <http://www.chimneyrockco.org/chimney-rock-pictures/>.



PINE RIDGE

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:

Pine Ridge NRA quick facts

Date established: October 20, 1986

Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 99-504

Forest Service region: 2, Rocky Mountain

State: Nebraska

Associated national forest: Nebraska

Total Forest Service acres: 6,636

Reasons designated: "to preserve primitive and semi-primitive recreational use in a natural setting as well as other resource conservation values." (U.S. Congress, 1986)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Rapid City, SD; 86 miles

Population within 25 miles: 10,685

Population within 100 miles: 237,927

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Nebraska National Forest: 152,295 estimated annual visits (2013, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Bicycling, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding

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.

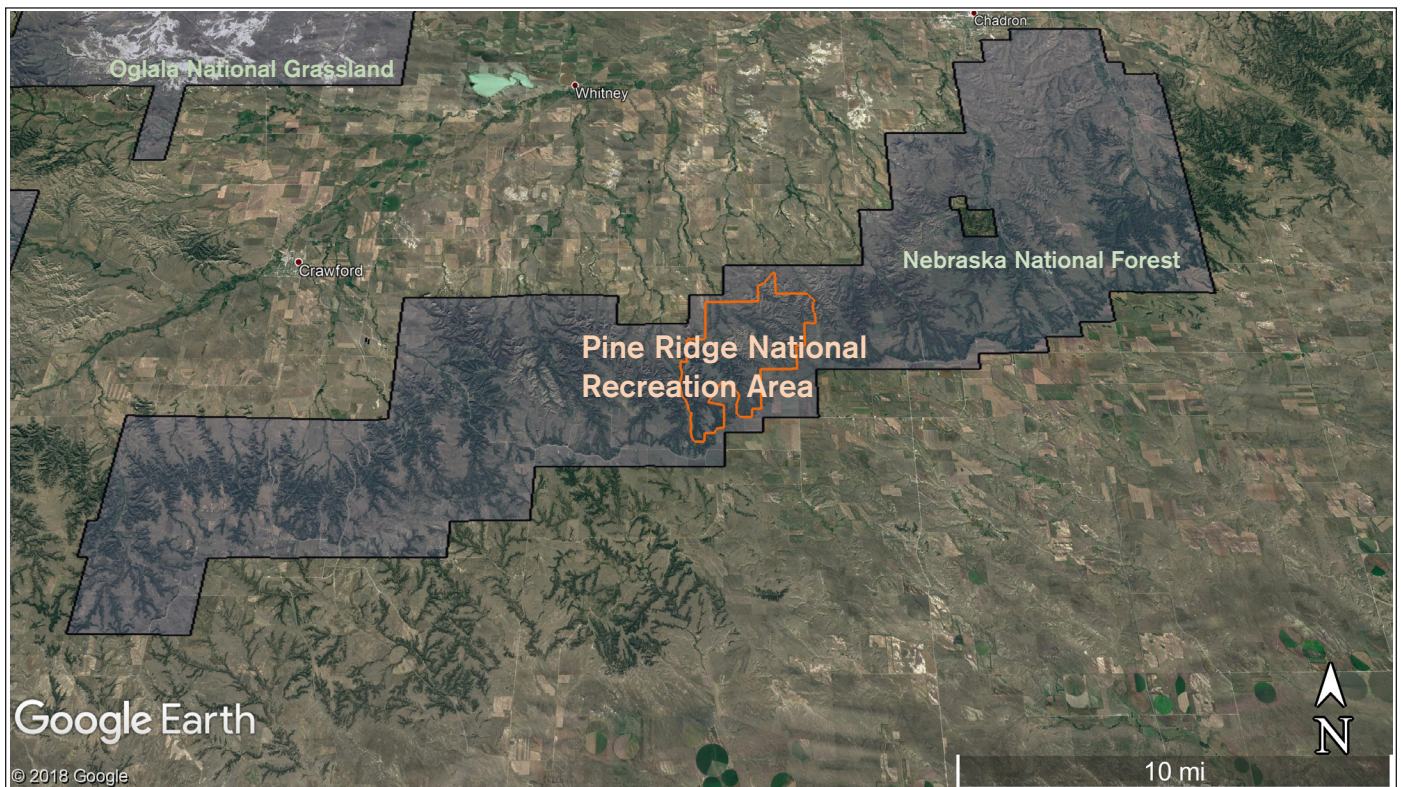
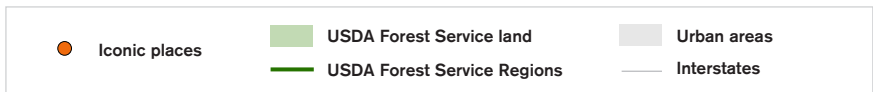
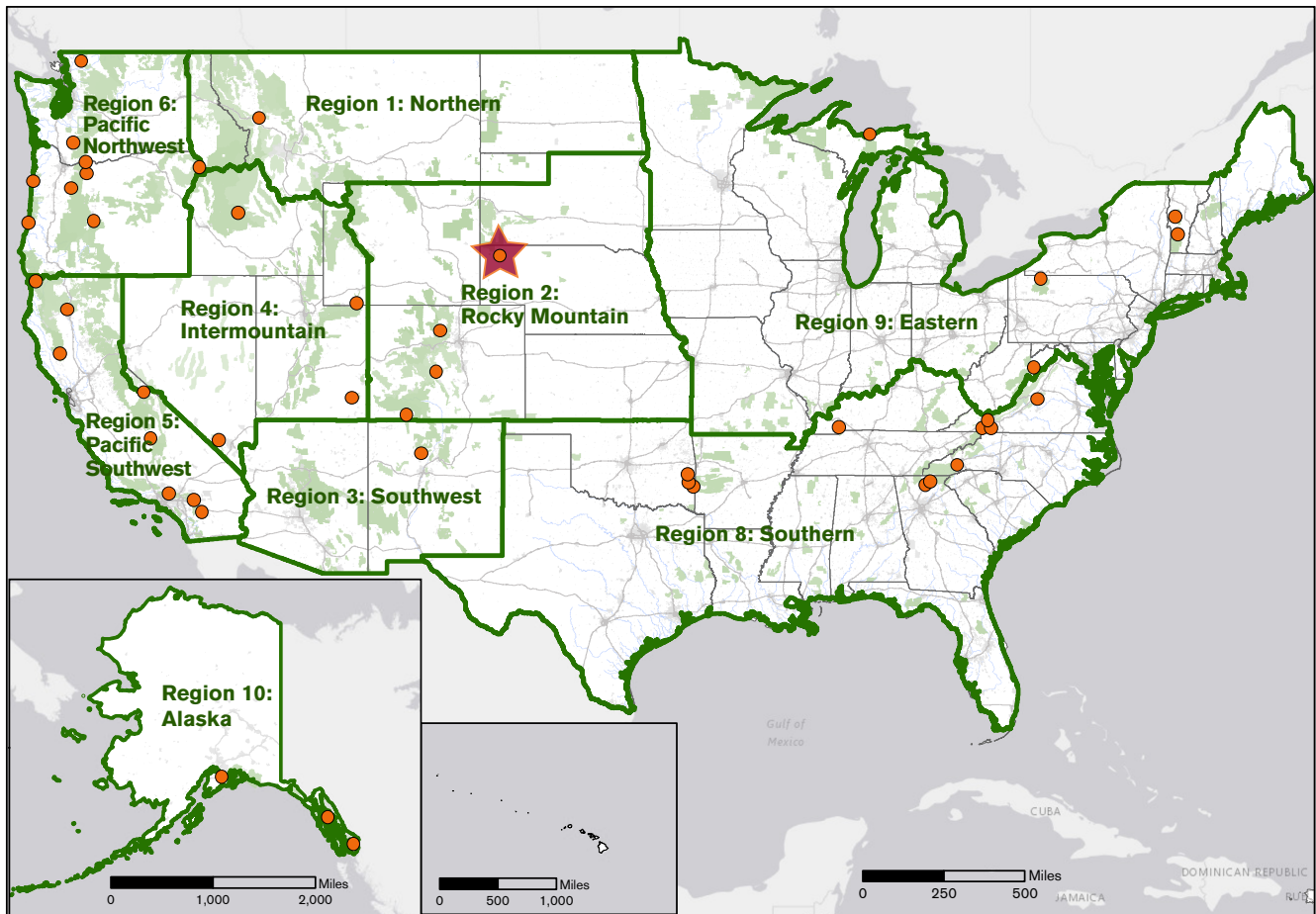


Photo: Pine Ridge NRA. Public Domain. Available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MEDIA/fseprd611459.jpg.



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)

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

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.

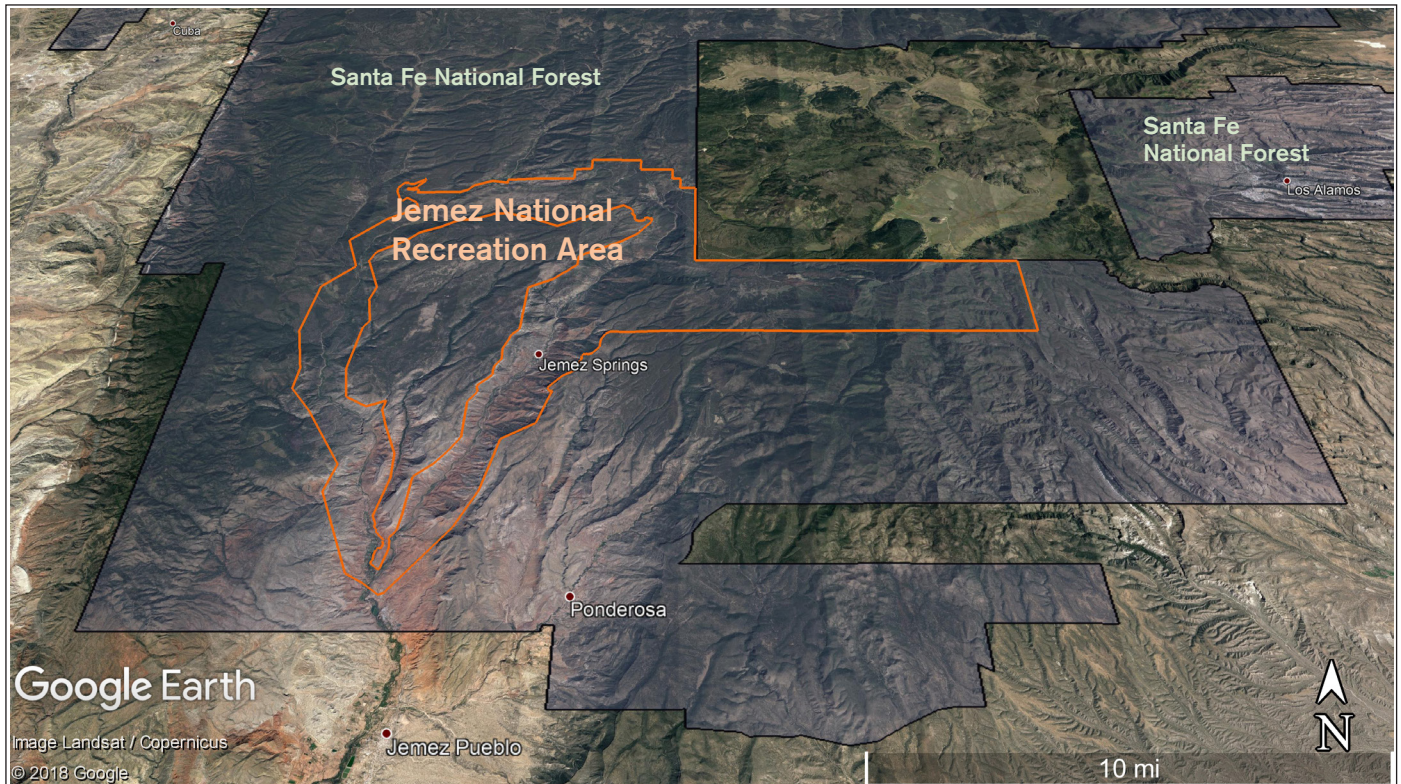
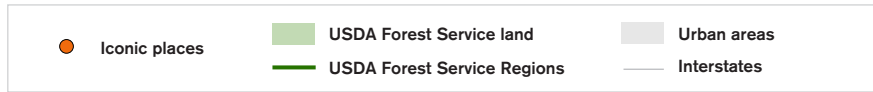
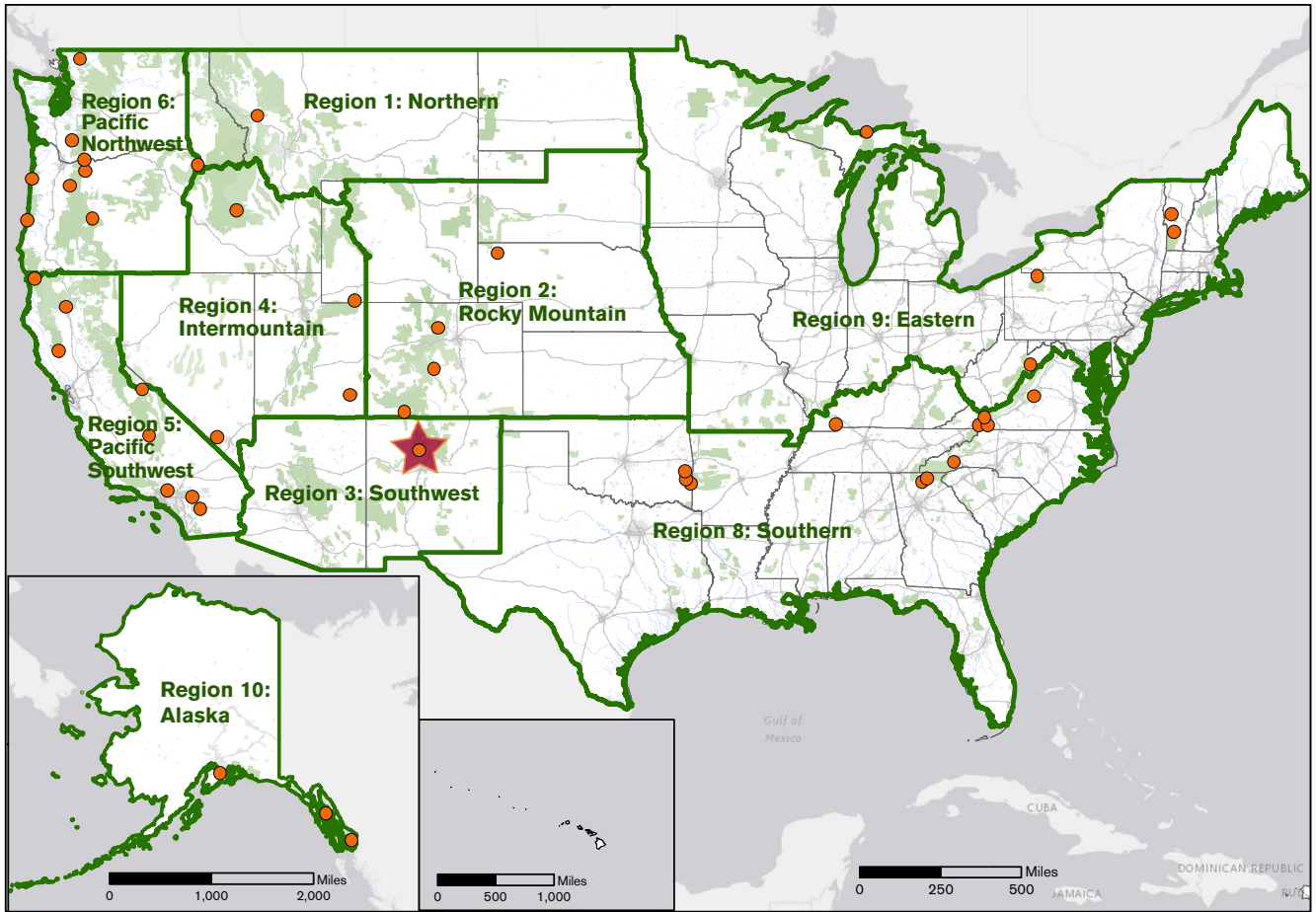


Photo: Changing colors near Jemez, New Mexico on the Santa Fe National Forest. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/swregion/22331480390>. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>.



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.

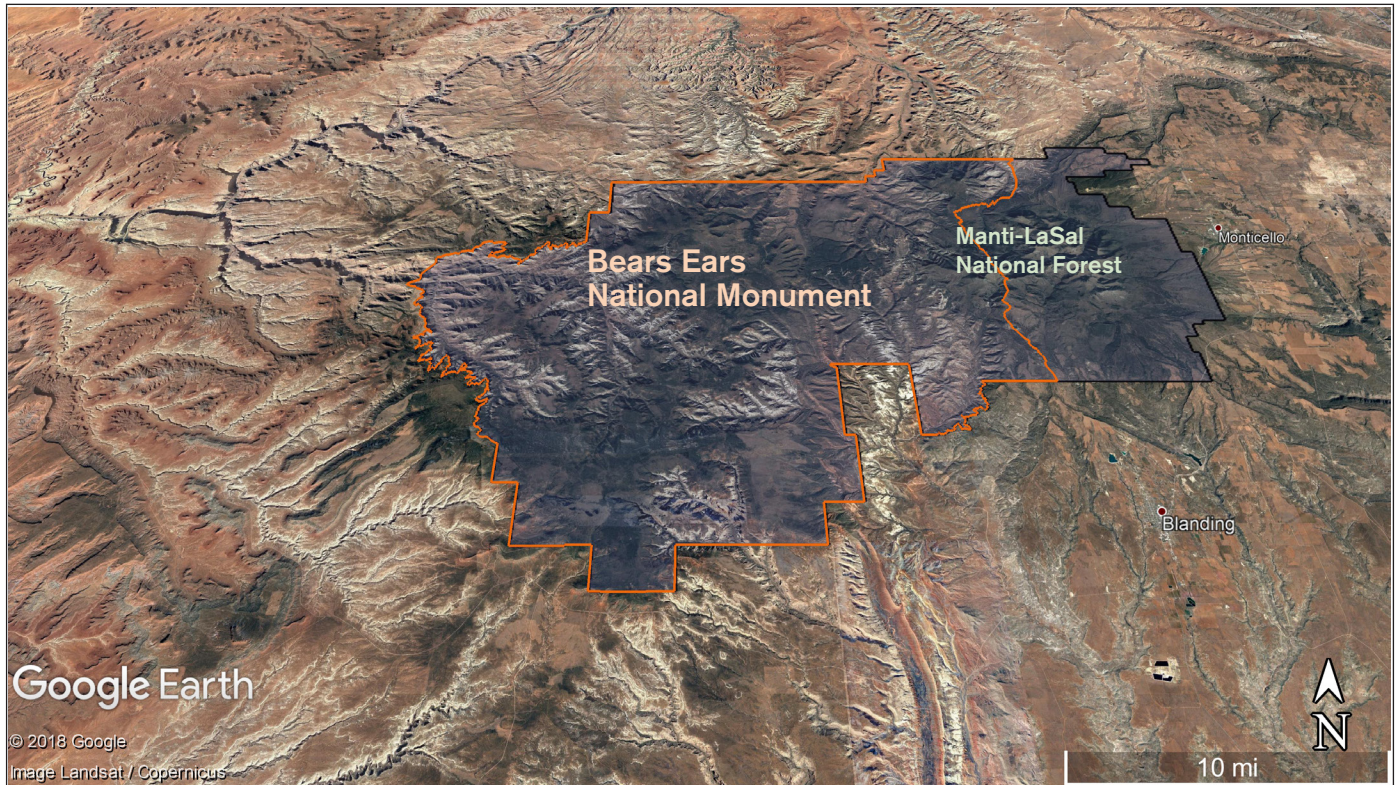
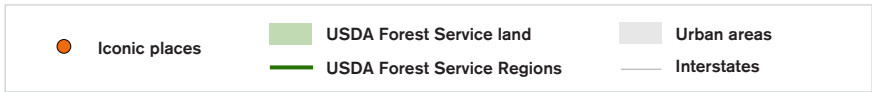
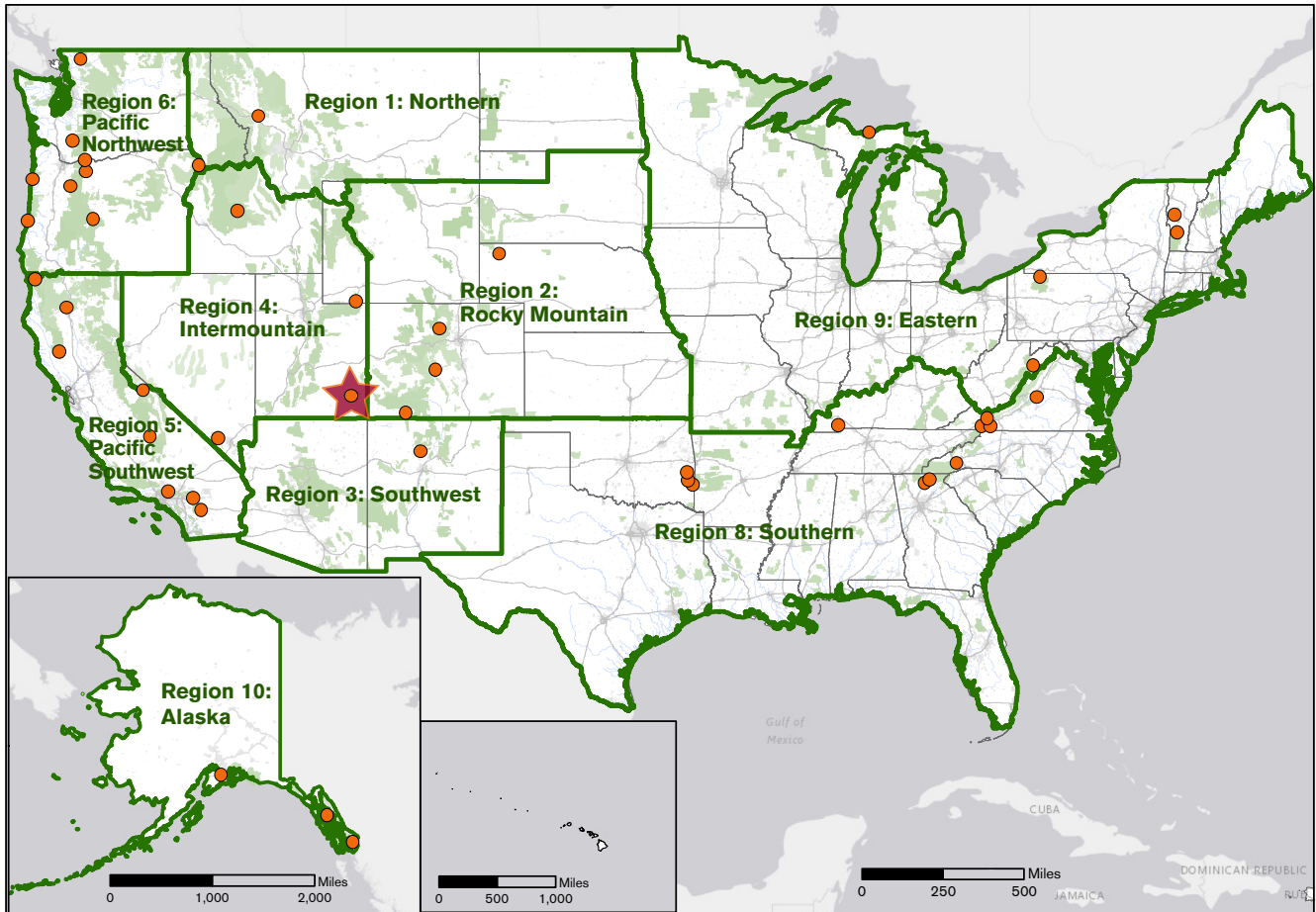


Photo: The "Bears Ears" on the Manti- La Sal National Forest. Photo by Charity Parks. U.S.Forest Service Intermountain Region. Public Domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/107640324@N05/34275363984/in/album-72157666975535359/>.



FLAMING GORGE

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:

Flaming Gorge NRA quick facts

Date established: October 1, 1968

Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 90-540

Forest Service region: 4, Intermountain

State: Utah and Wyoming

Associated national forest: Ashley

Total Forest Service acres: 189,121

Reasons designated: to “provide...for the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir and surrounding lands in the States of Utah and Wyoming and the conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters.” (U.S. Congress, 1968)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Grand Junction, CO; 133 miles

Population within 25 miles: 53,929

Population within 100 miles: 255,859

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Ashley National Forest: 470,560 estimated annual visits (2017, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Fishing, boating, water sports, hiking, swimming, biking, camping

DESCRIPTION

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).

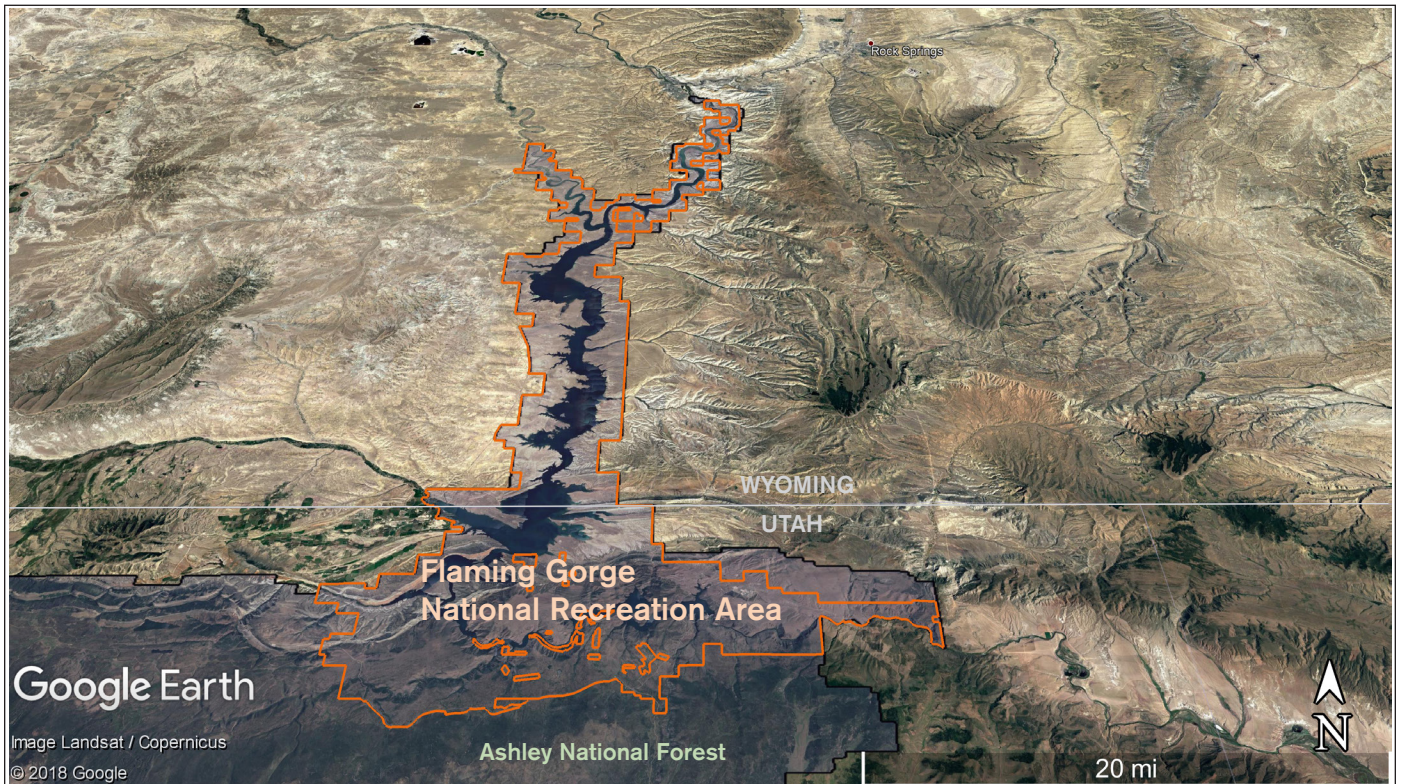
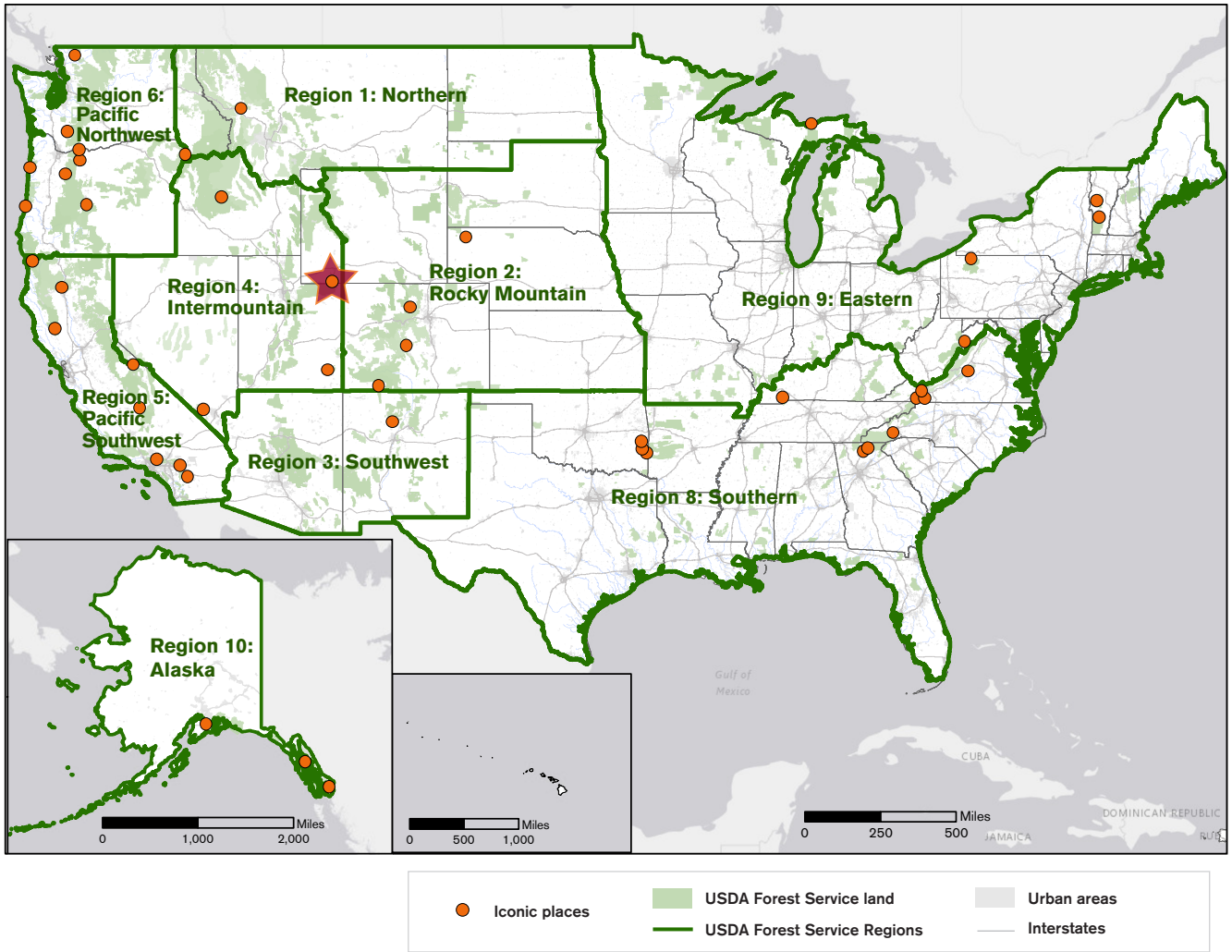


Photo: View of Flaming Gorge Rim coming out of Kingfisher Canyon on the Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Public domain available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/107640324@N05/13944376317/>.



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)

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

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.

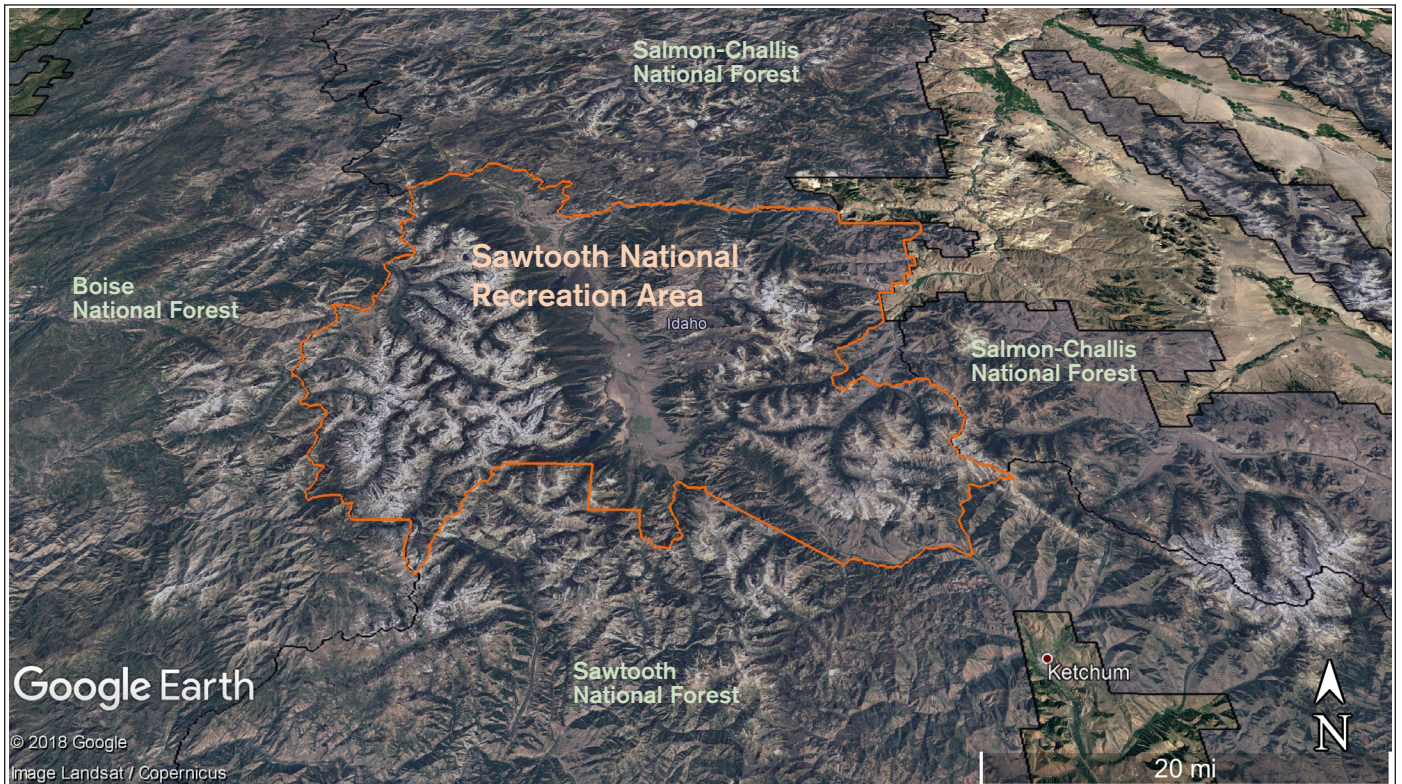
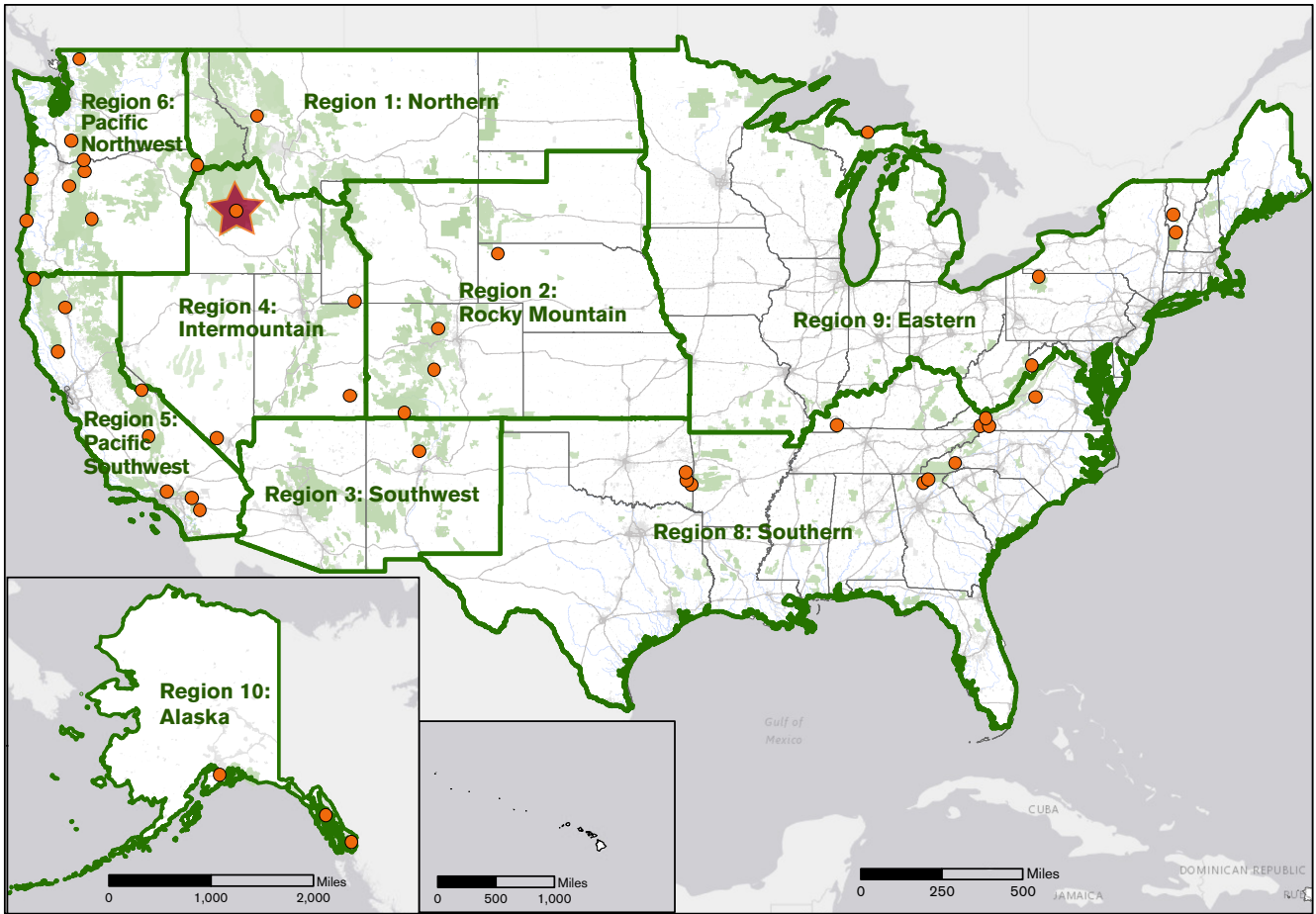


Photo: Baron Pass in the Sawtooths NRA. Credit: Autumn Ellison.



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

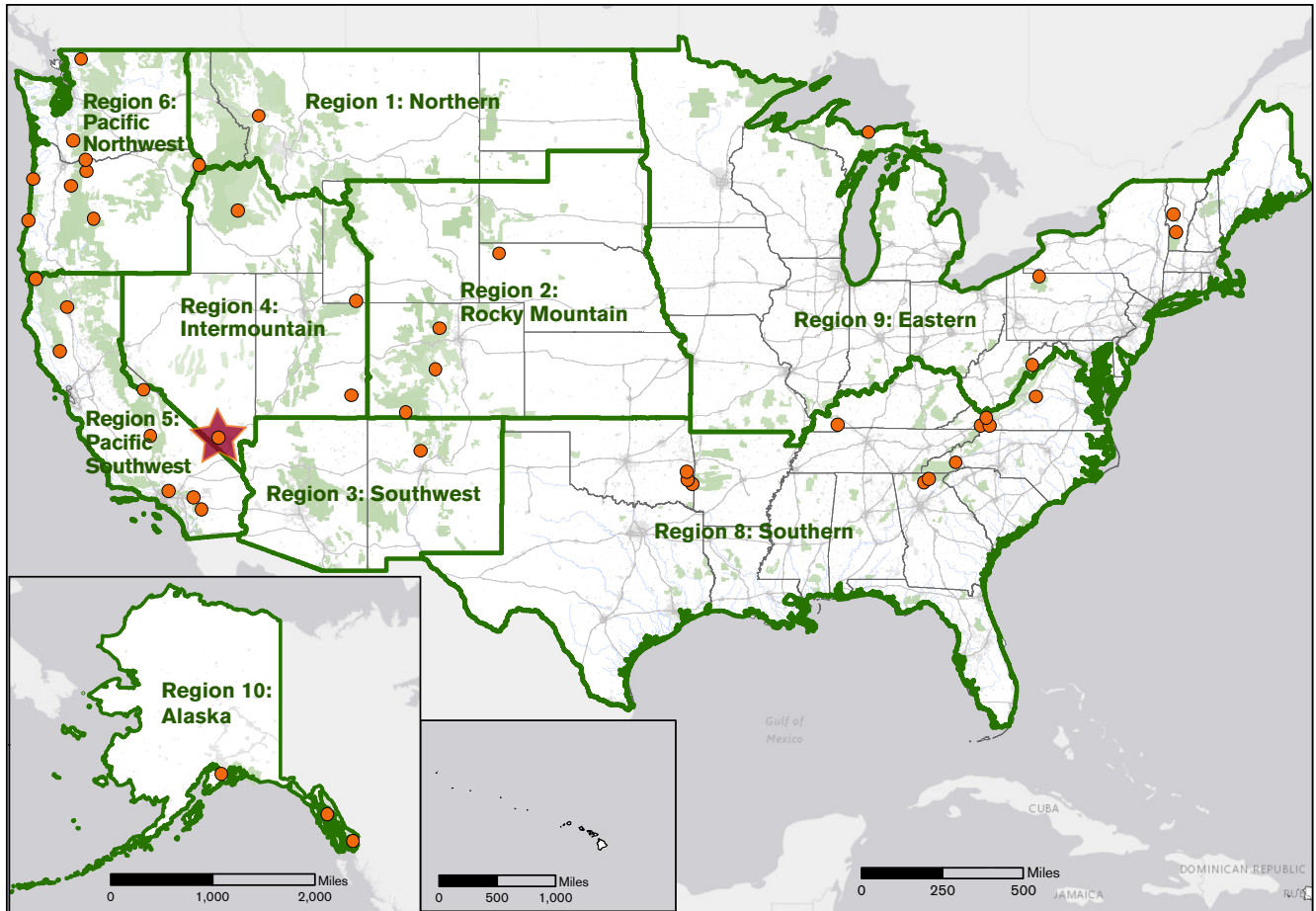
DESCRIPTION

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.

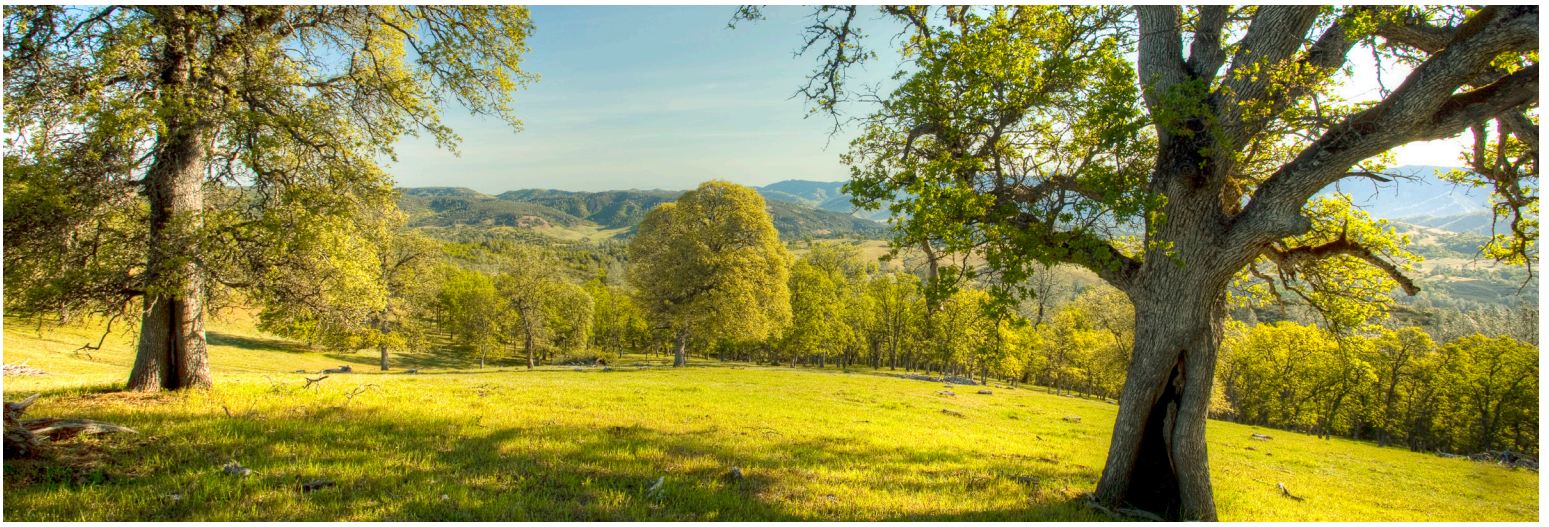
BACKGROUND

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/>.



BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

At a glance:

Berryessa Snow Mountain NM quick facts

Date established: July 10, 2015

Established by: Presidential proclamation, President Barack Obama

Forest Service region: 5, Pacific Southwest

State: California

Associated national forest(s): Mendocino

Total Forest Service acres: 197,360 (approximately 330,780 total acres)

Reasons designated: to “preserve its prehistoric and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of scientific resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific values remain for the benefit of all Americans” (Presidential Proclamation, 2015)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Santa Rosa, CA; 43 miles

Population within 25 miles: 1,192,648

Population within 100 miles: 19,189,783

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Mendocino National Forest: 254,216 estimated annual visits (2013, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Hiking, sightseeing, whitewater rafting, kayaking, off-highway vehicle use

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.

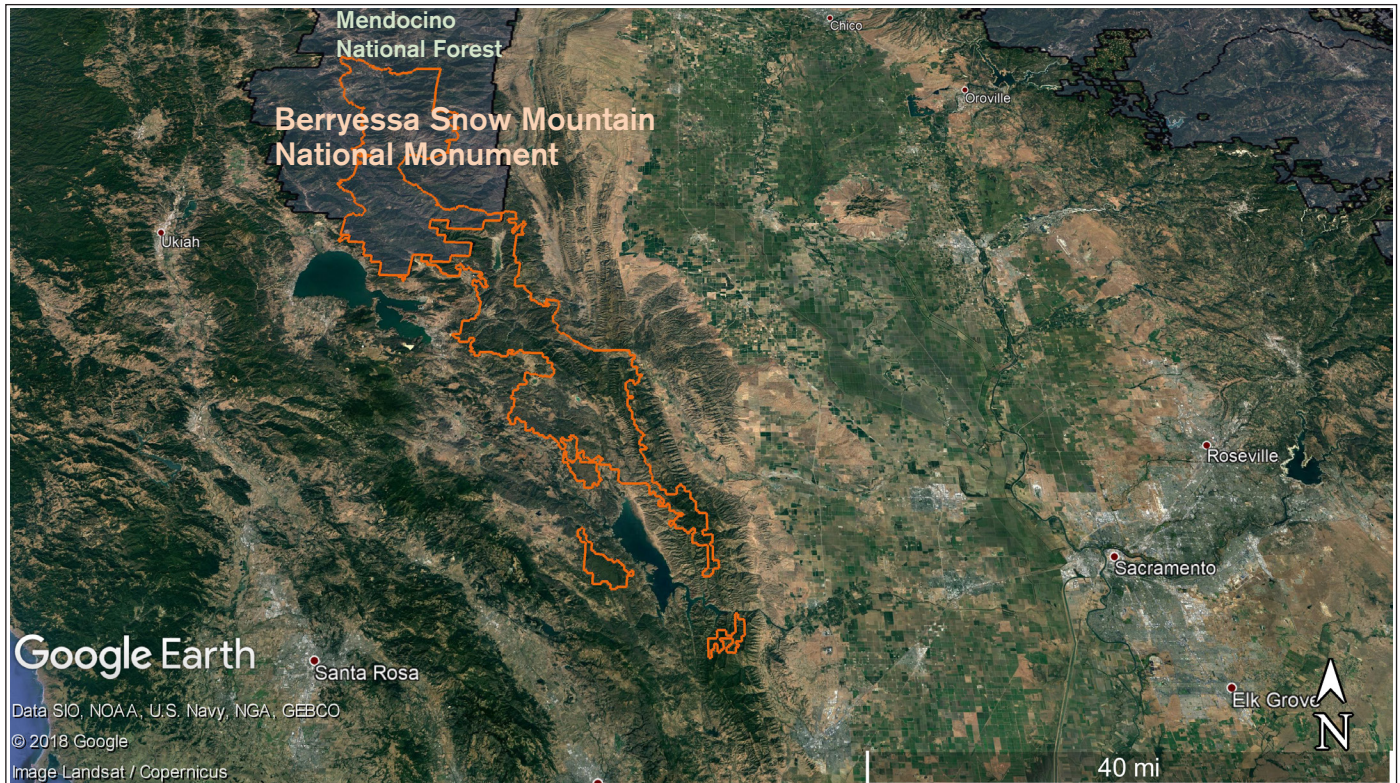
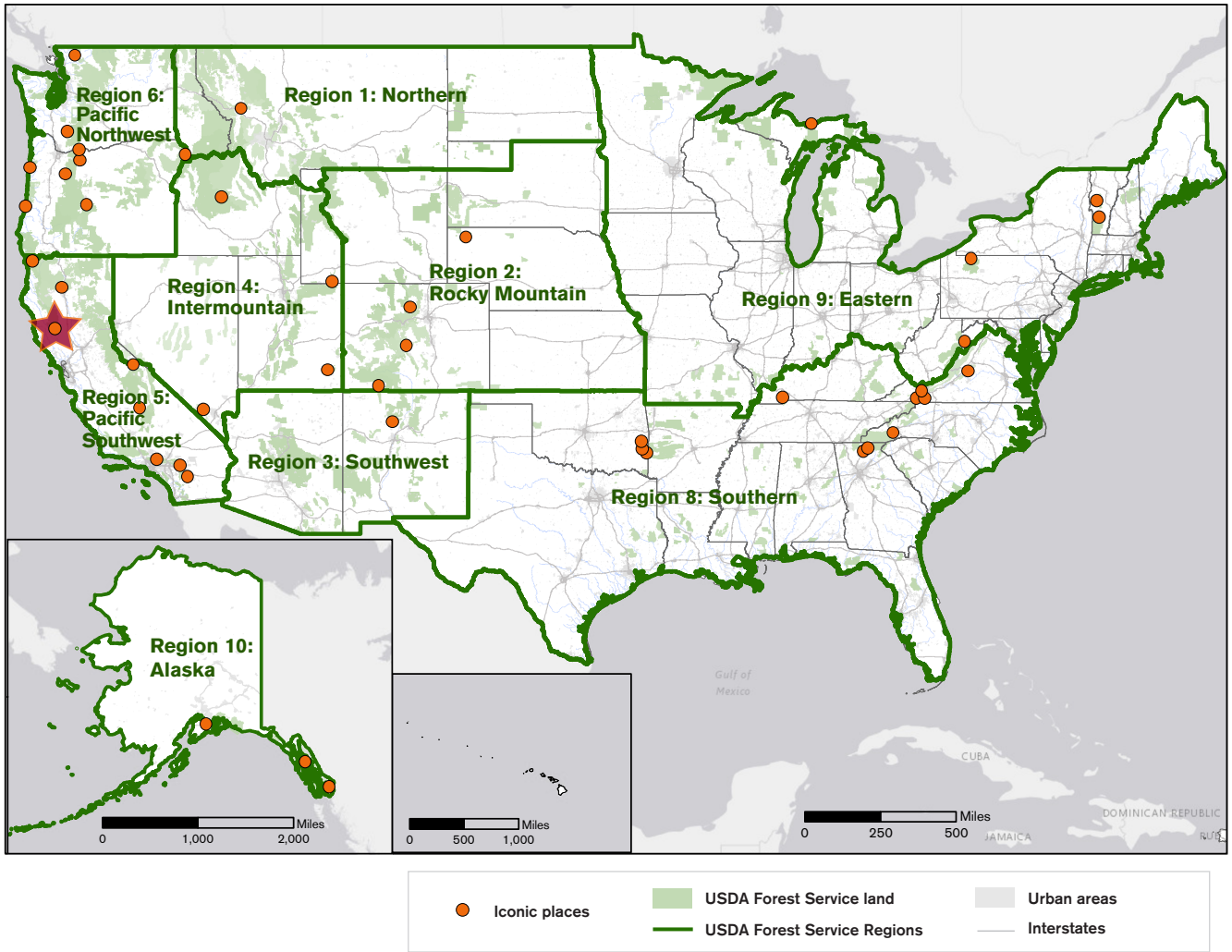


Photo: Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. Bureau of Land Management. Public Domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/16081458831/in/album-72157647564528873/>.



GIANT SEQUOIA

NATIONAL 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

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.

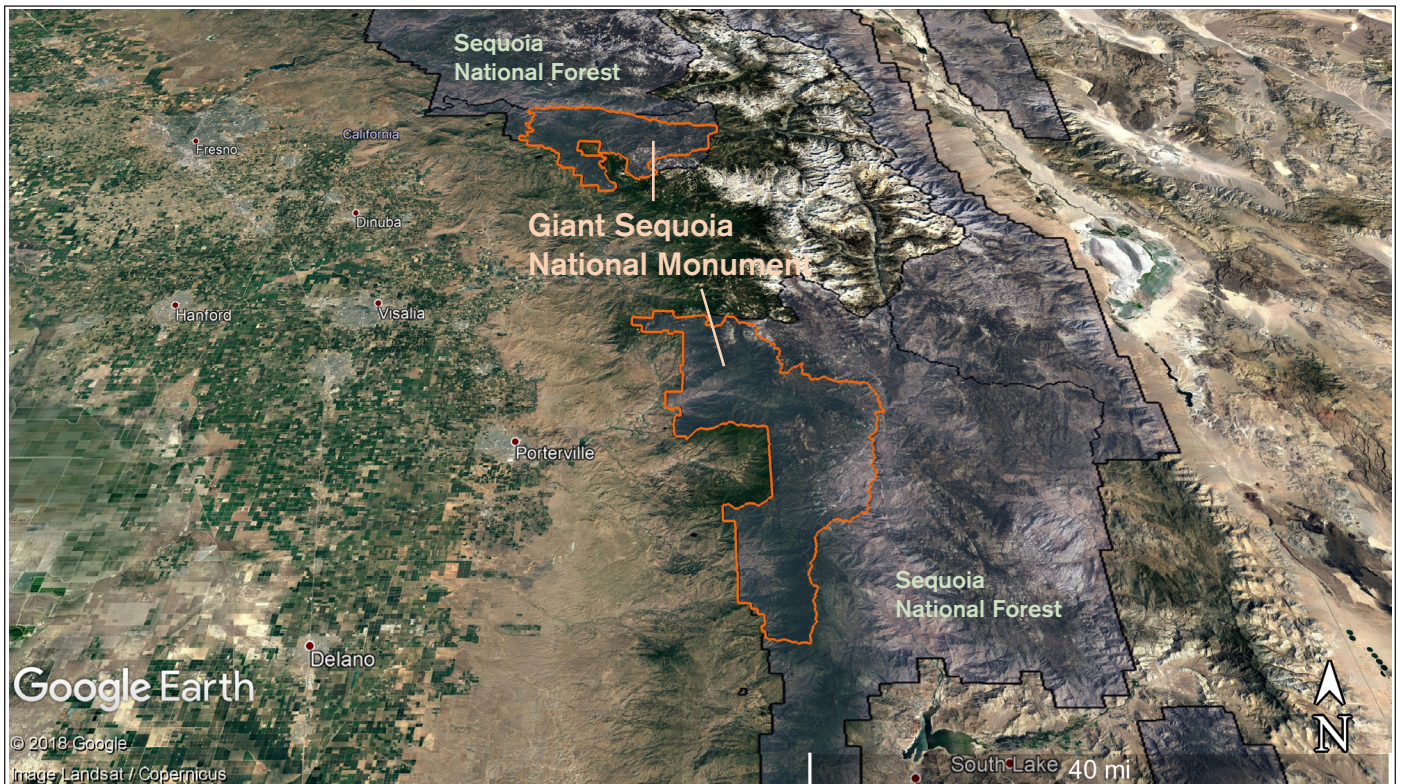
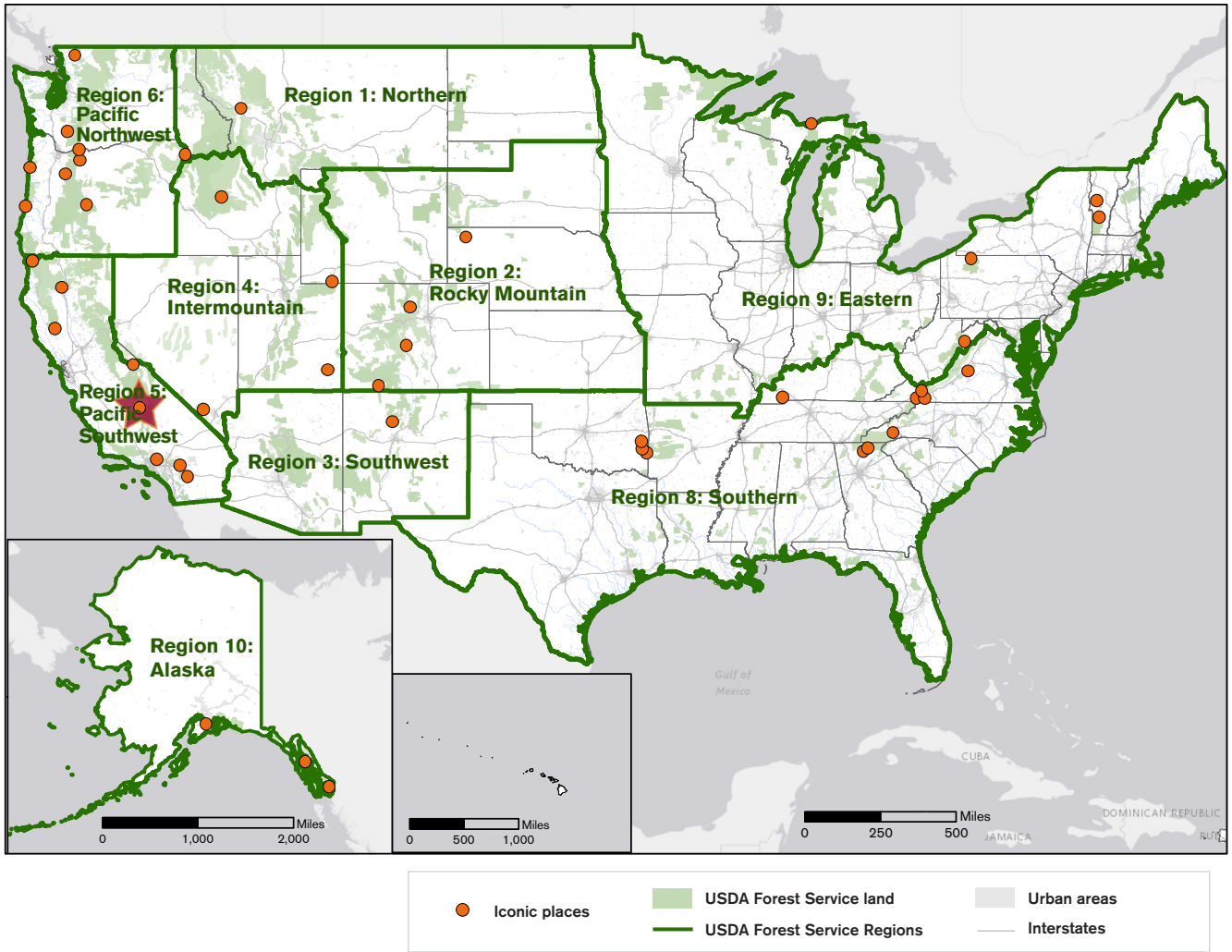


Photo: Giant sequoia trees. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfsregion5/5631739299/in/album-72157626925537288/>.
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MONO BASIN

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.

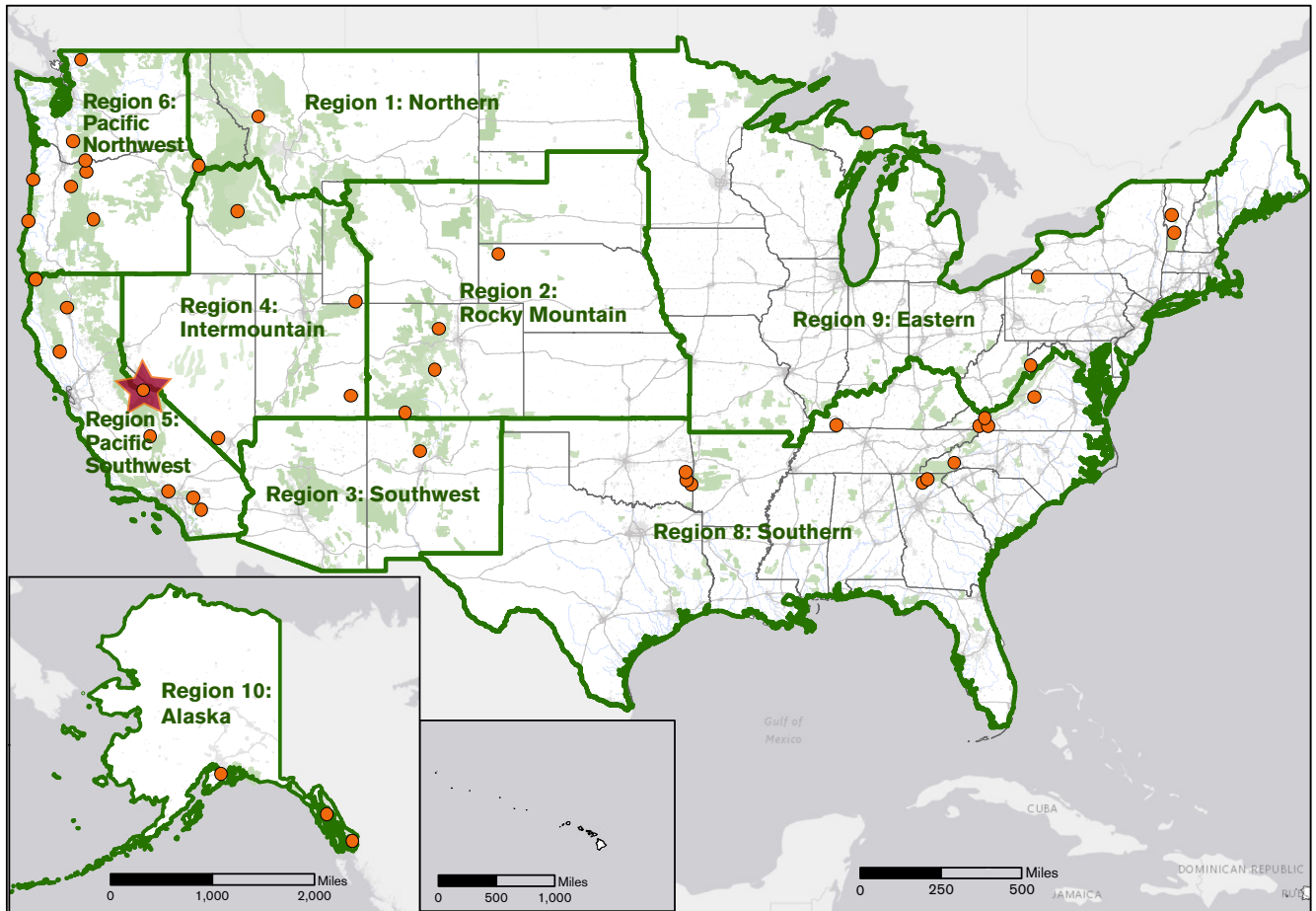


Photo: Trona Pinnacles, California. Photo by Bob Wick, BLM. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/27515485656/in/album-72157624218061531/>.



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

NATIONAL MONUMENT

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

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.

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.

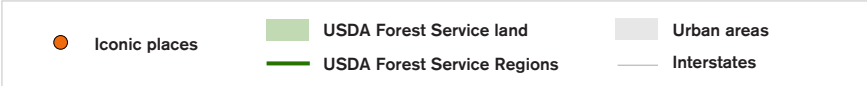
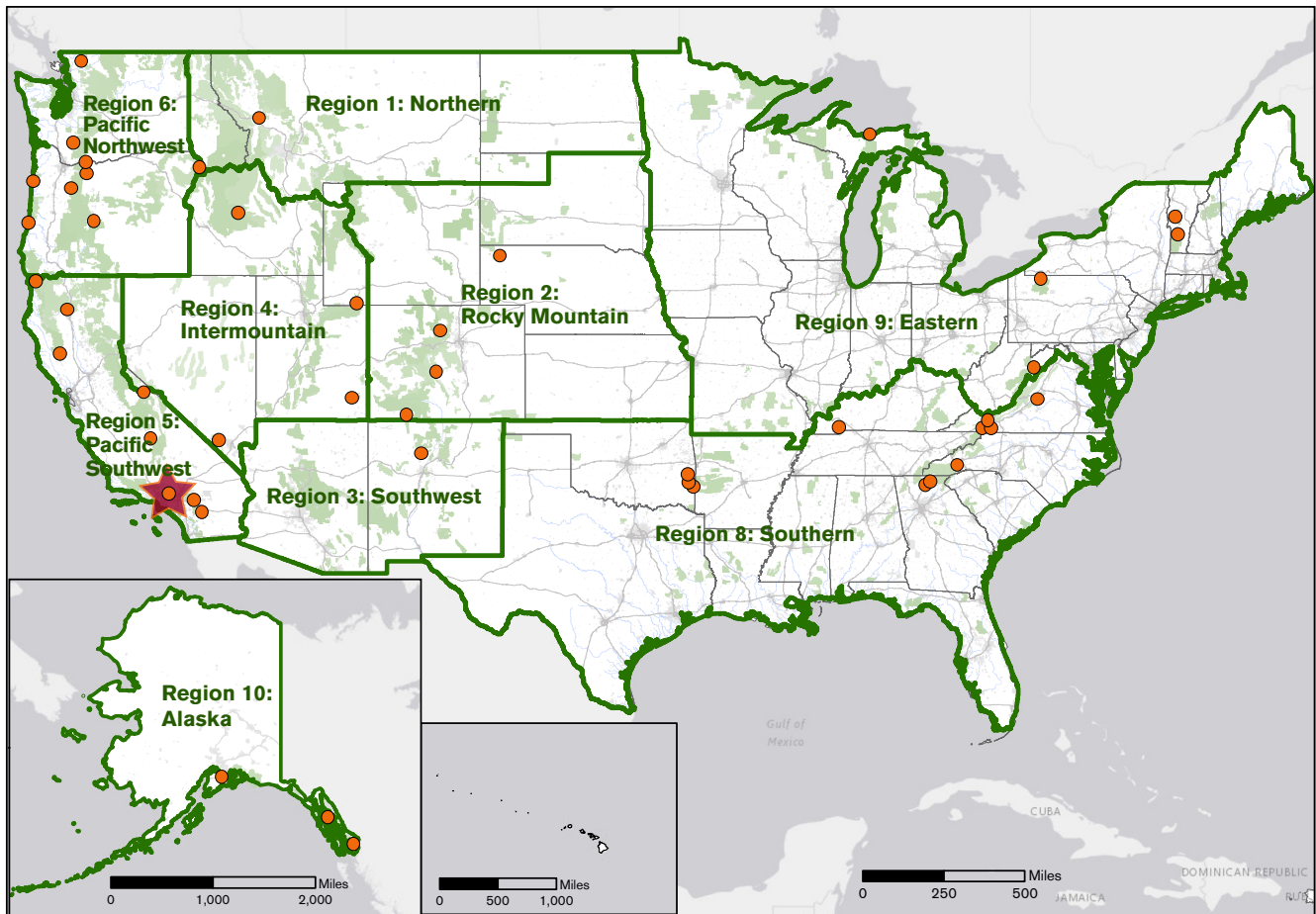


Photo: San Gabriel River. Photo by Jeffrey Martinez. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/142074066@N07/26277617744/in/photostream/>.



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)

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

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.

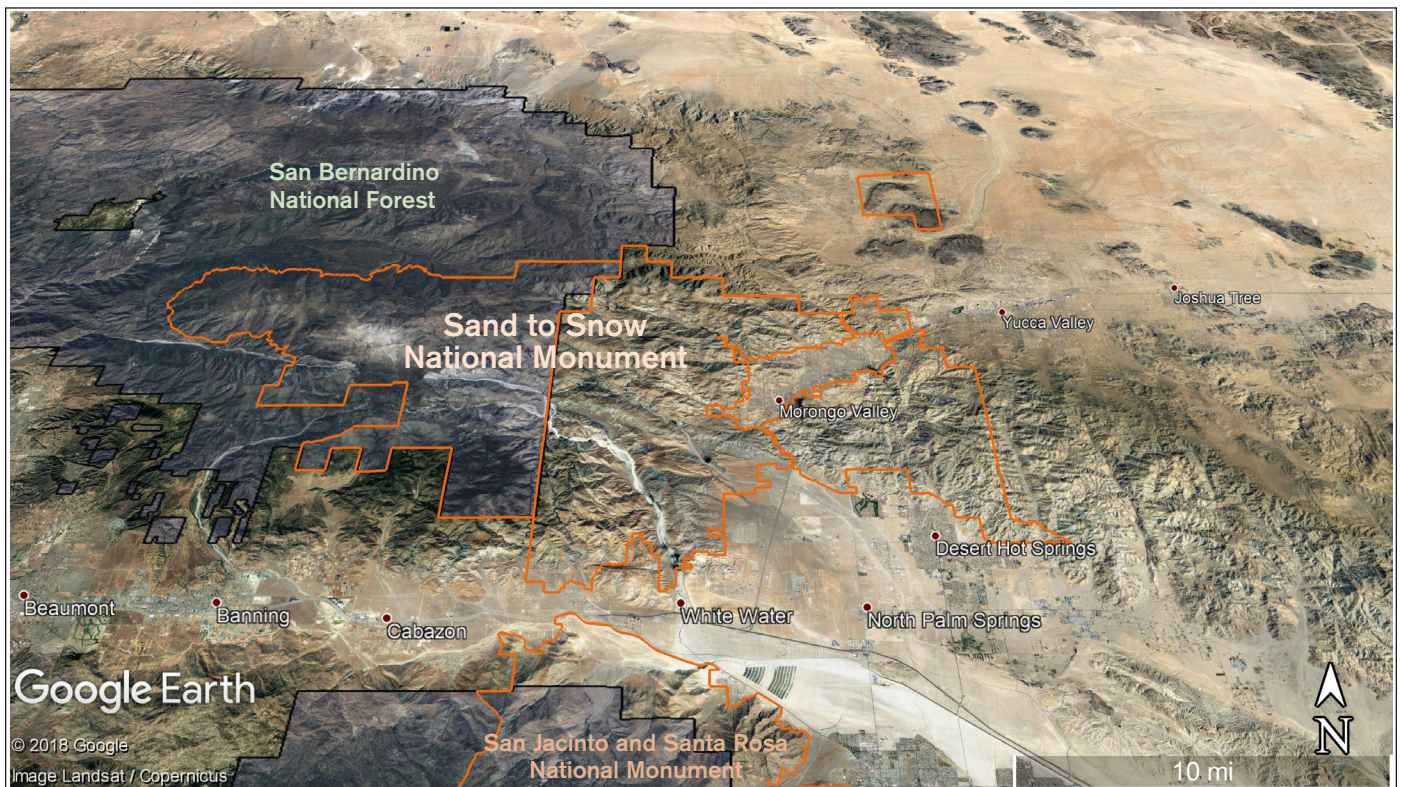
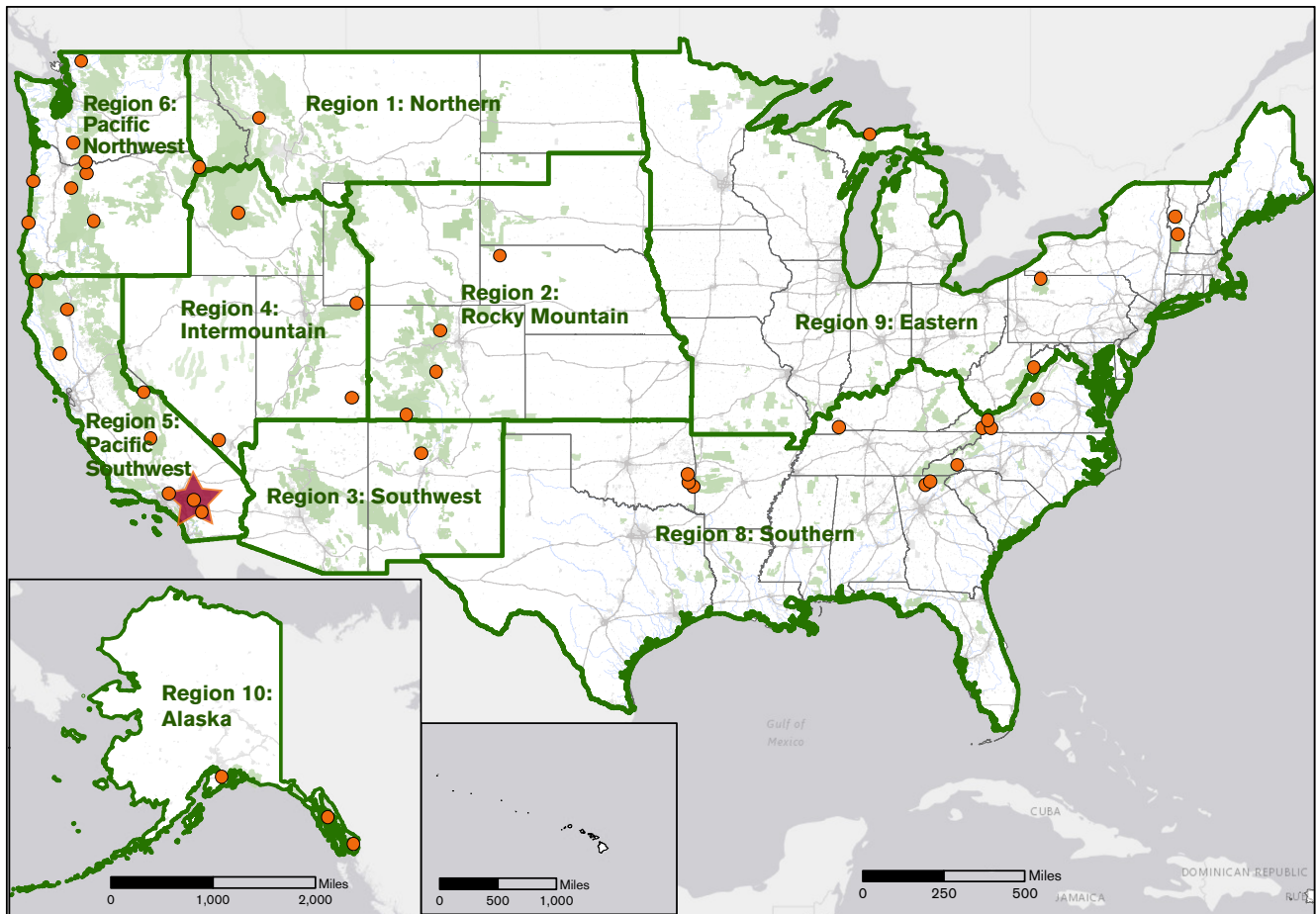


Photo: Sand to Snow National Monument from the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Photo by Bob Wick, BLM. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/33603863742/>.



SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO NATIONAL MONUMENT

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: 69,384
(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

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.

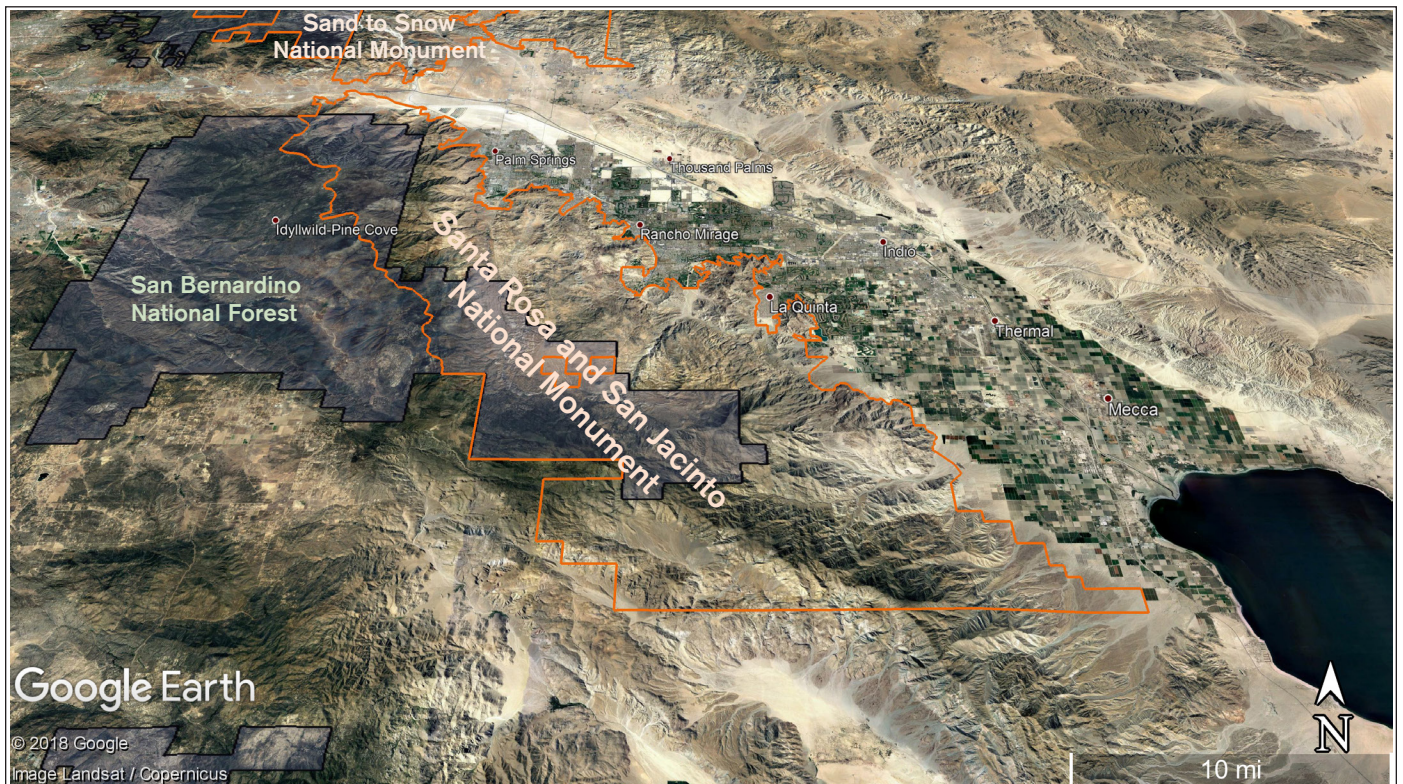
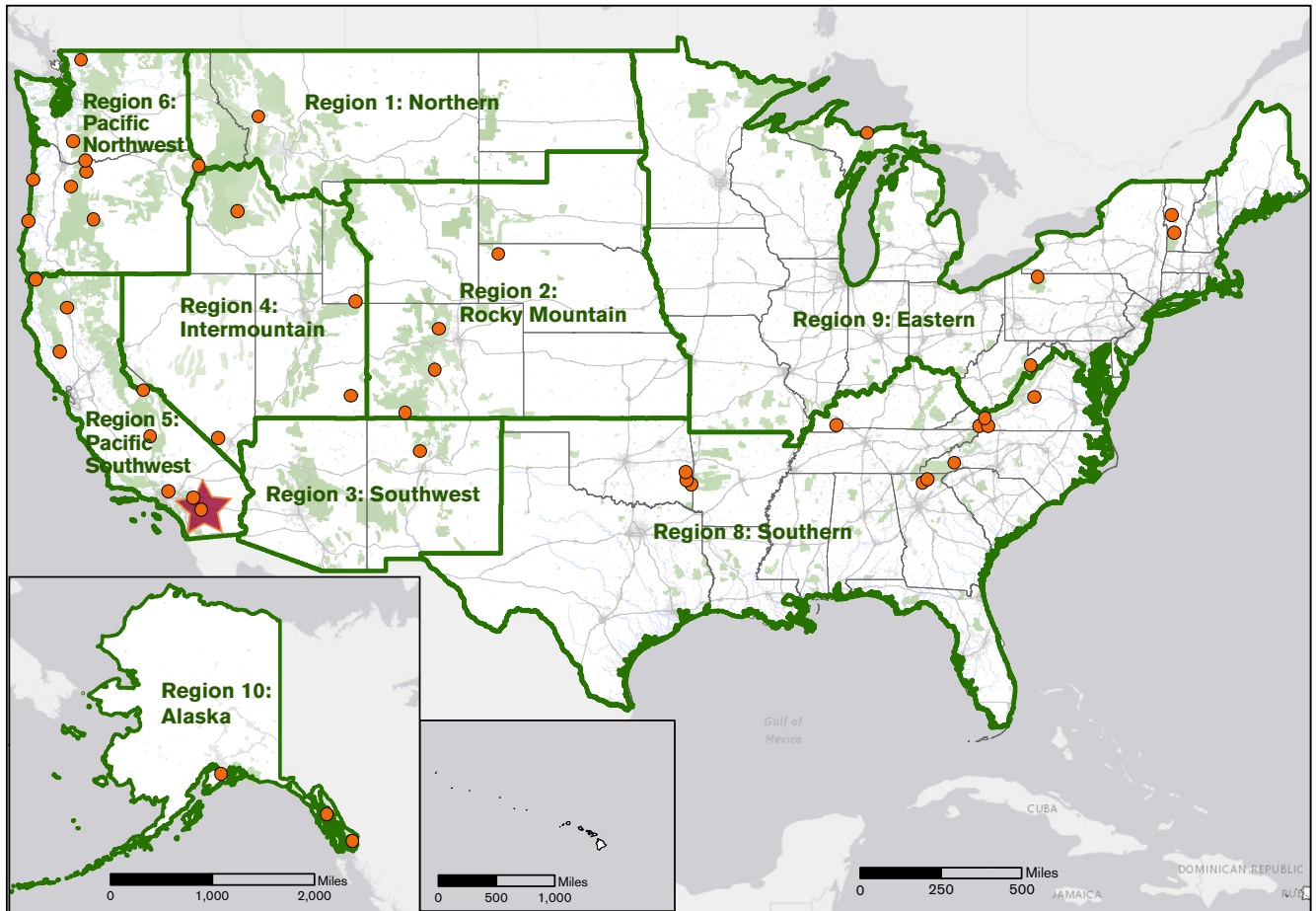


Photo: Santa Rosa San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Photo by Bob Wick, BLM. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmcalifornia/15189284751/in/album-72157647007323877/>.



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

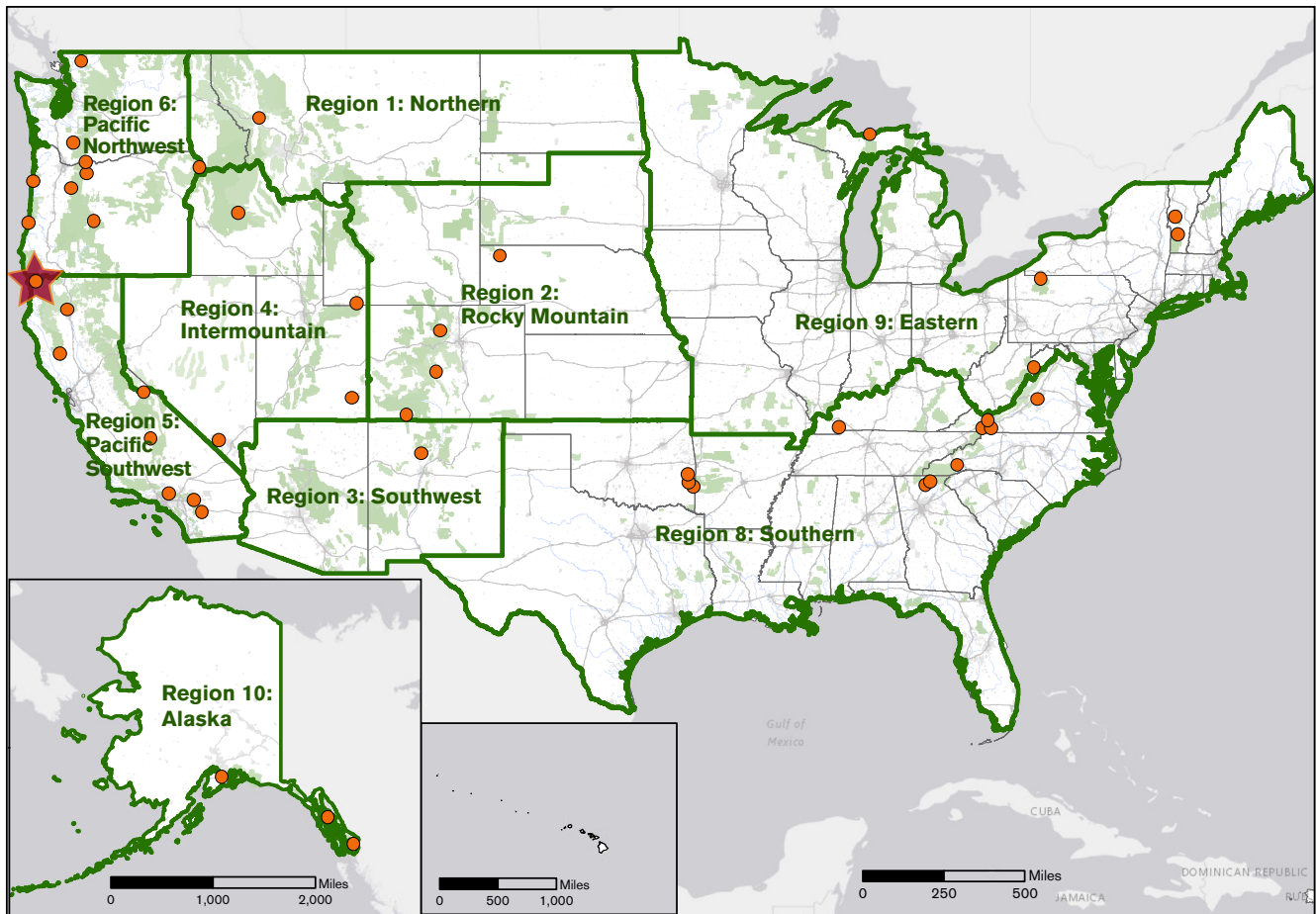
DESCRIPTION

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/jeffhollettvancoverwa/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)

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

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.

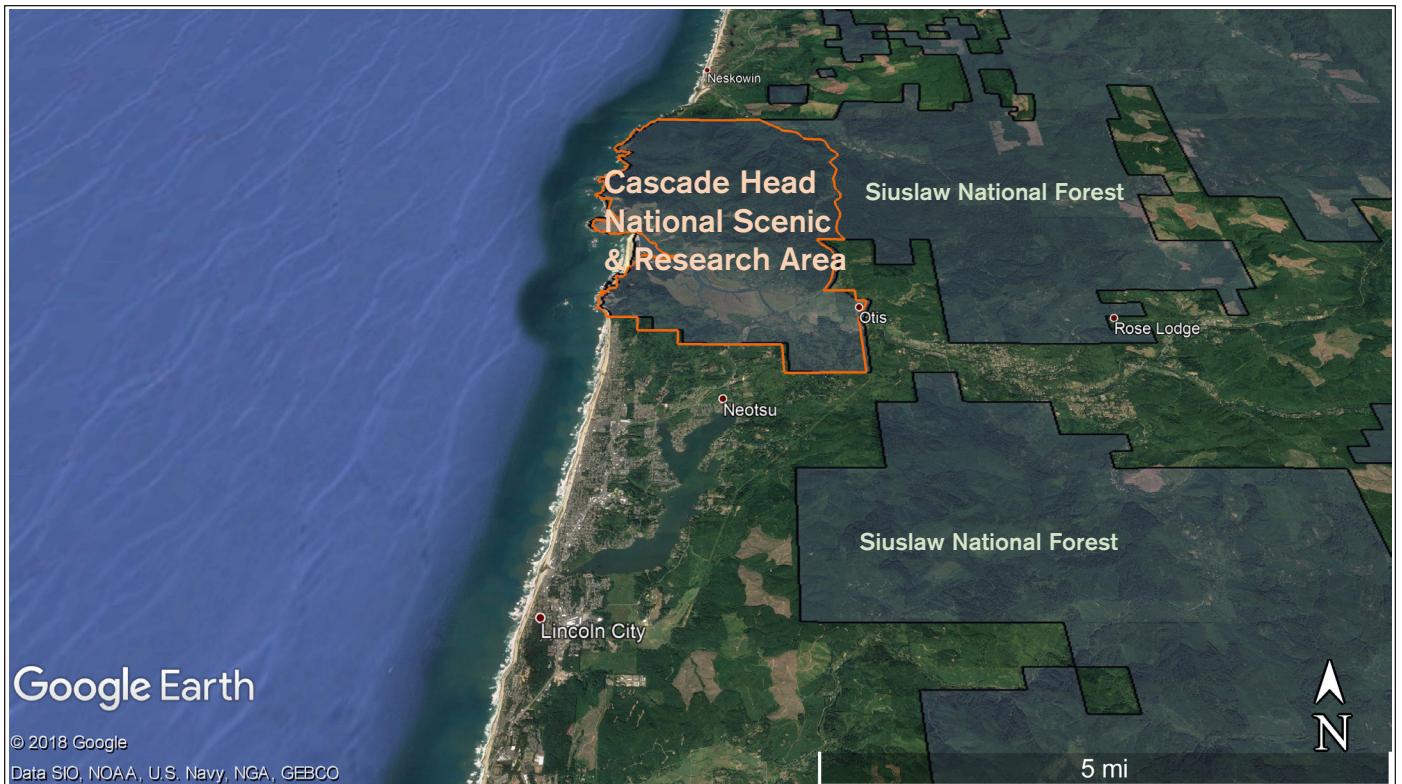
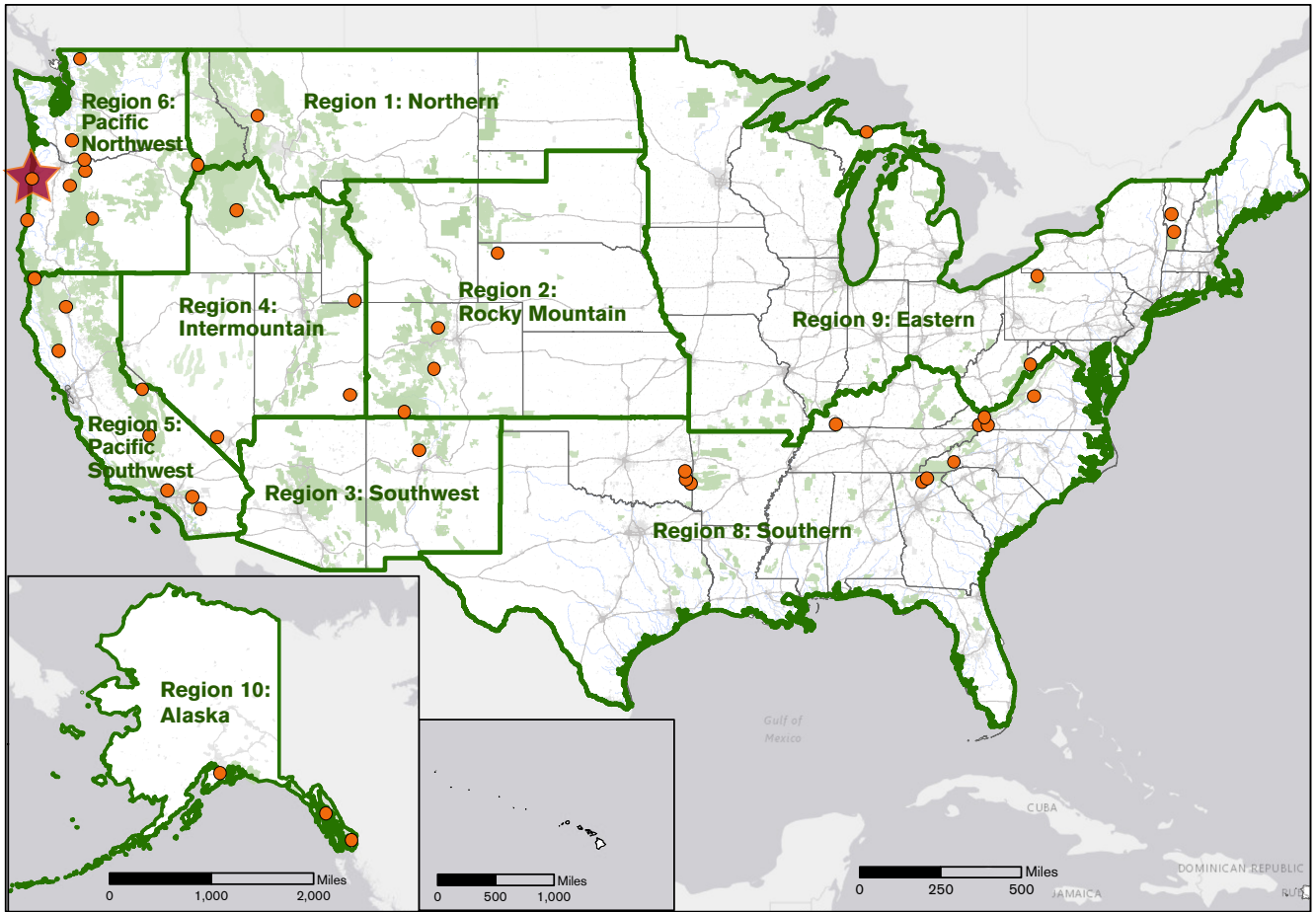


Photo: View from Cascade Head Overlook, Siuslaw National Forest. USDA Forest Service PNW Region. Public domain, available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/25037640591>.



COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

At a glance:

Columbia River Gorge NSA quick facts

Date established: November 17, 1986

Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 99-663

Forest Service region: 6, Pacific Northwest

State(s): Oregon and Washington

Associated national forest: Independent administrative unit

Total Forest Service acres: 82,790 (292,610 total acres)

Reasons designated: “(1) to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge; and (2) to protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with paragraph (1).” (U.S. Congress, 1986)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Portland, OR; 42 miles

Population within 25 miles: 2,046,157

Population within 100 miles: 4,548,423

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area: 2,116,556 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Hiking, interpretive tours, stargazing, camping, biking

DESCRIPTION

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.

BACKGROUND

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.

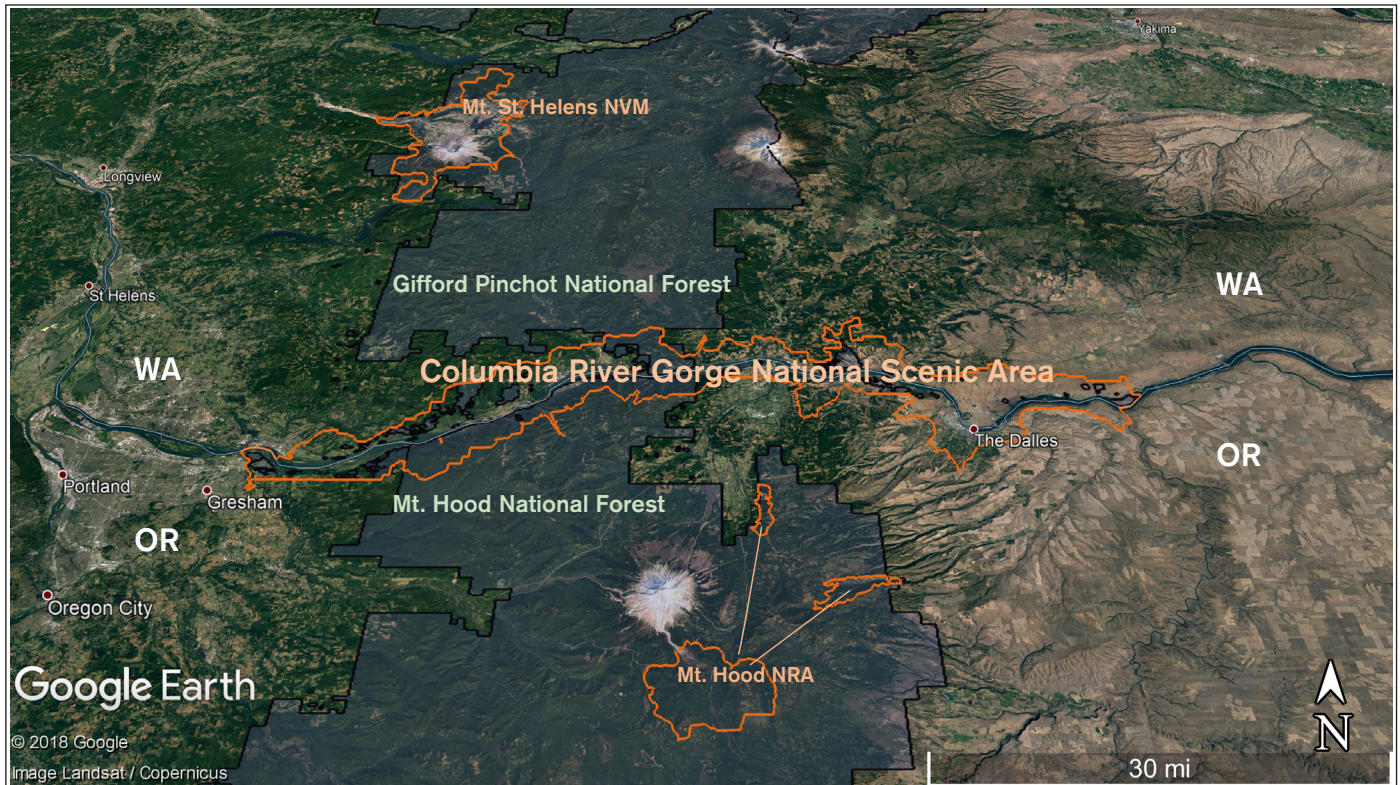
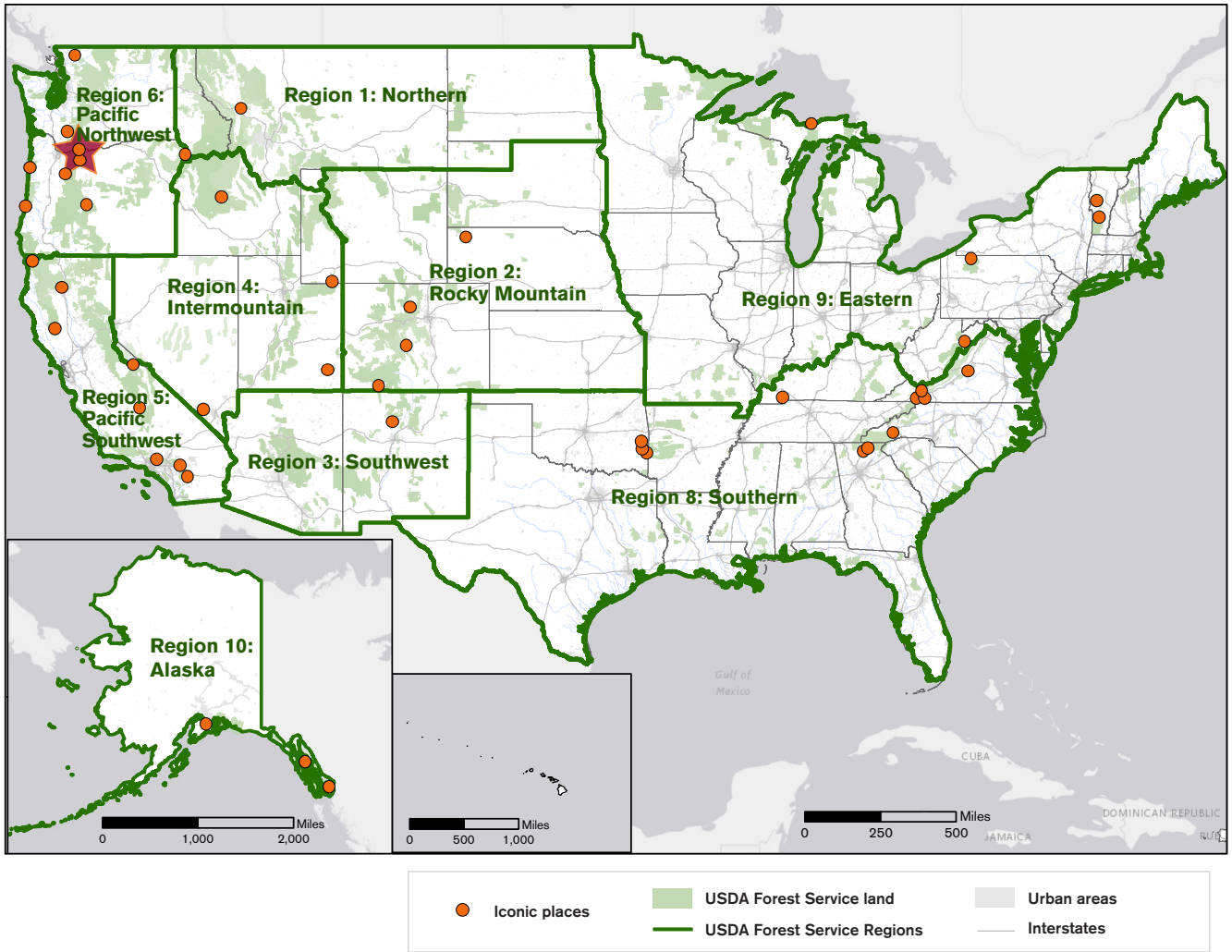


Photo: View of the Columbia River Gorge from Rowena Crest. USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/39697540392/in/album-72157665028630056/>.



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-foot 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.

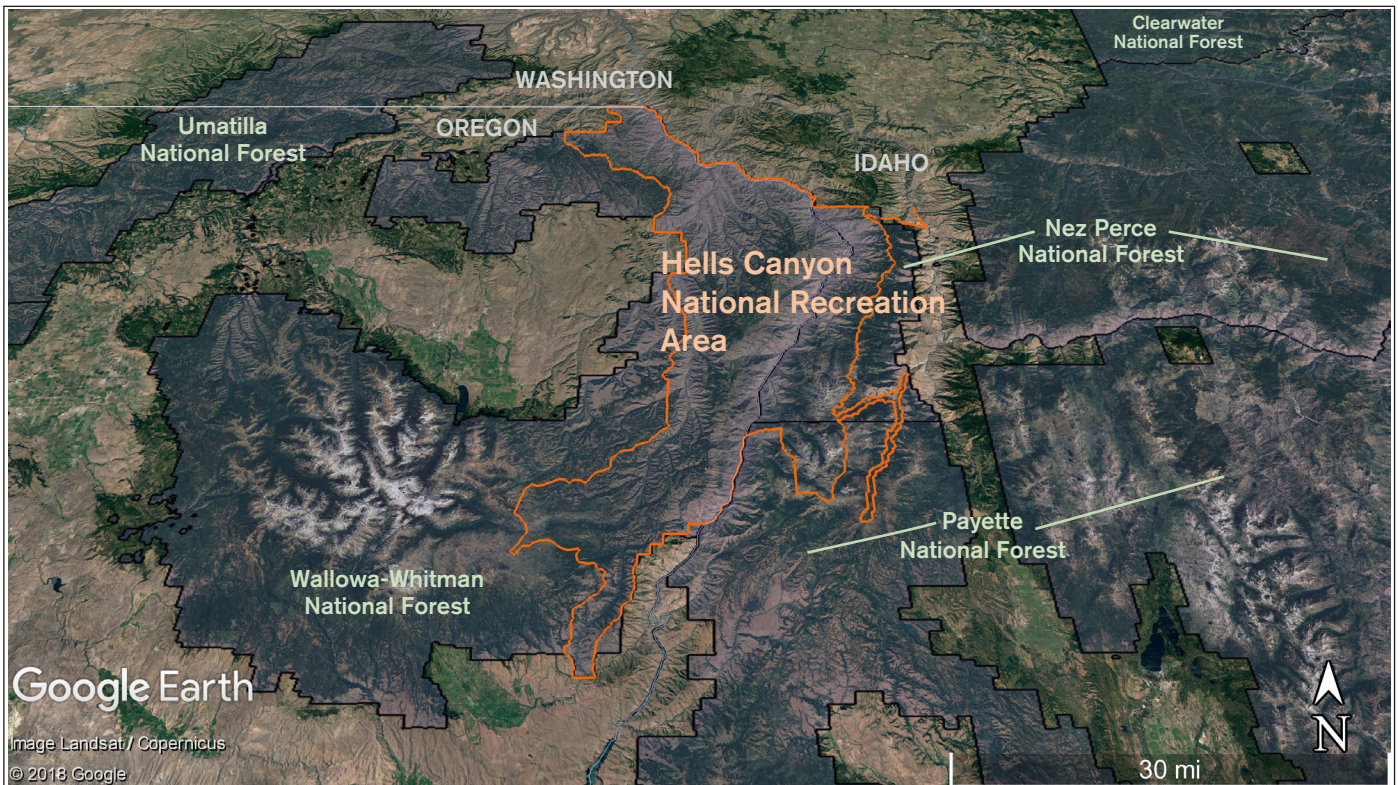
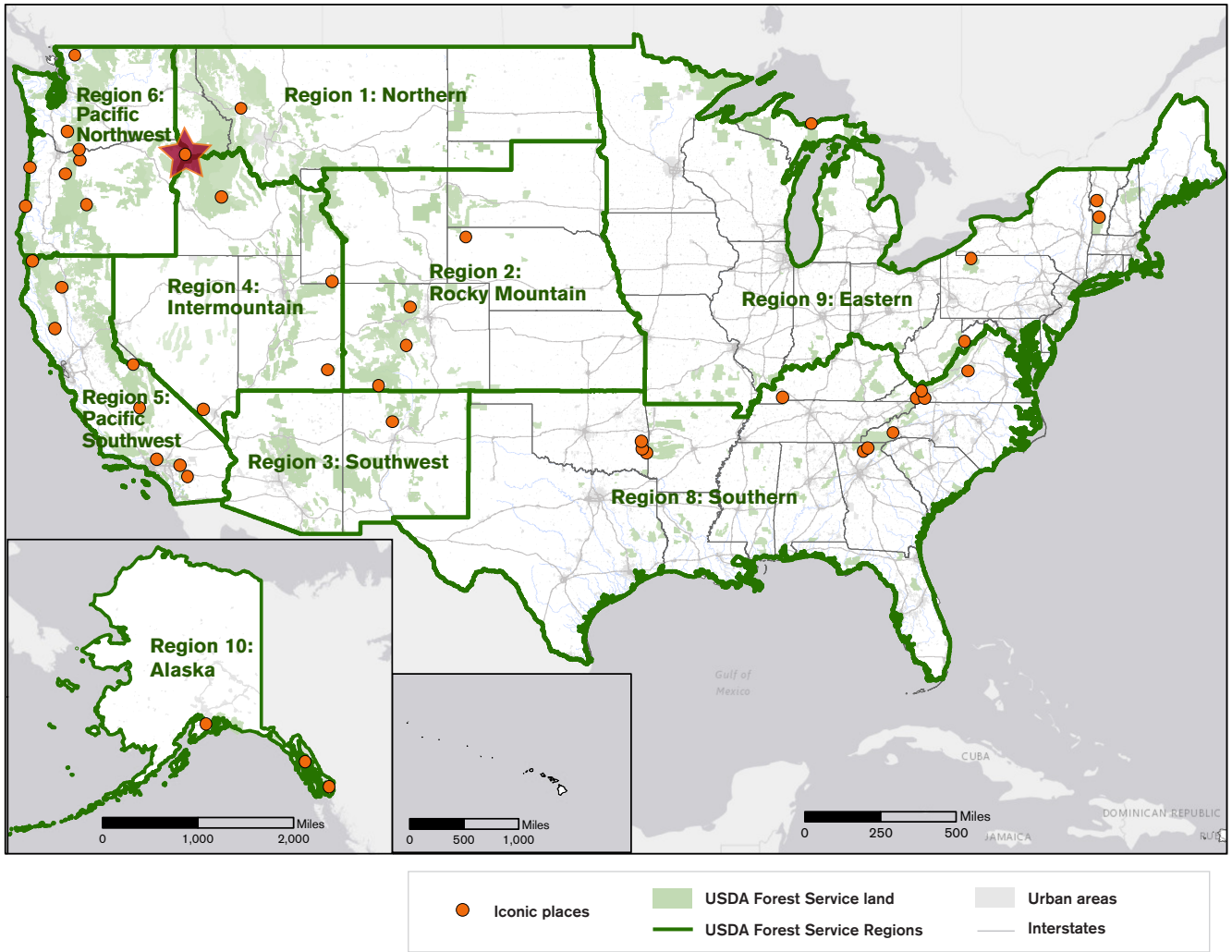
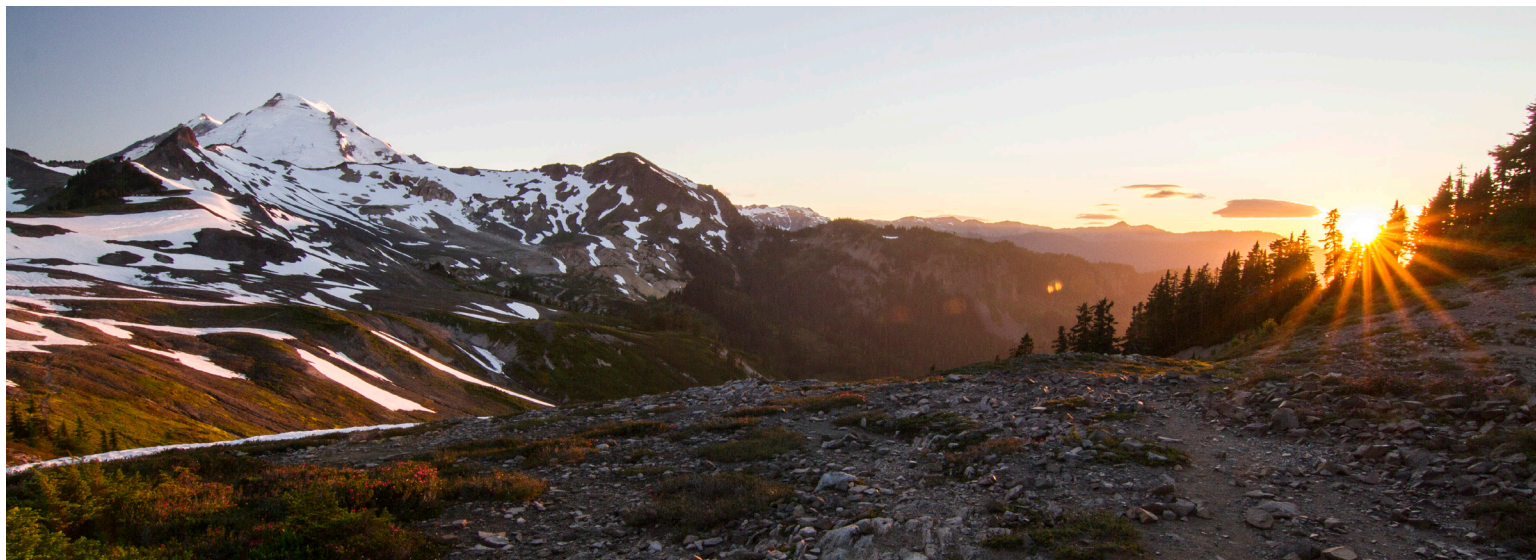


Photo: Twin Lakes by Hells Canyon, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Photo by J. Stein. Public Domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicew/26528817460/in/album-72157664385287259/>.



MOUNT BAKER

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:

Mount Baker NRA quick facts

Date established: July 3, 1984

Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 98-339

Forest Service region: 6, Pacific Northwest

State: Washington

Associated national forest: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie

Total Forest Service acres: 8,789

Reasons designated: "to assure 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 therewith" (U.S. Congress, 1984)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Mt. Vernon, WA; 27 miles

Population within 25 miles: 70,757

Population within 100 miles: 3,623,599

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest: 2,185,082 estimated annual visits (2015, NVUM)

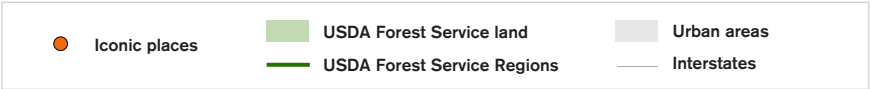
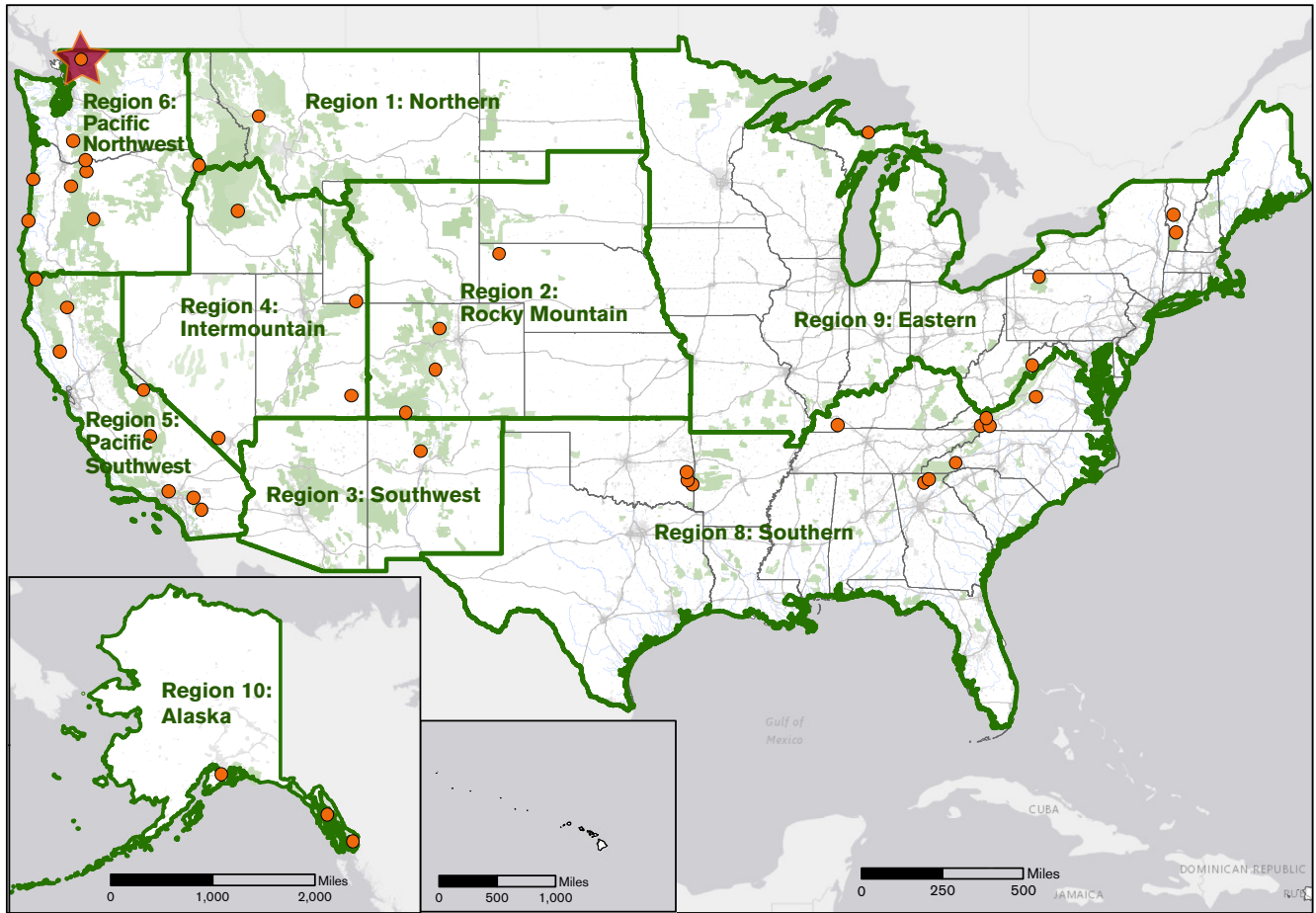
Main recreational uses: Camping, climbing, hiking, backpacking, horse riding, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, snowmobiling

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. Schriebers 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 Schrieber's Meadow.



Mt. Baker at sunset. USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest-servicenw/31297590453/in/album-72157662089130996/>.



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

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Mt. Hood National Forest: 2,306,214 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, skiing, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, horse riding, nature viewing, snowmobiling

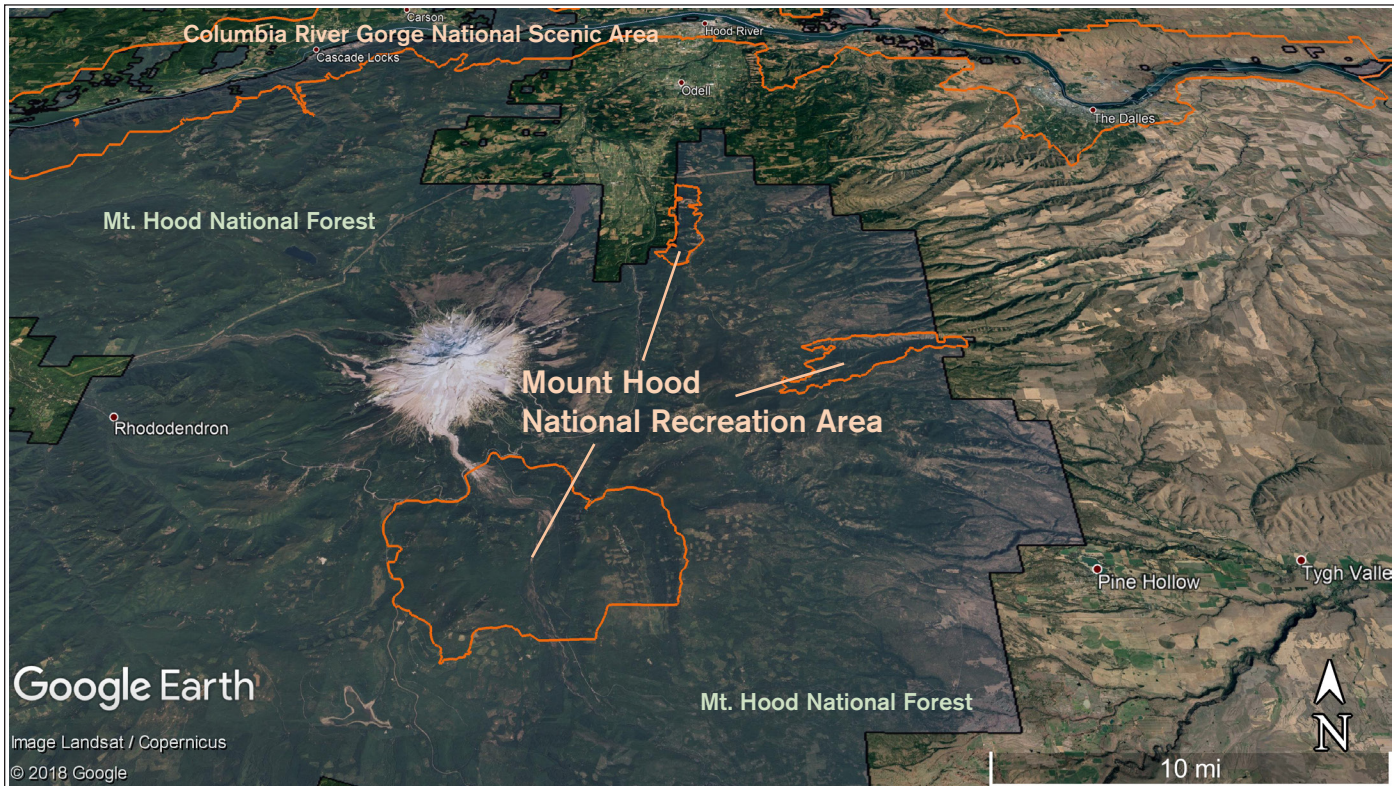
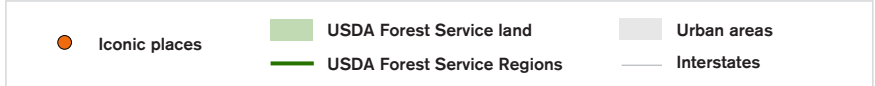
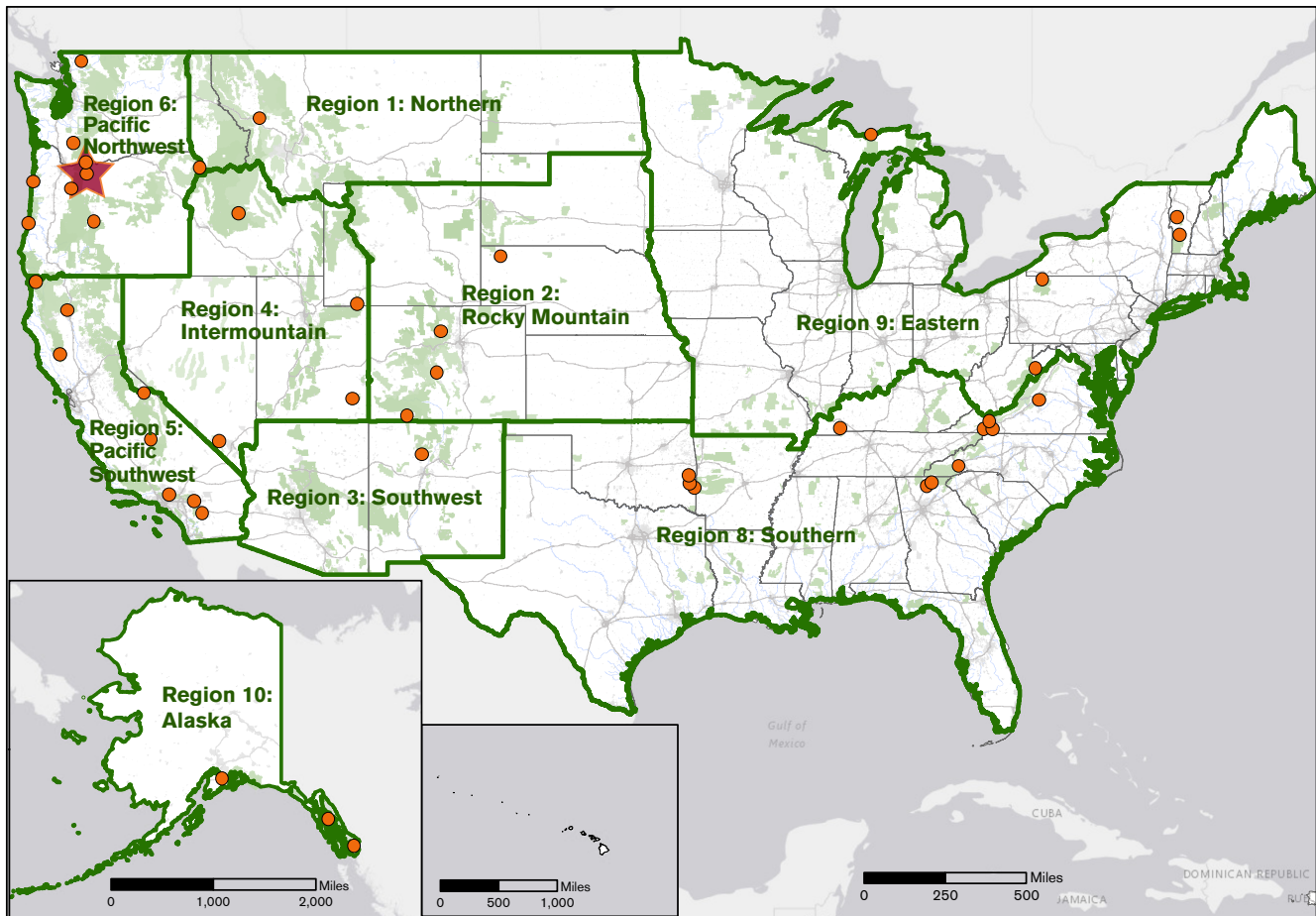
DESCRIPTION

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.



Mt. Hood from Trillium Lake, Mt. Hood National Forest. USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/36379628033/in/album-72157662801514163/>.



MOUNT SAINT HELENS

NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT

At a glance:

Mount St. Helens NVM quick facts

Date established: August 26, 1989

Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 97-243

Forest Service region: 6, Pacific Northwest

State: Washington

Associated national forest: Gifford Pinchot

Total Forest Service acres: 112,864

Reasons designated: “to protect distinctive features and processes for public education, interpretation and recreation, and for research” (U.S. Congress, 1989)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Portland, OR; 35 miles

Population within 25 miles: 104,471

Population within 100 miles: 7,217,535

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument: 183,190 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Mountain biking, camping, mountain climbing, hiking, backpacking, hunting, target shooting

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.

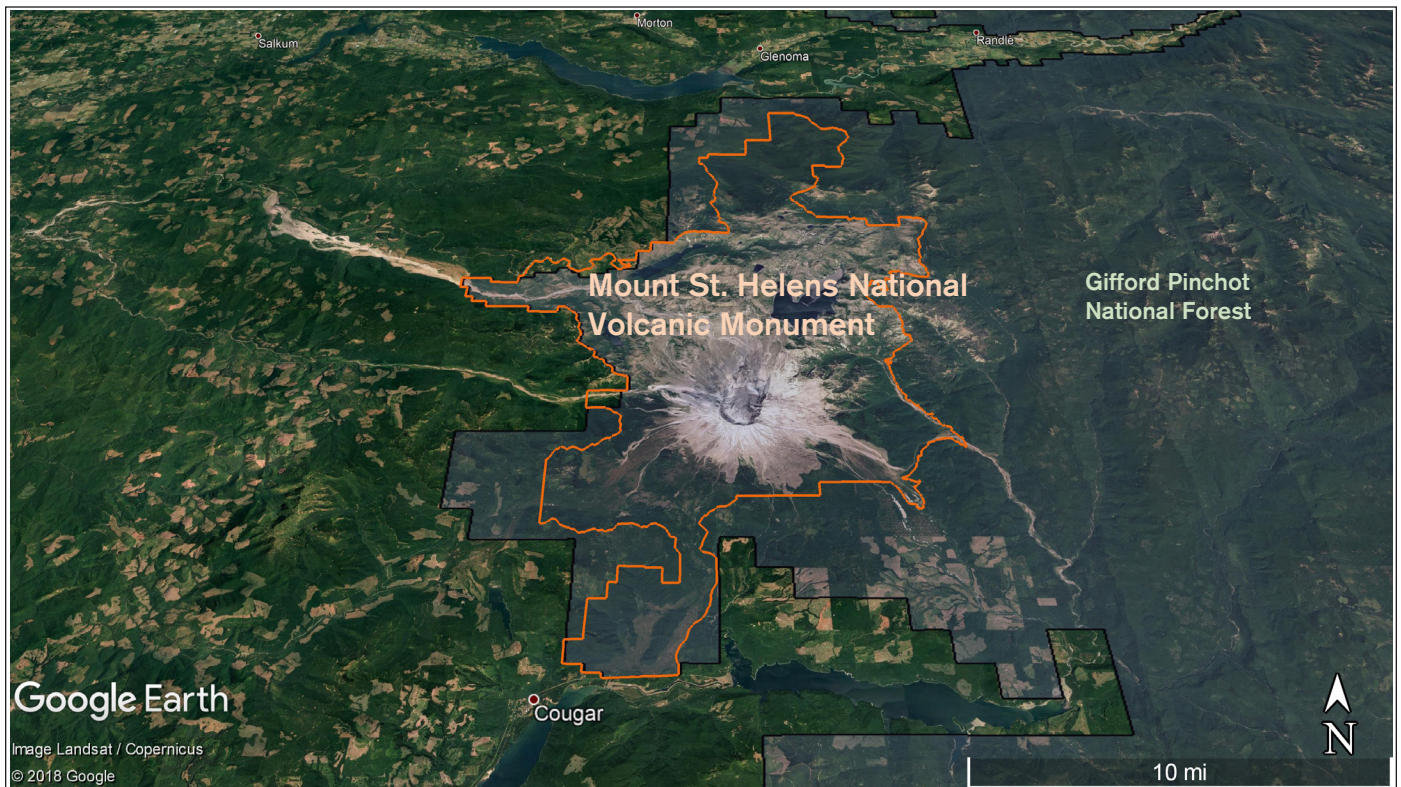
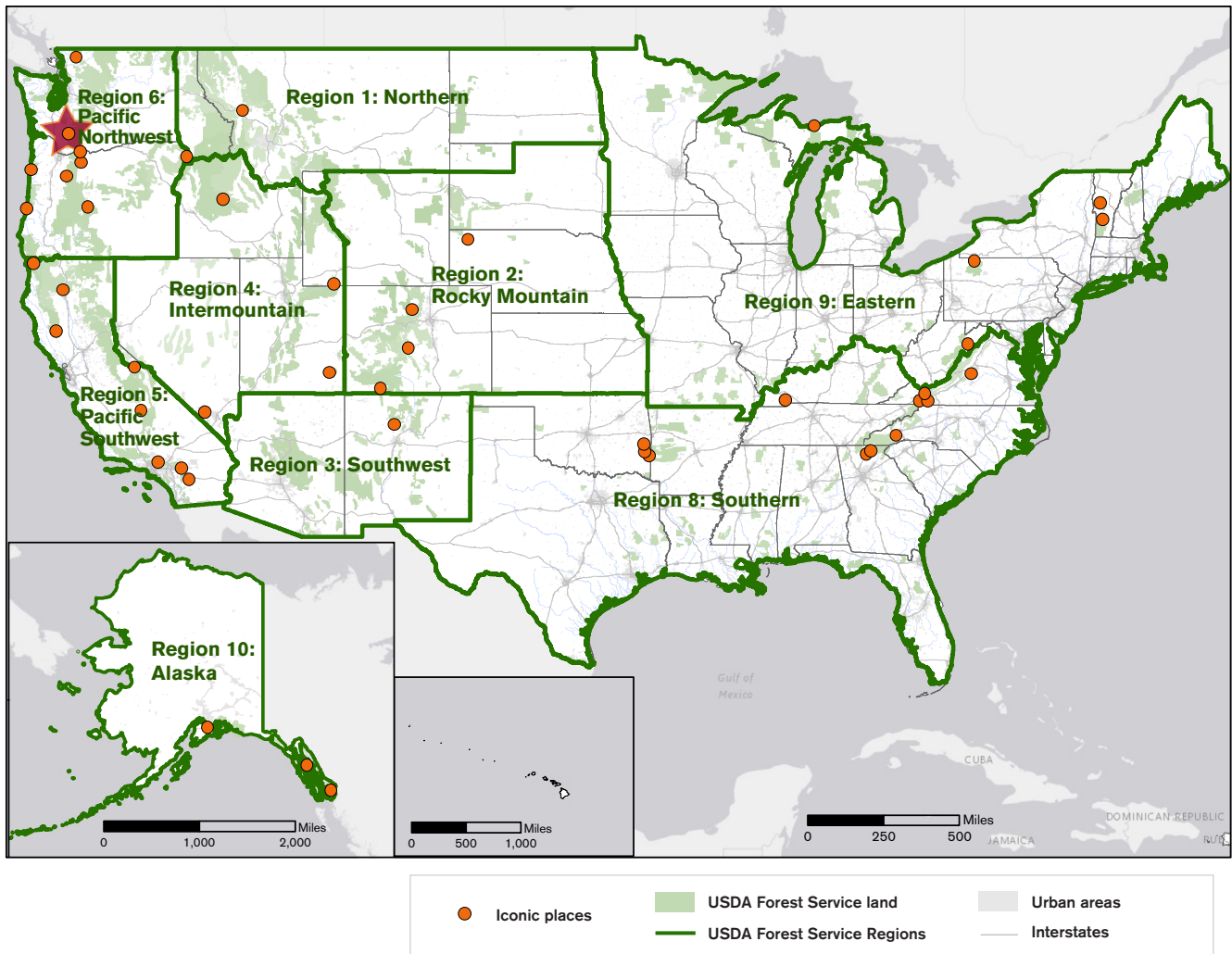


Photo: Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt. St. Helens NVM blast zone, from Mt Margaret. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/37175421105/in/album-72157662485451442/>.



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)

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

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.

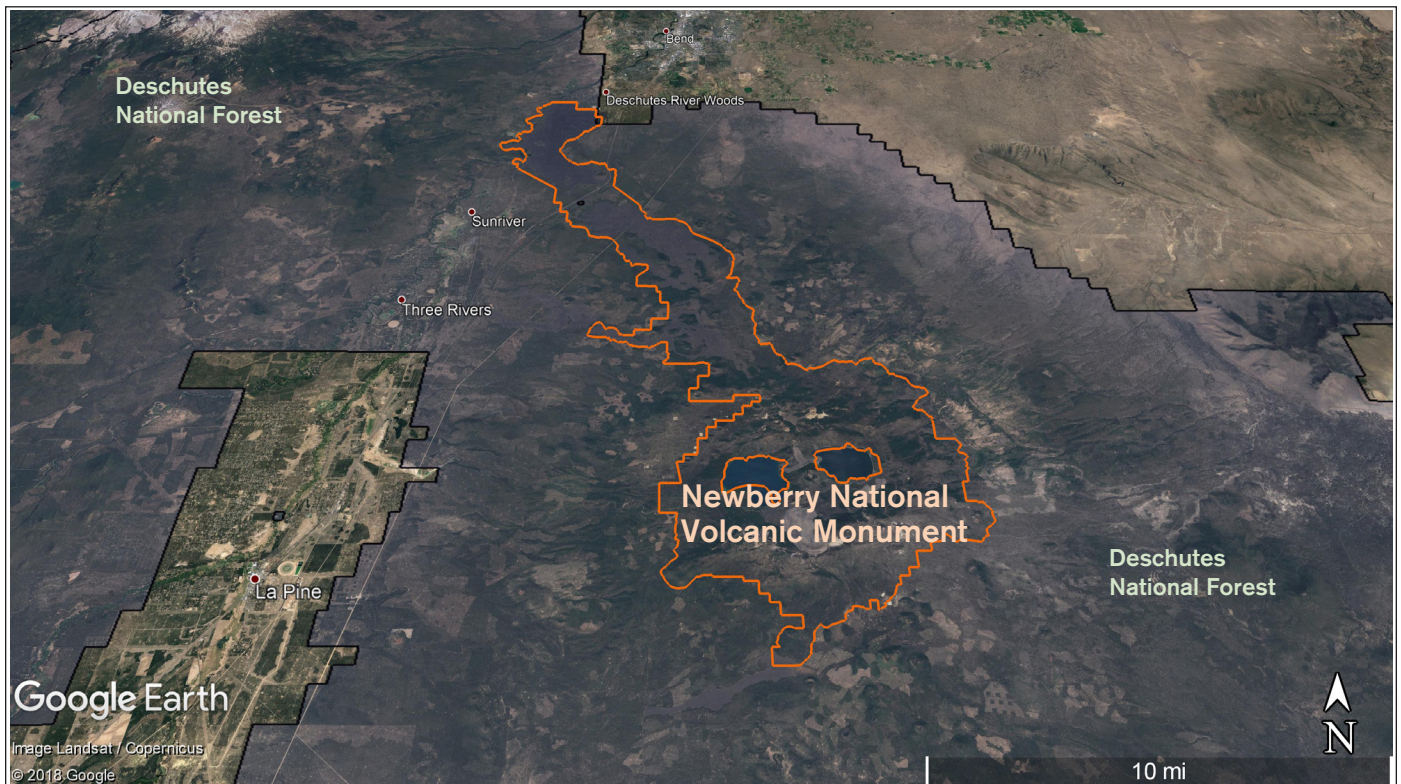
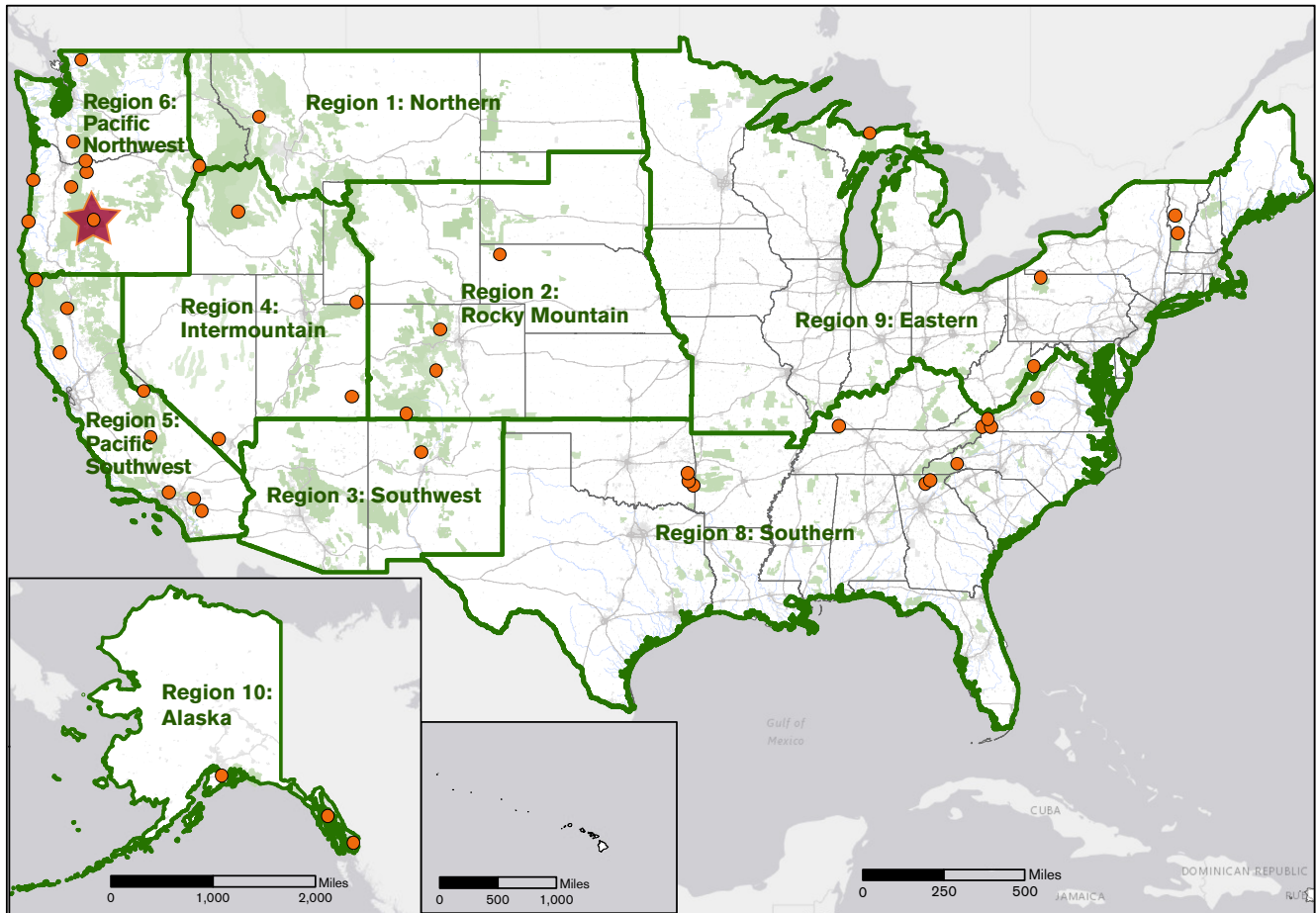


Photo: View of Paulina Lake in winter in the Newberry Crater NVM. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest-servicenw/23848648221/in/album-72157671870012723/>.



OPAL CREEK

NATIONAL SCENIC AND RECREATION AREA

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

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.

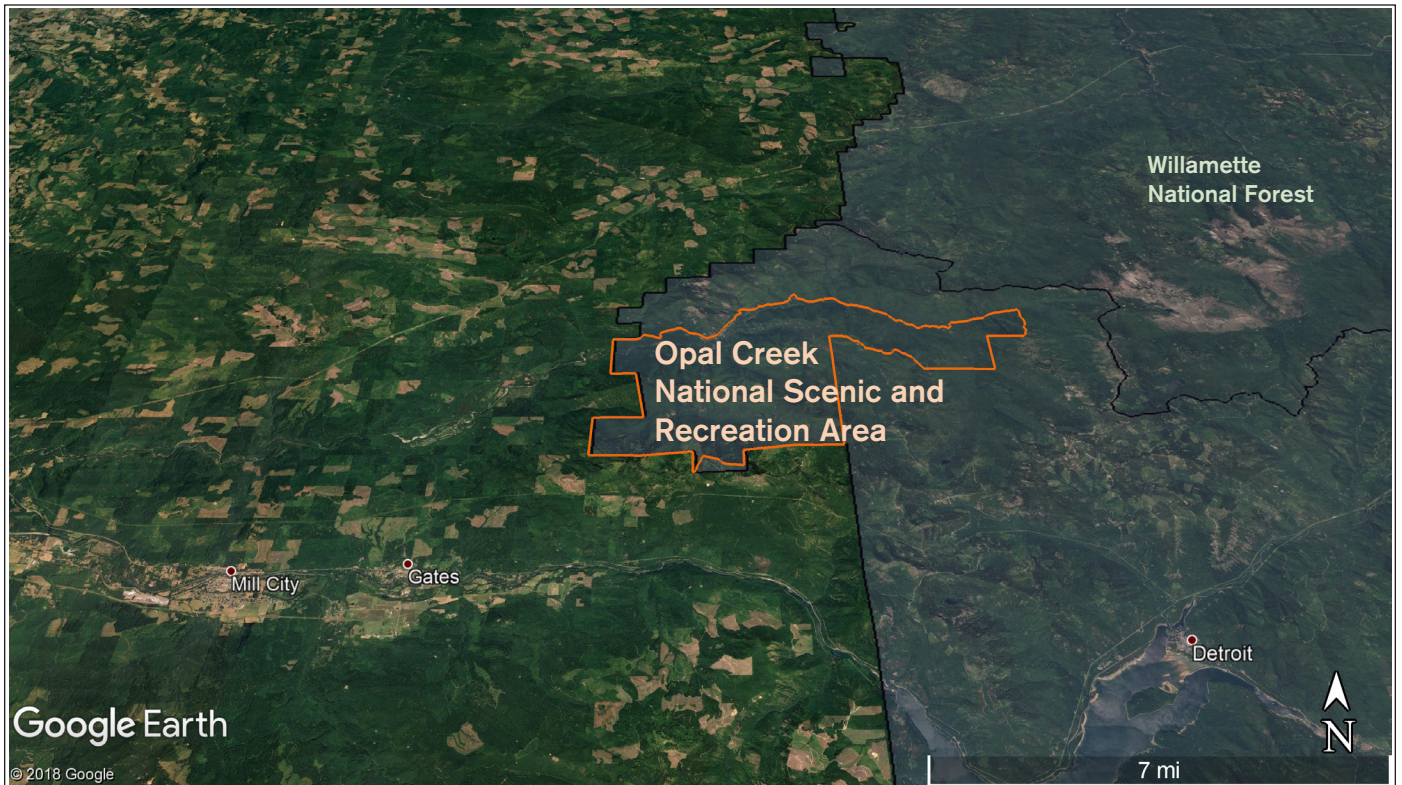
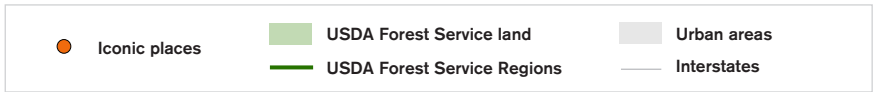
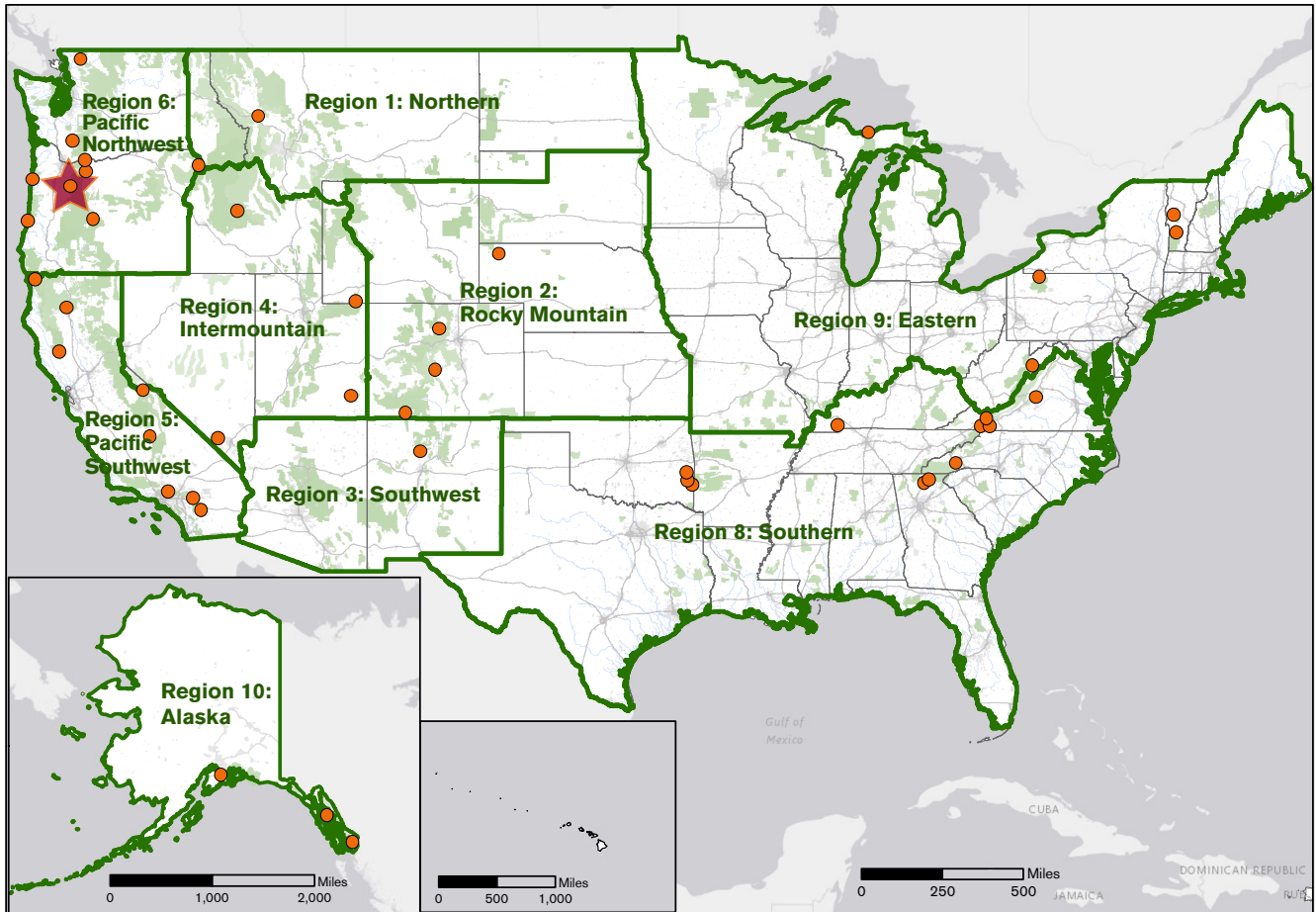


Photo: Small Cascade at Three Pools on the Willamette National Forest near Opal Creek Wilderness. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/29491734443>



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.

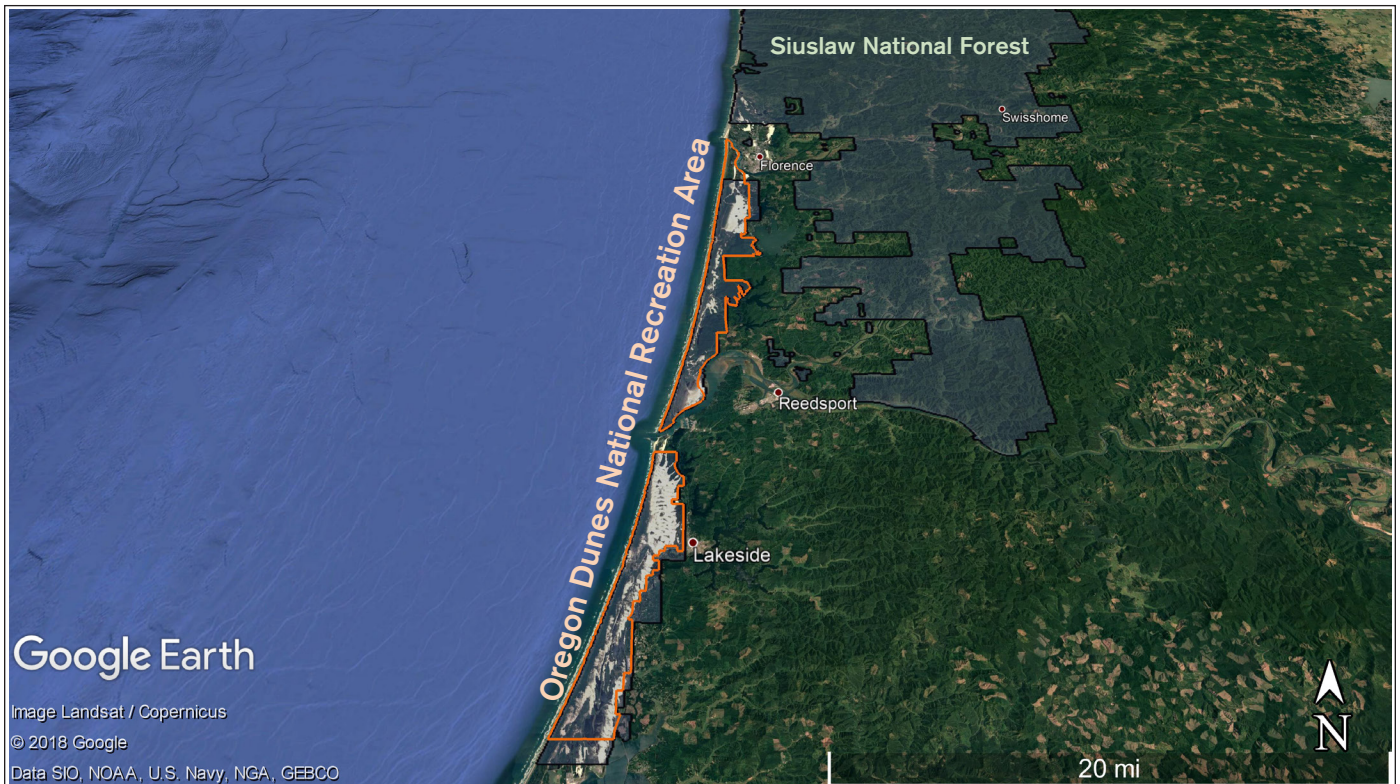
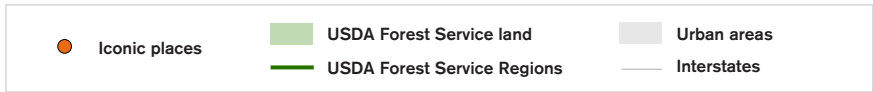
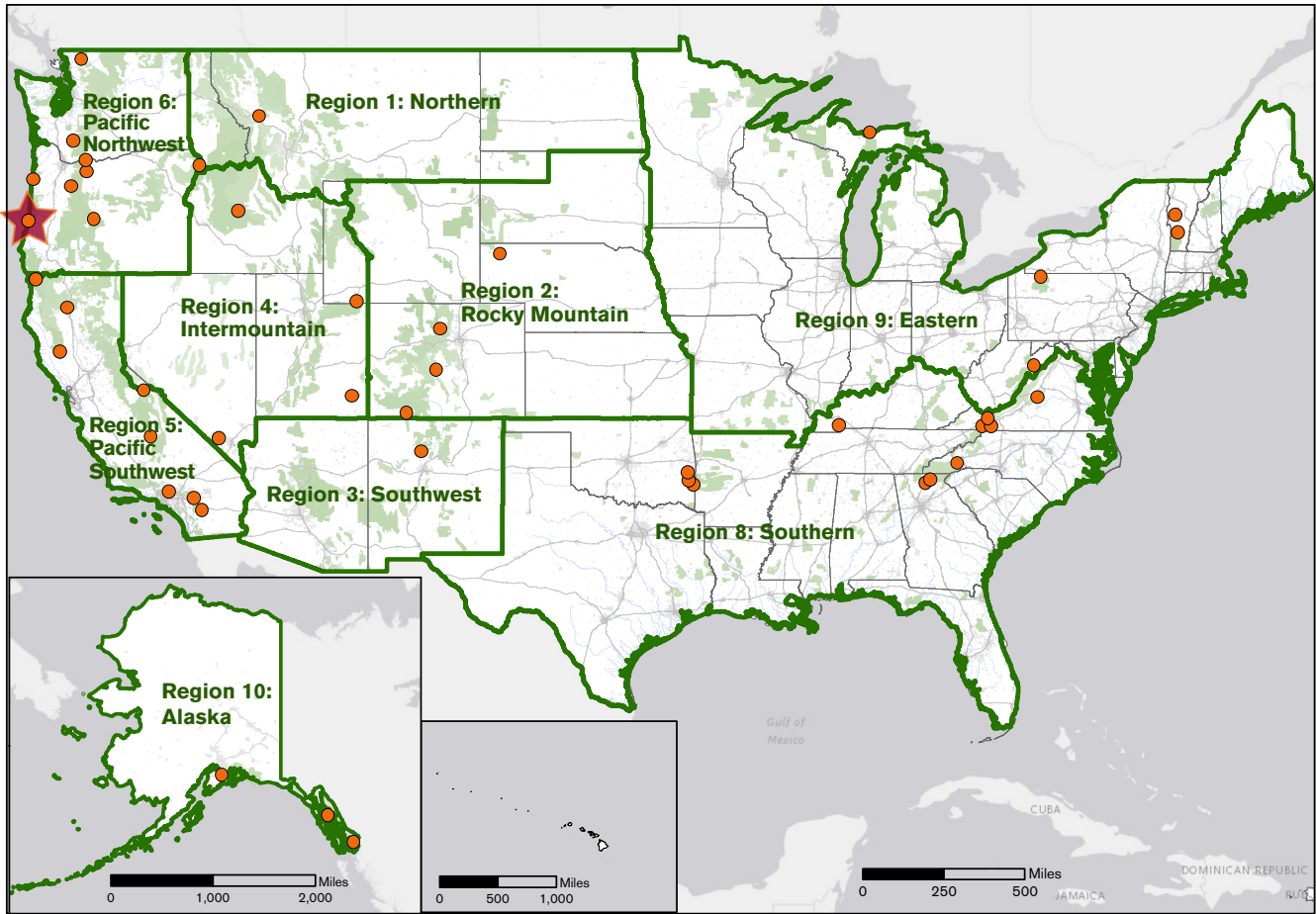


Photo: Oregon Dunes NRA. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservicenw/30708190570/in/album-72157664507355910/>.



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

Annual visitors estimate and geography: George Washington-Jefferson National Forest: 1,766,449 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)

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.

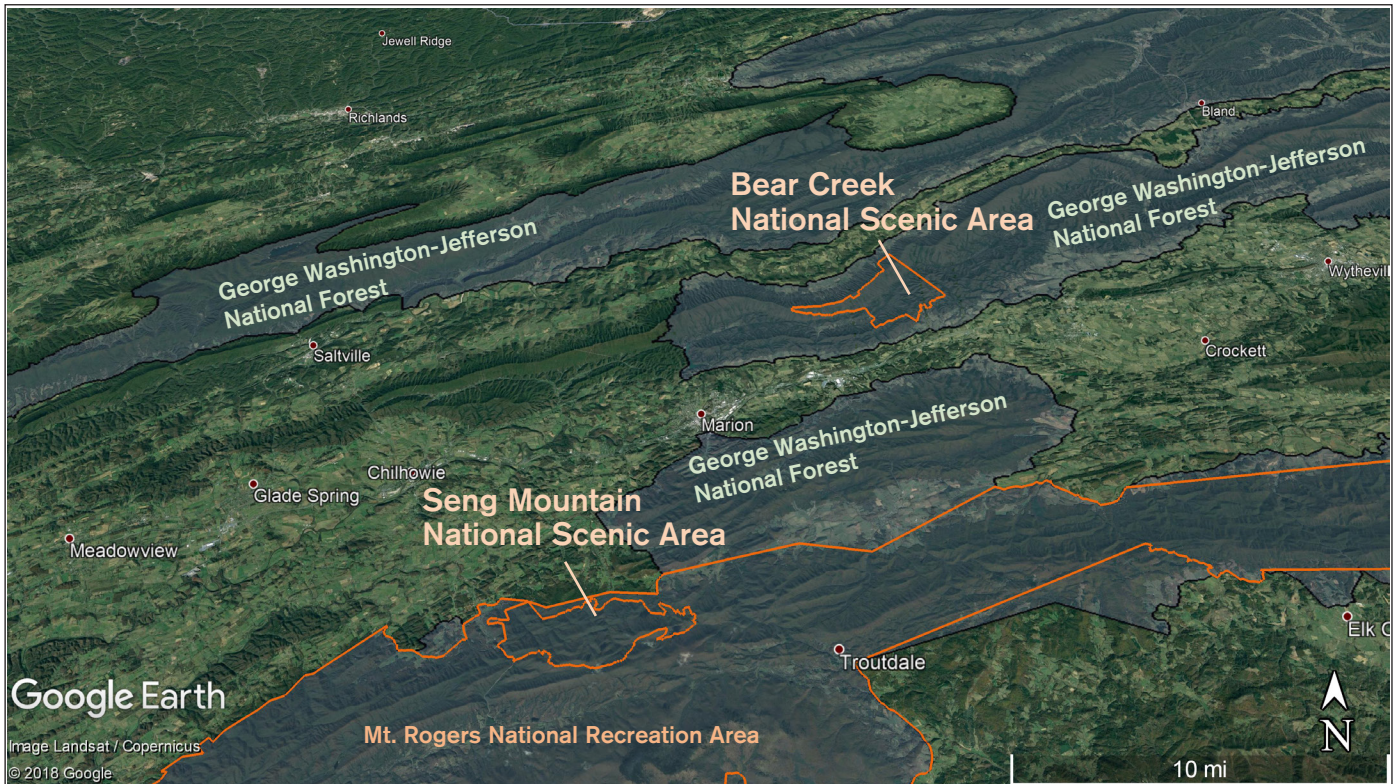
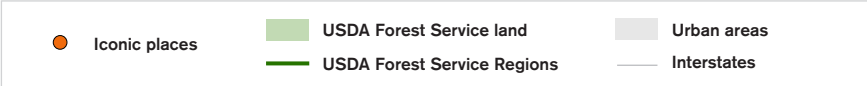
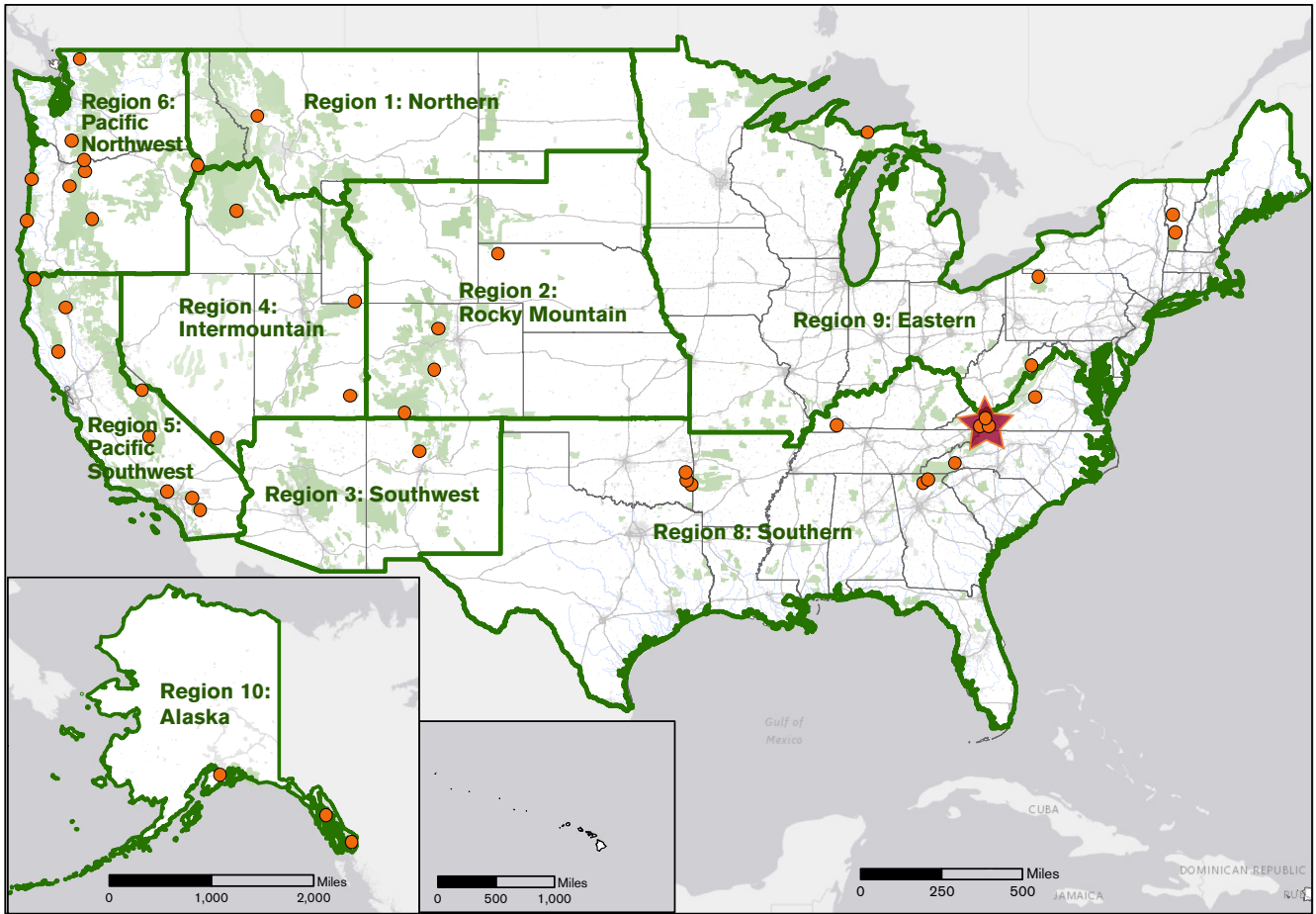


Photo: George Washington-Jefferson National Forest viewpoint. USDA Forest Service Southern Region. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest_service_southern_region/16551465013/in/album-72157650797623853/. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>.



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)

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

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.

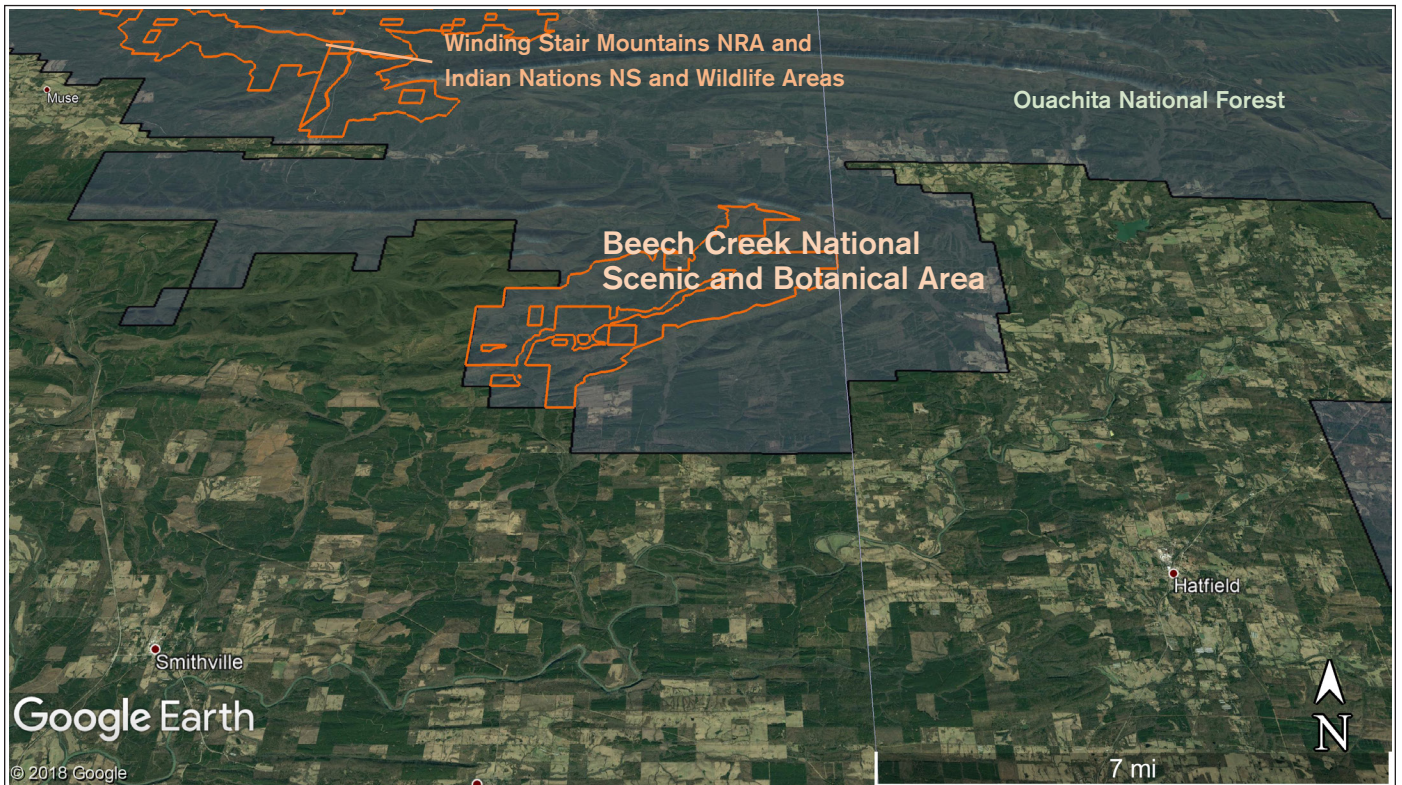
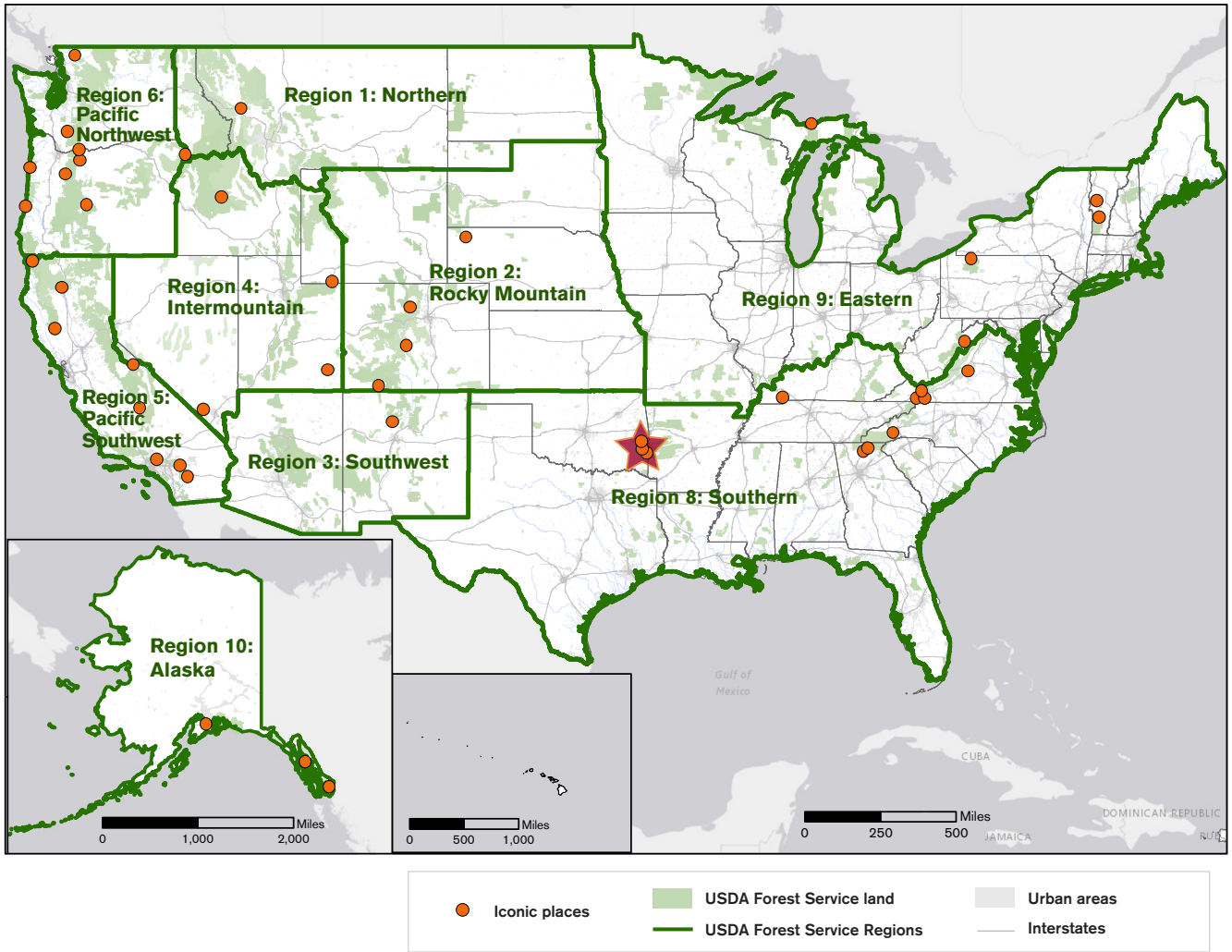


Photo: Ouachita National Forest, USDA Forest Service. Public Domain. Available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/photogallery/ouachita/home/gallery/?cid=1955&position=Promo>.

COOSA BALD

NATIONAL SCENIC AREA



ED JENKINS

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:

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).

At a glance:

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.

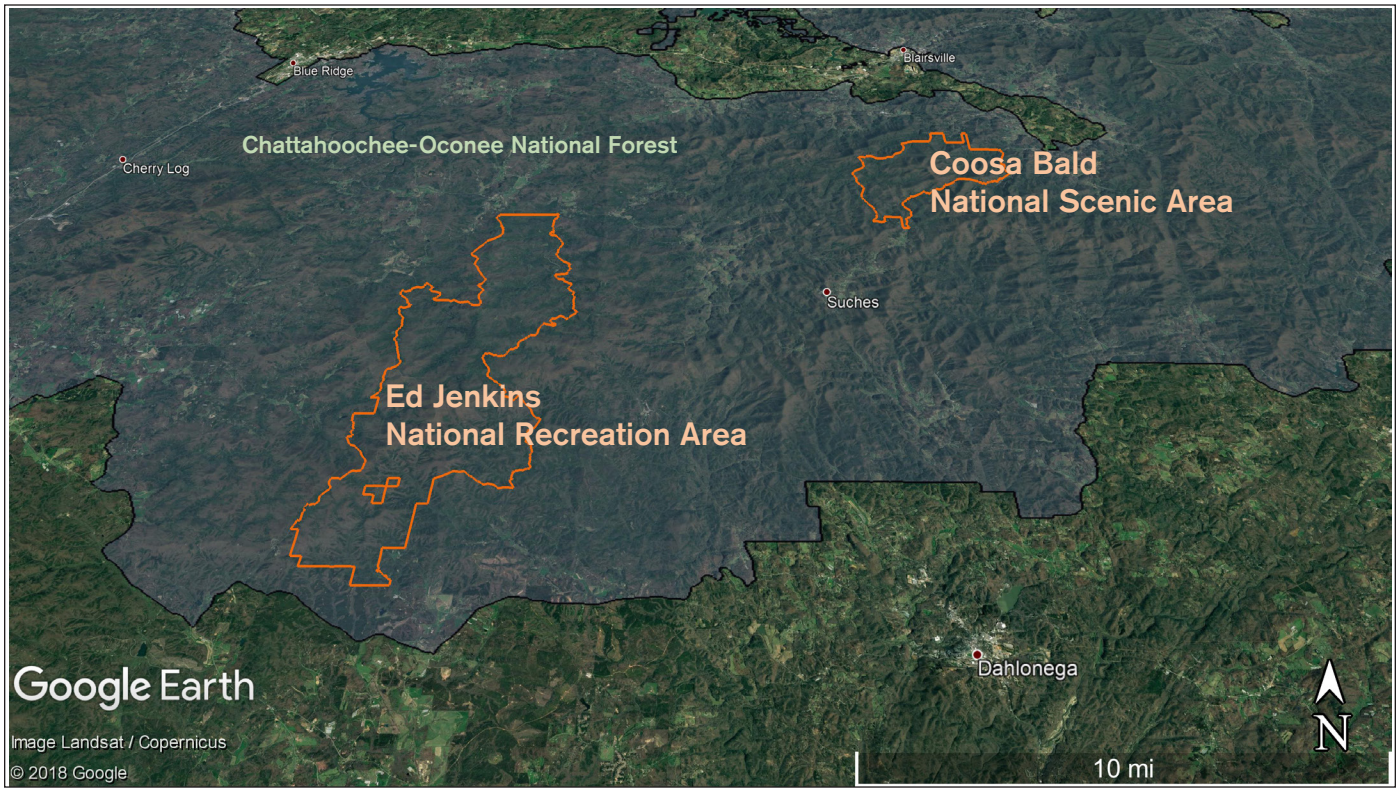
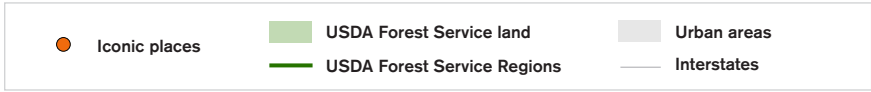
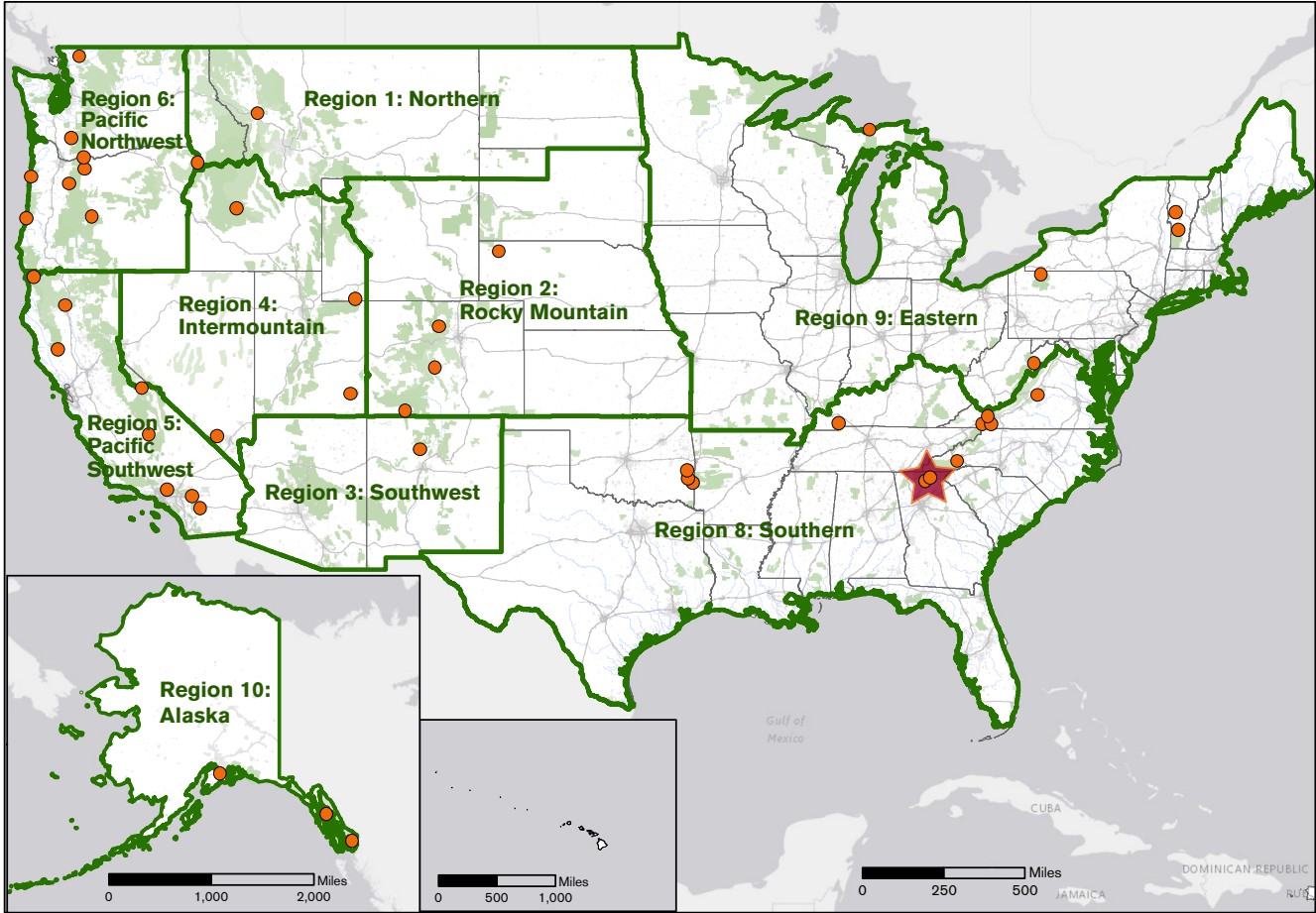


Photo: Viewpoint from Springer Mountain in the Ed Jenkins NRA, Georgia. Public domain available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/93558439@N05/21991938539/>.



CRADLE OF FORESTRY IN AMERICA

NATIONAL HISTORIC AREA

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

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).

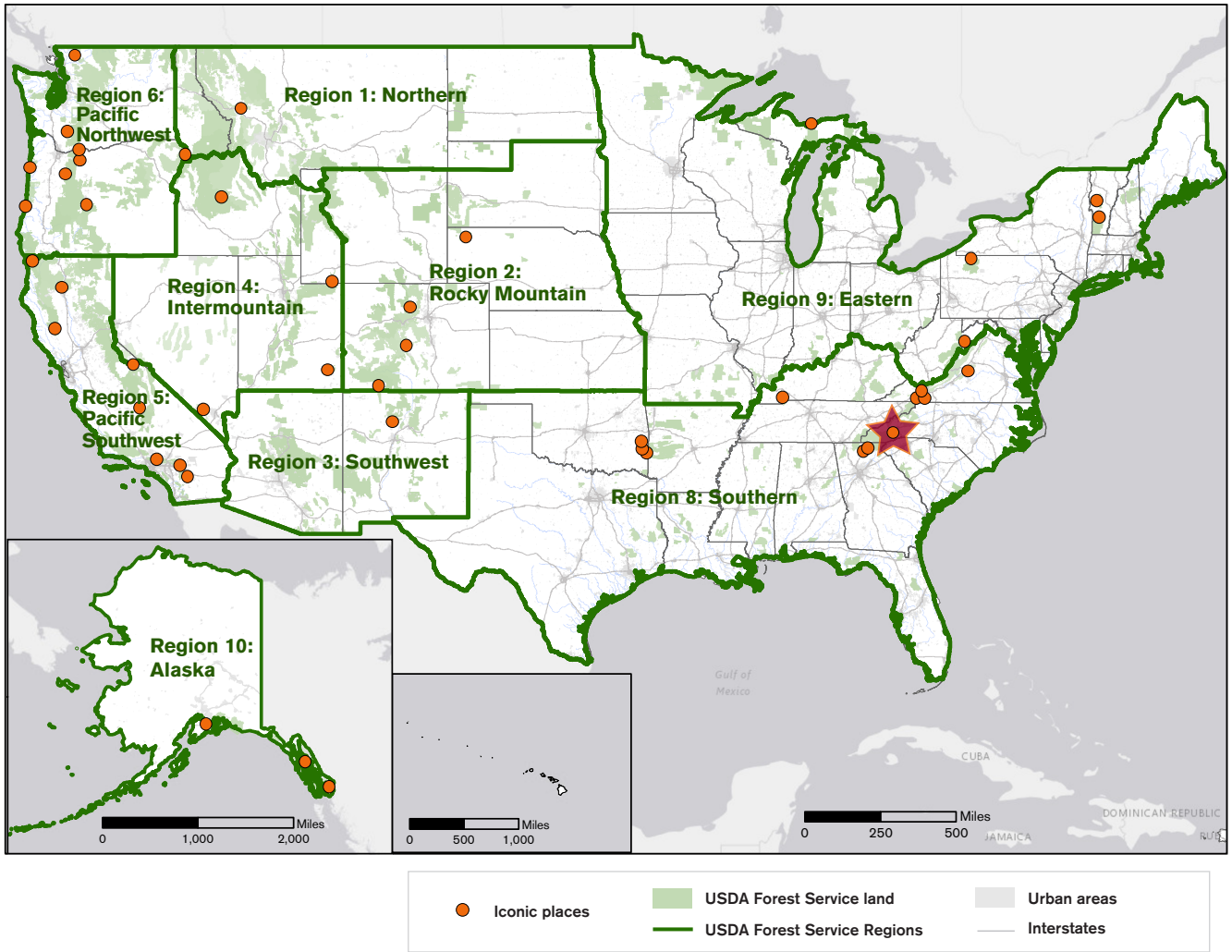


Photo: Cradle of Forestry National Historic Area pathway. USDA Forest Service. Public Domain. Available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nfsnc/recarea/?recid=48230>.



INDIAN NATIONS & WINDING STAIR MOUNTAIN

NATIONAL SCENIC & WILDLIFE AREA 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 National 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 NRA. 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.

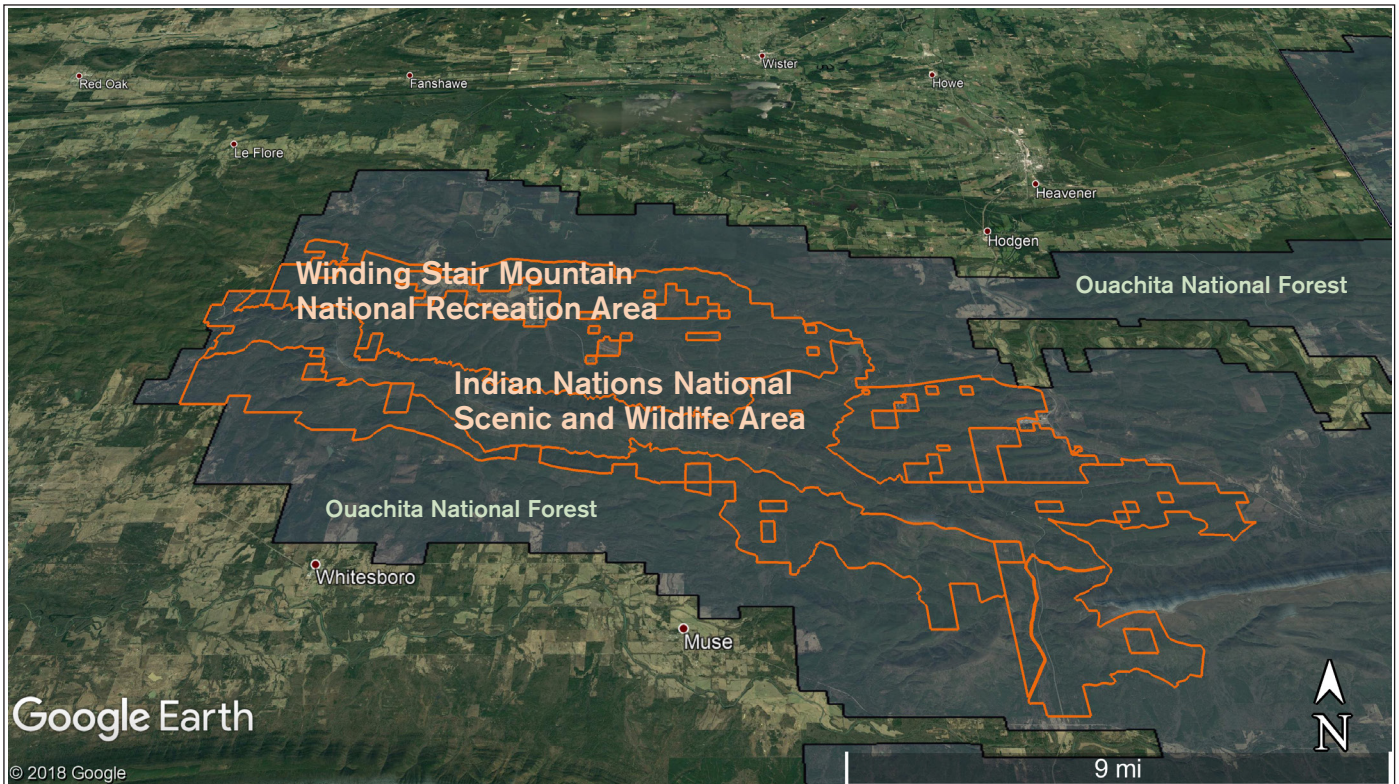
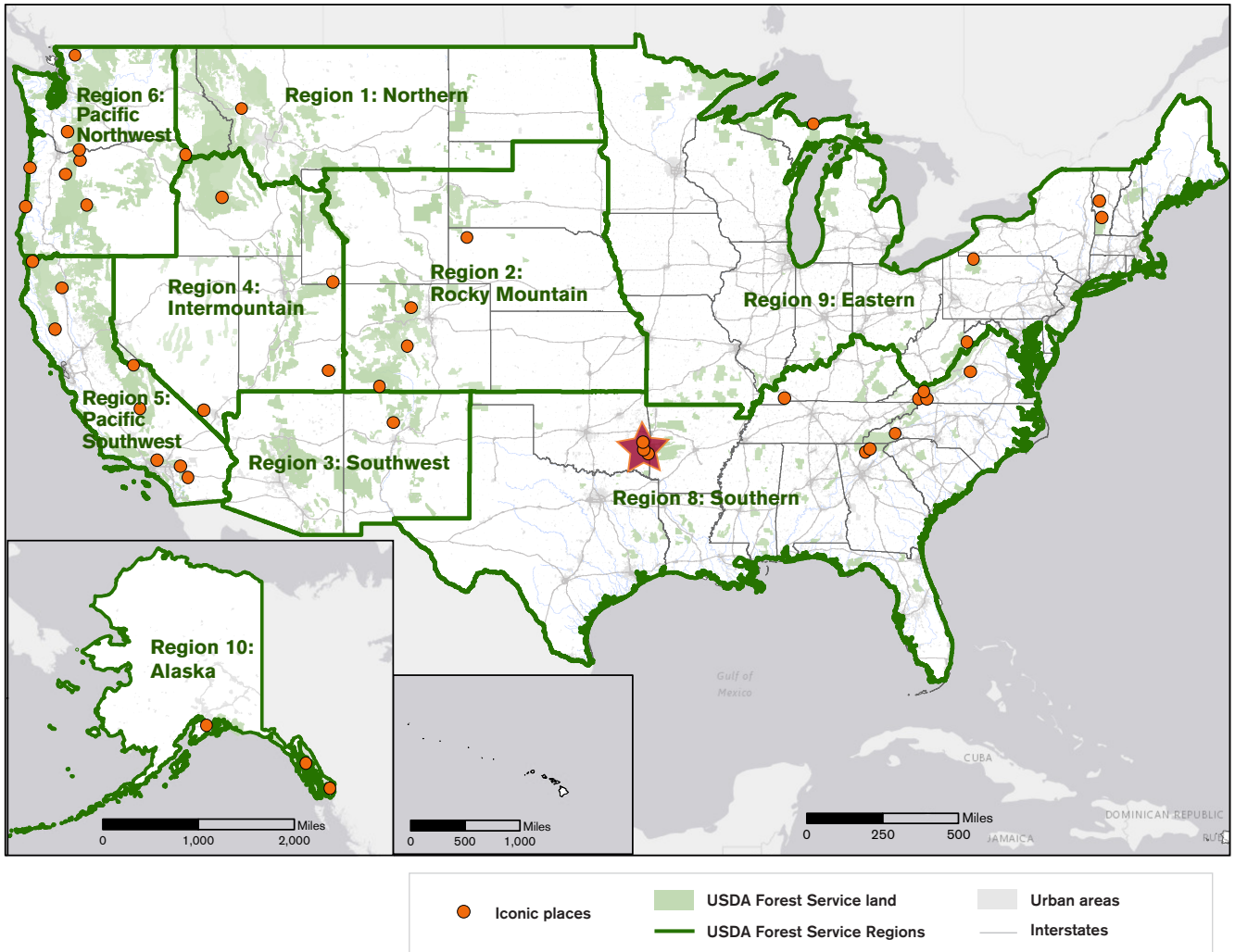


Photo: Ouachita National Forest. Public Domain. Available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MEDIA/stelprdb5162080.jpg.



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.

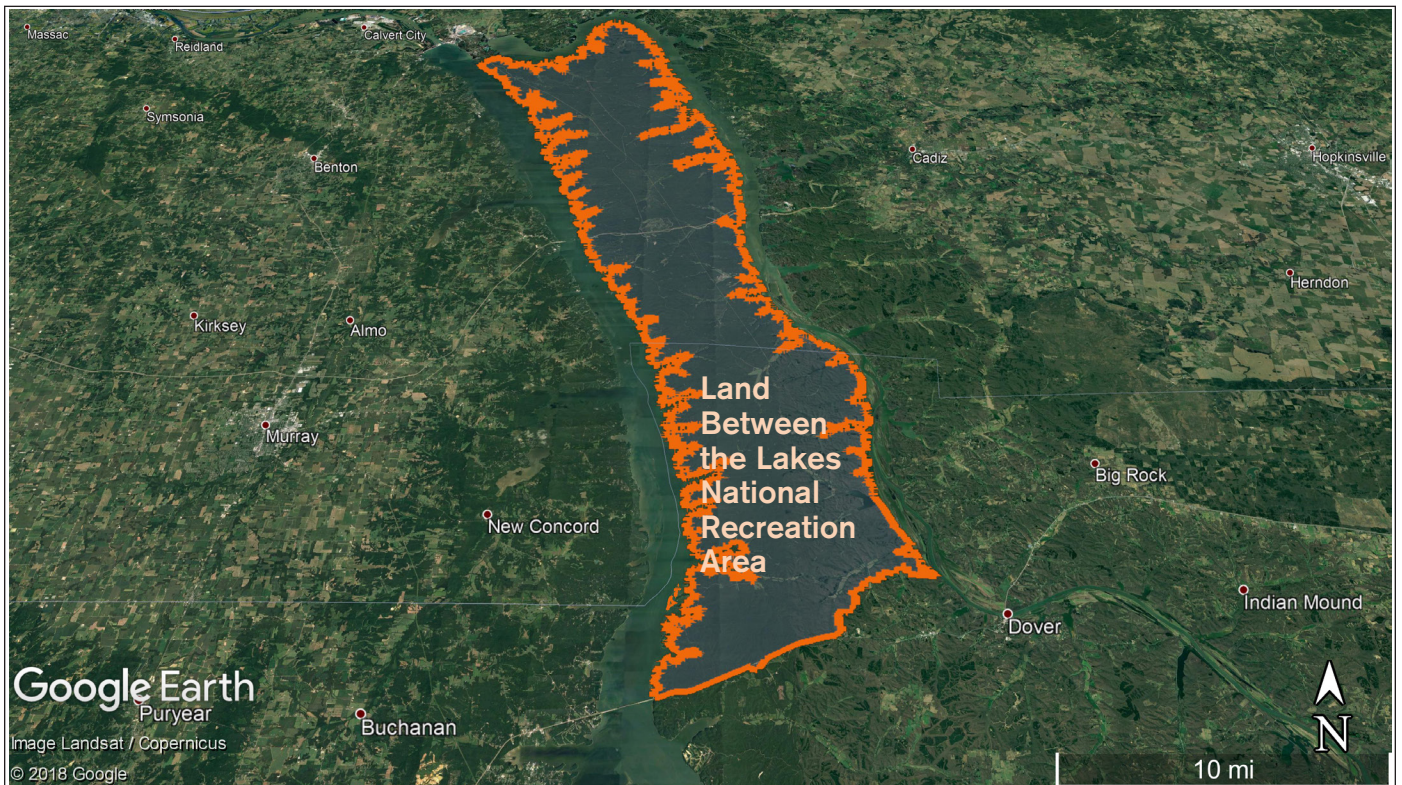
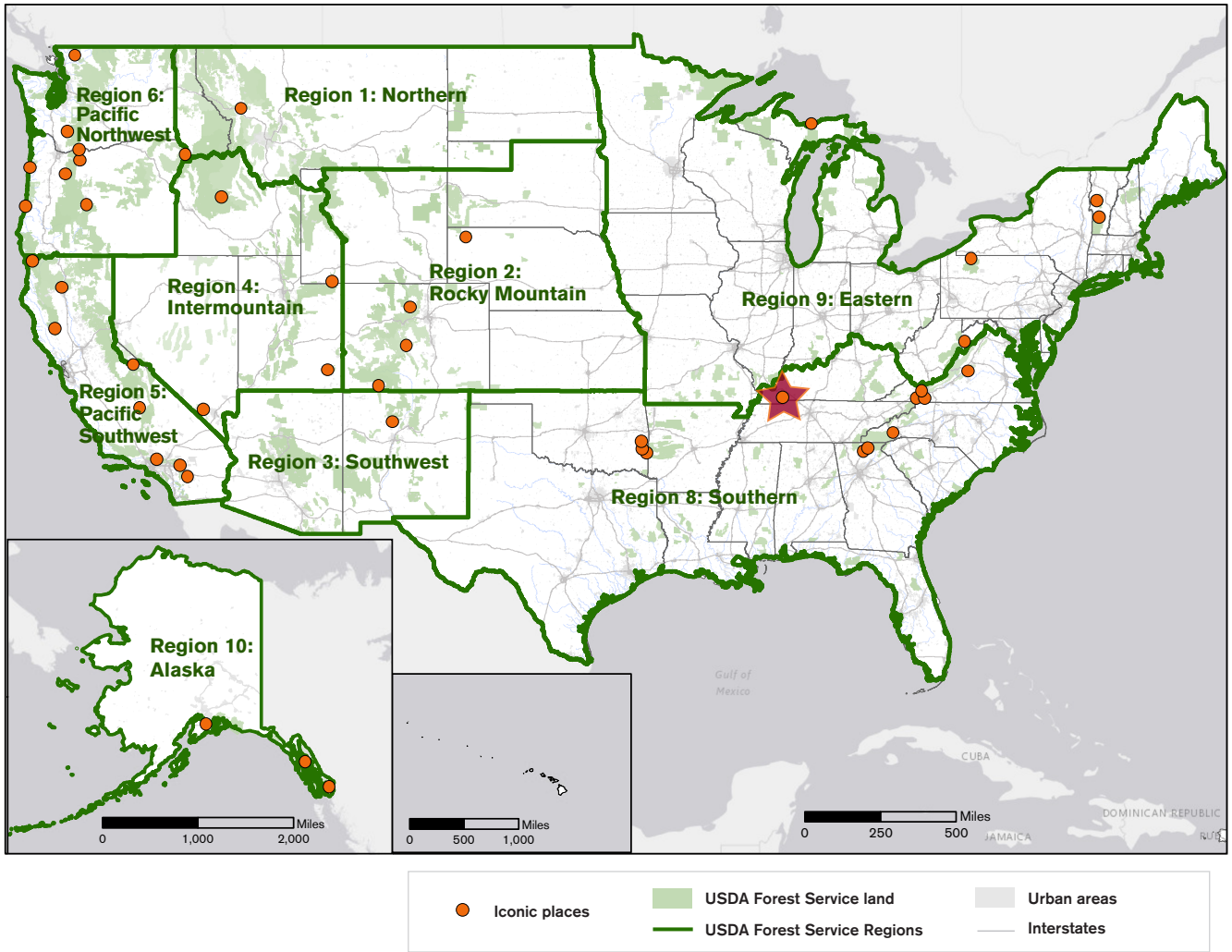


Photo: Sunset at Land Between the Lakes NRA. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest_service_southern_region/16390824184/in/album-72157649387928943/. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>.



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)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Lynchburg, VA; 13 miles

Population within 25 miles: 232,076

Population within 100 miles: 3,494,529

Annual visitors estimate and geography: George Washington-Jefferson National Forest: 1,766,449 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Wildlife viewing, hiking, backpacking, hunting, bird watching, stargazing

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.

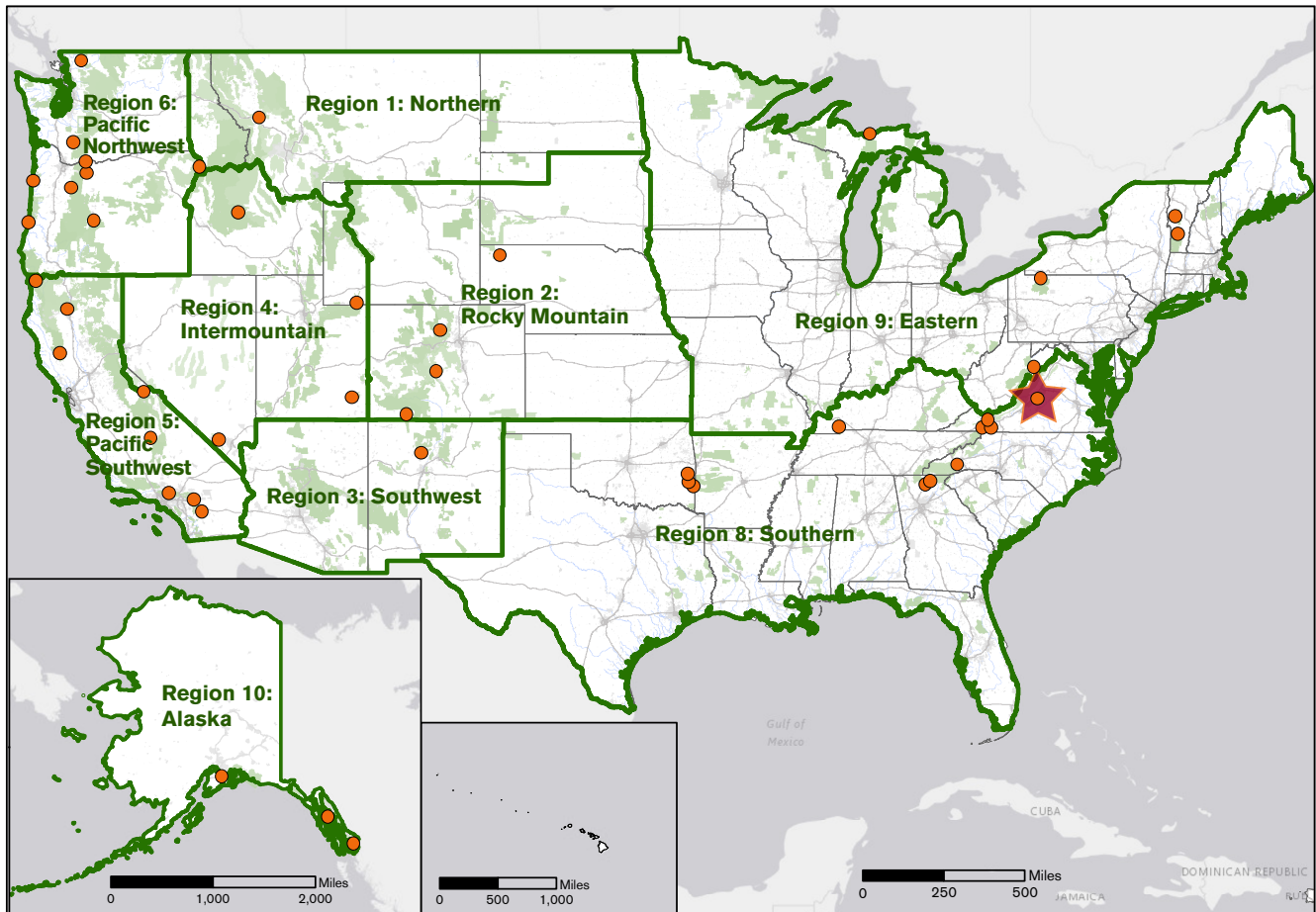


Photo: Fog over Whitesburg on the Washington-Jefferson National Forest. USDA Forest Service, Southern Region. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest_service_southern_region/17171030121/in/album-72157651591919220/. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>.



MOUNT ROGERS

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:

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

Annual visitors estimate and geography: George Washington-Jefferson National Forest: 1,766,449 estimated annual visits (2016, NVUM); "Over one million visitors come to Mount Rogers every year" (USDA Forest Service, 2019).

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.

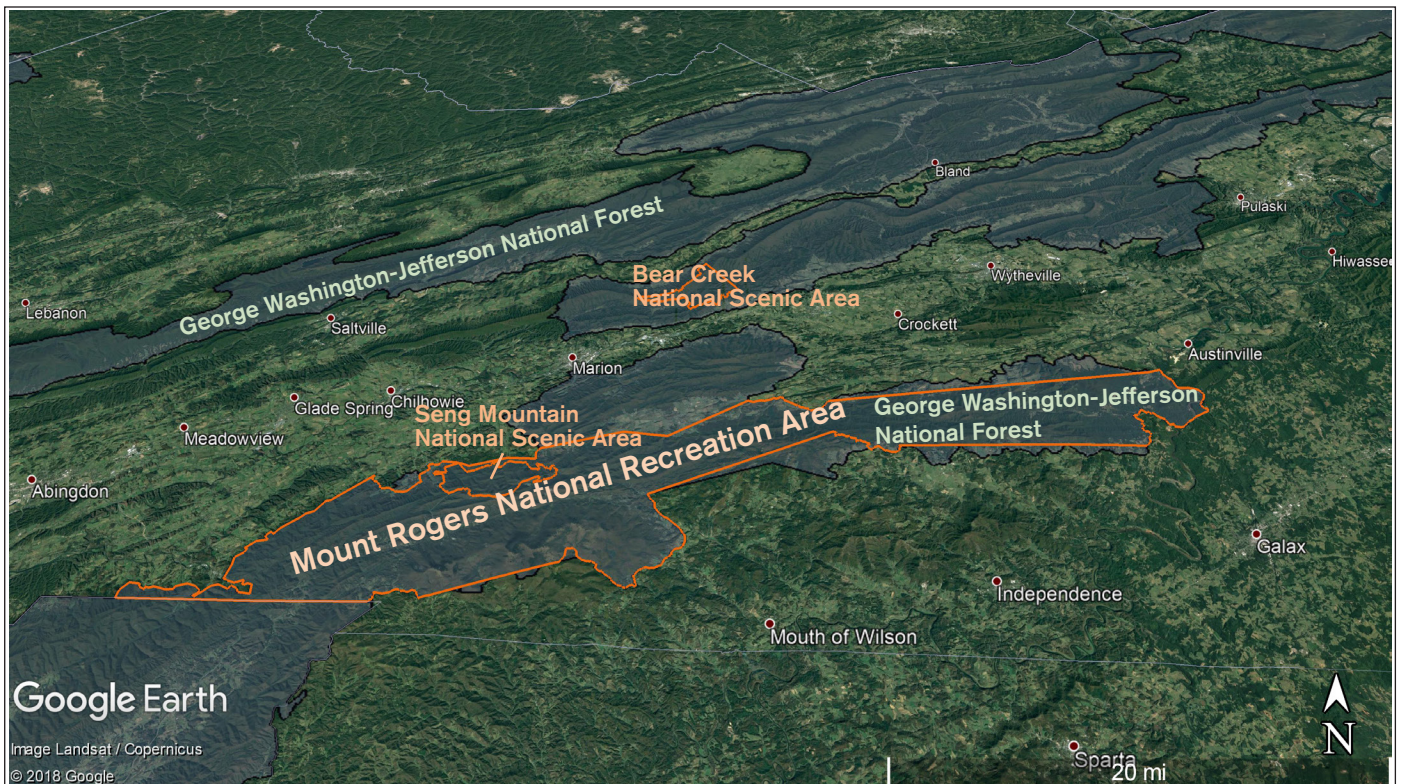
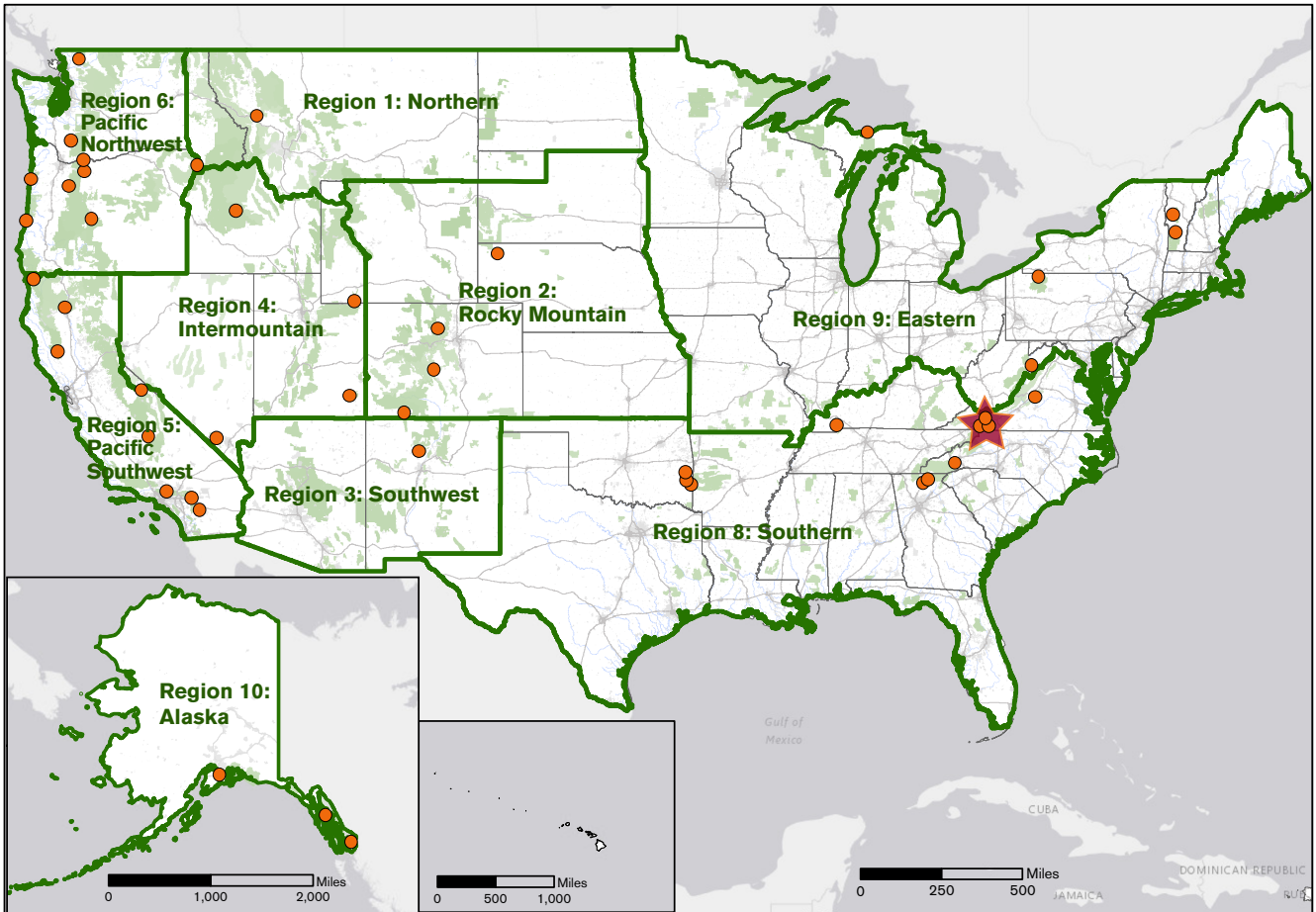
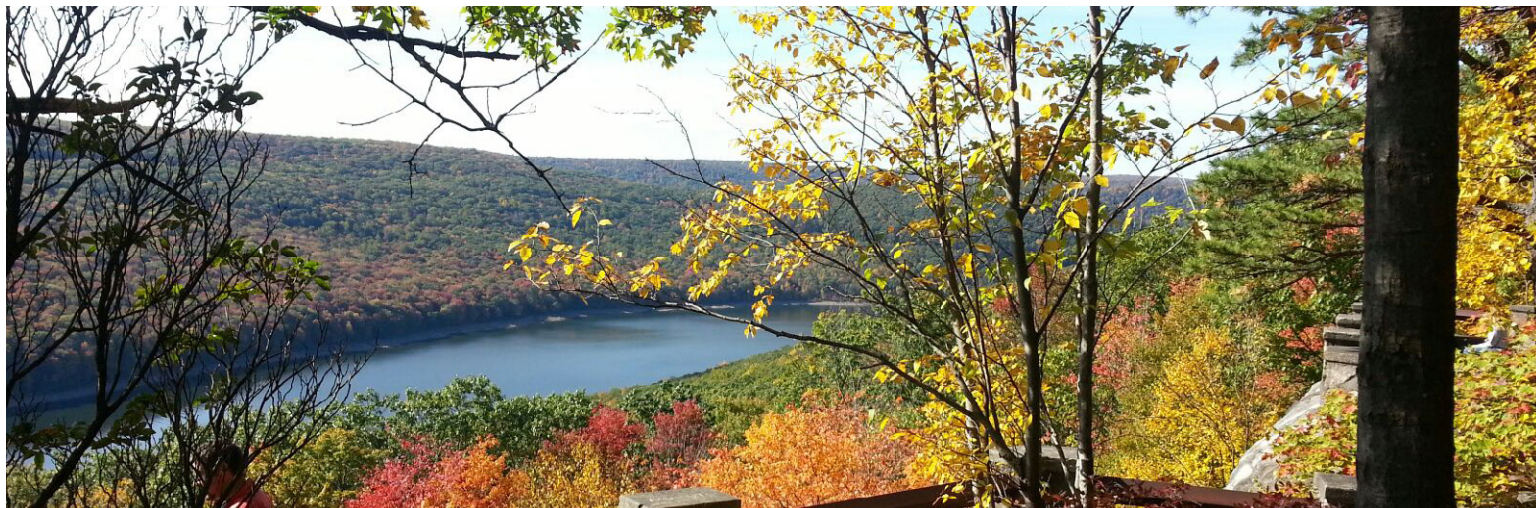


Photo: Fall colors in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. USDA Forest Service, Southern Region. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/forest_service_southern_region/16984105320/in/album-72157650797623853/. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>.



ALLEGHENY

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:

Allegheny 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.

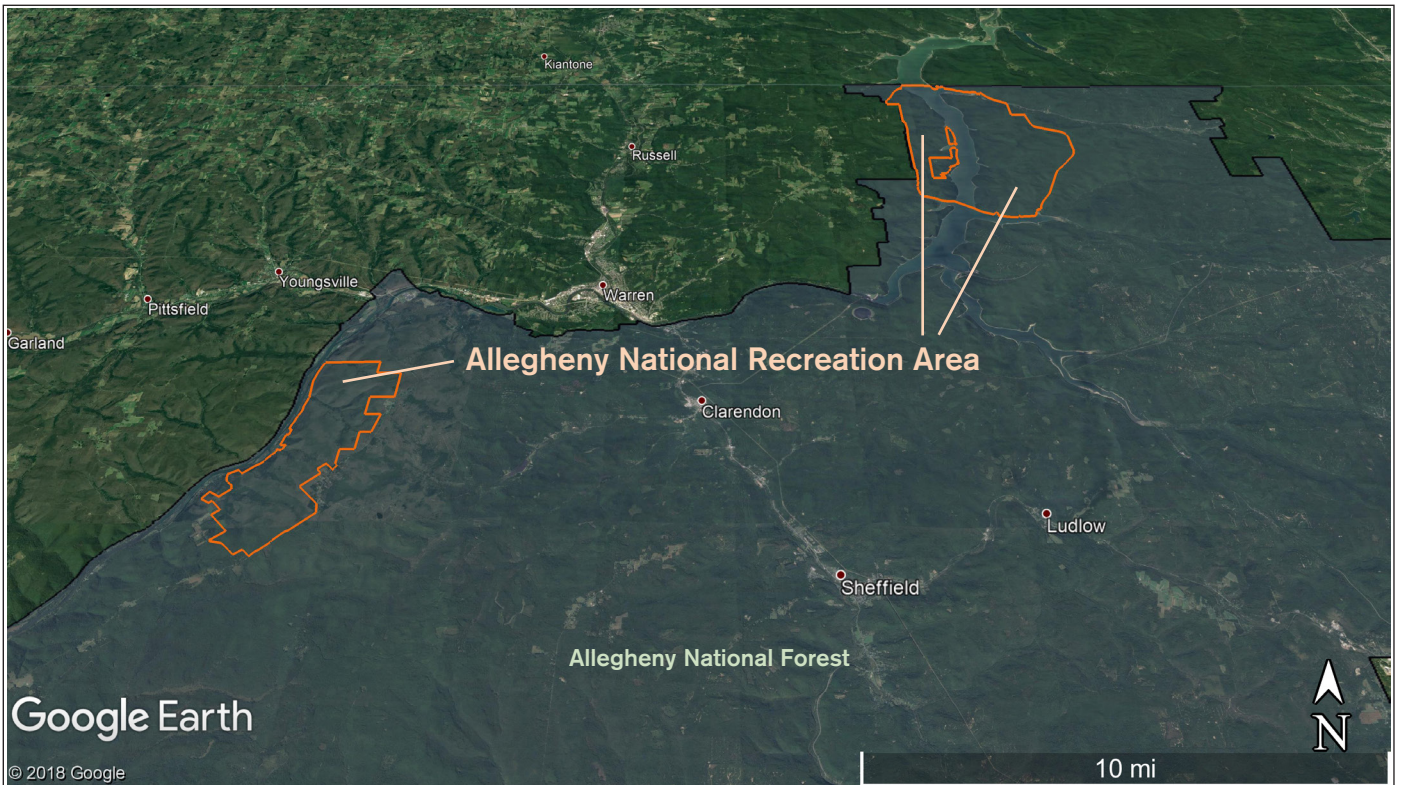
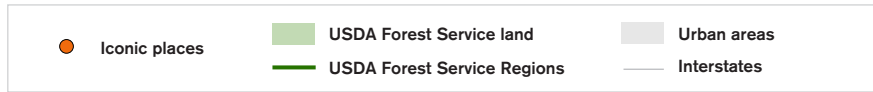
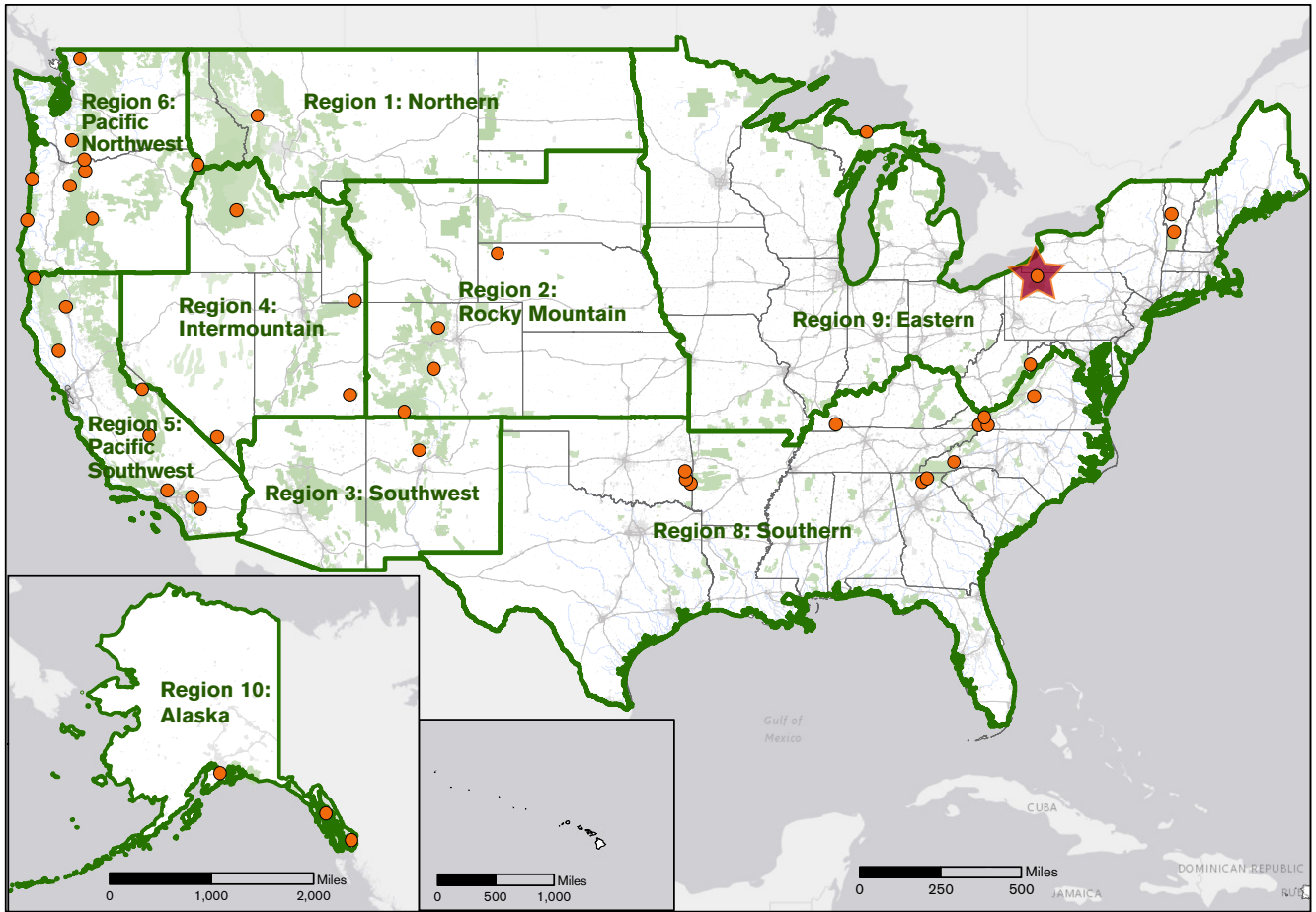


Photo: Allegheny Reservoir. USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region. Public domain, available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_eastern_region/



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.

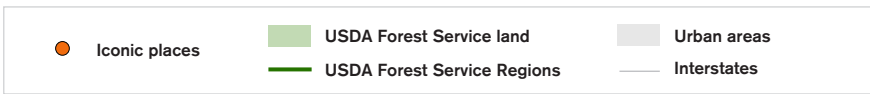
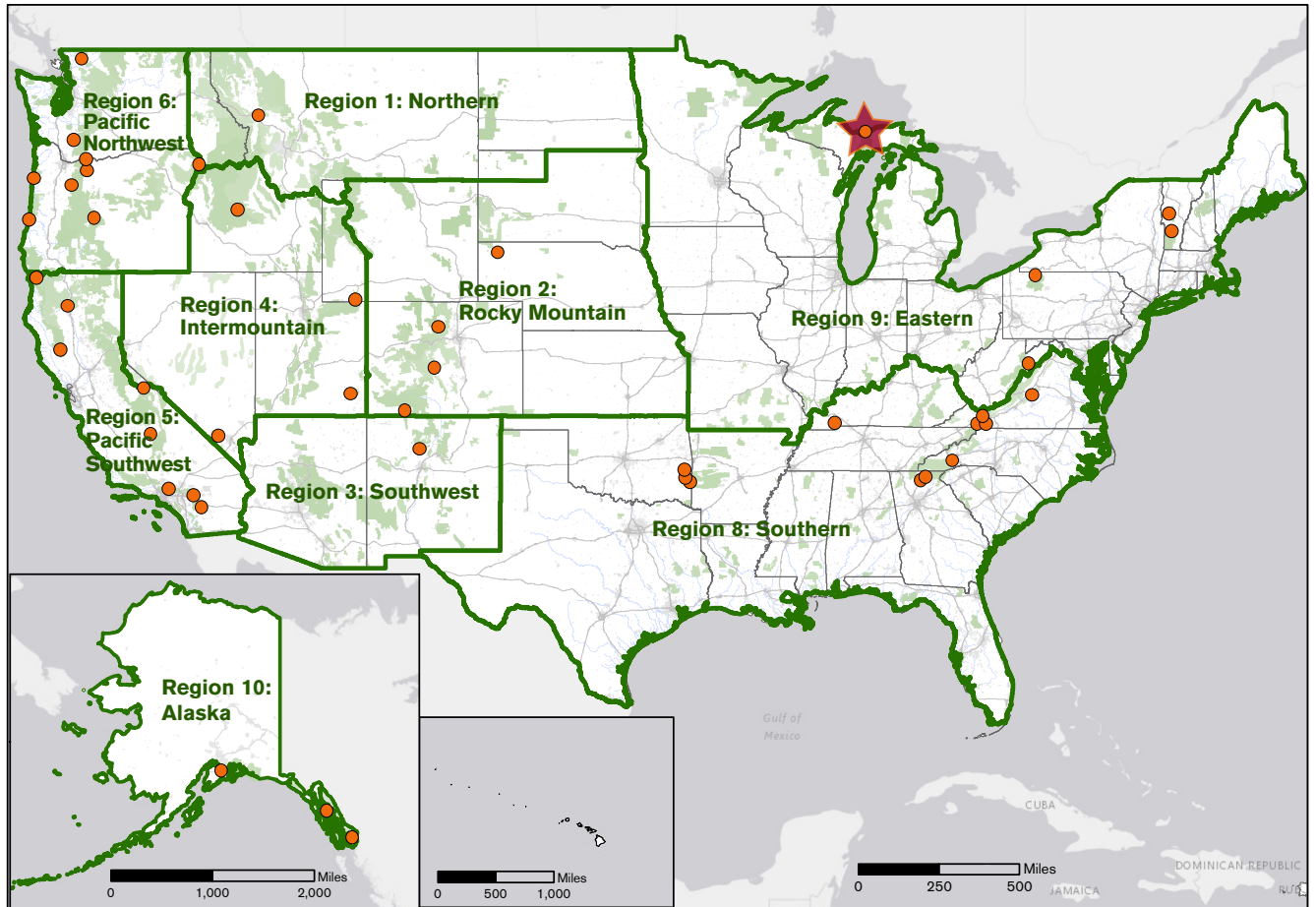


Photo: Williams Landing in the Hiawatha National Forest. Public Domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_eastern_region/10557365535/in/album-72157671978105712/.



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).

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

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.

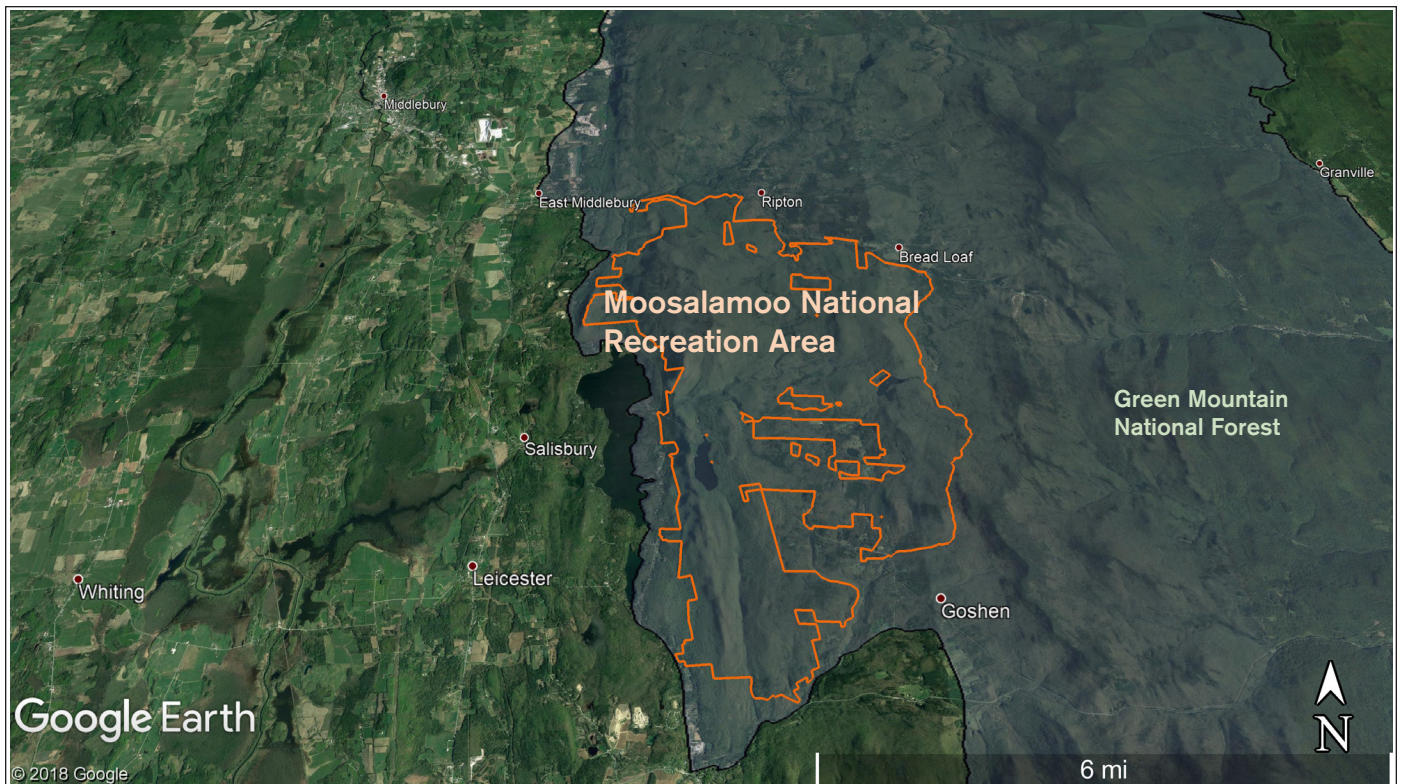
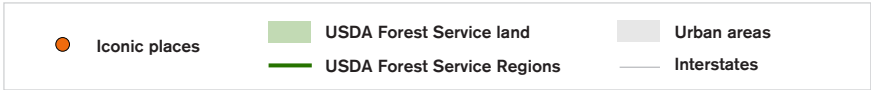
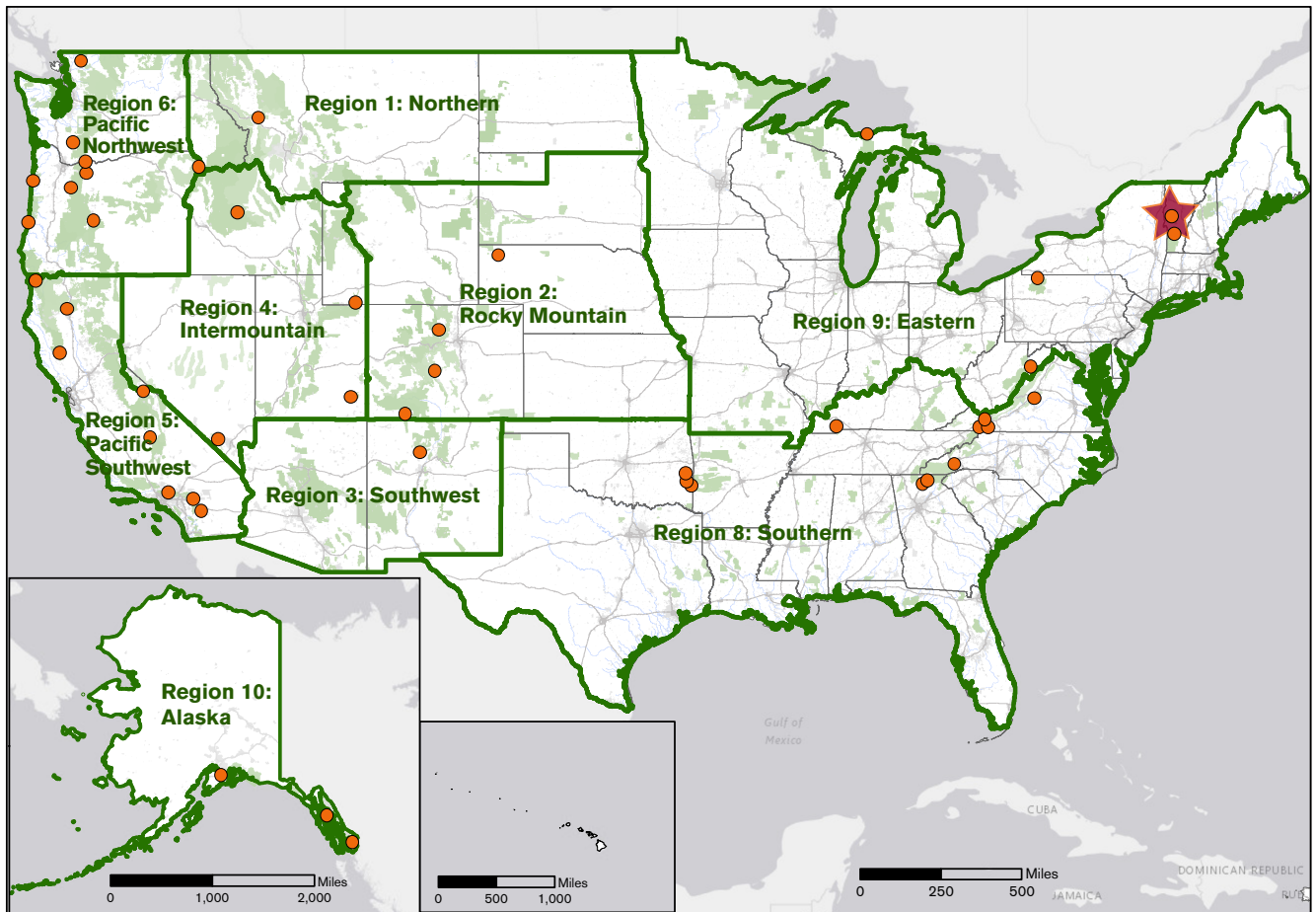


Photo: Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake from Rattlesnake Cliffs in the Moosalamoo NRA. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_eastern_region/36287025761/in/photolist-LiQvjQ-Xhyuxc.



ROBERT T. STAFFORD WHITE ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

At a glance:

Robert T. Stafford White Rocks NRA quick facts

Date established: June 19, 1984

Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 98-322

Forest Service region: 9, Eastern Region

State: Vermont

Associated national forest: Green Mountain

Total Forest Service acres: 36,563

Reasons designated: “to preserve and protect [the area’s] existing wilderness and wild values and to promote wild forest and aquatic habitat for wildlife, watershed protection, opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive recreation, and scenic, ecological, and scientific values.” (U.S. Congress, 1984).

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Glen Falls, NY; 40 miles

Population within 25 miles: 171,400

Population within 100 miles: 6,011,476

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Green Mountain National Forest: 2,139,185 estimated annual visits (2015, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Hiking, hunting, picnicking, camping, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, snowmobiling

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.

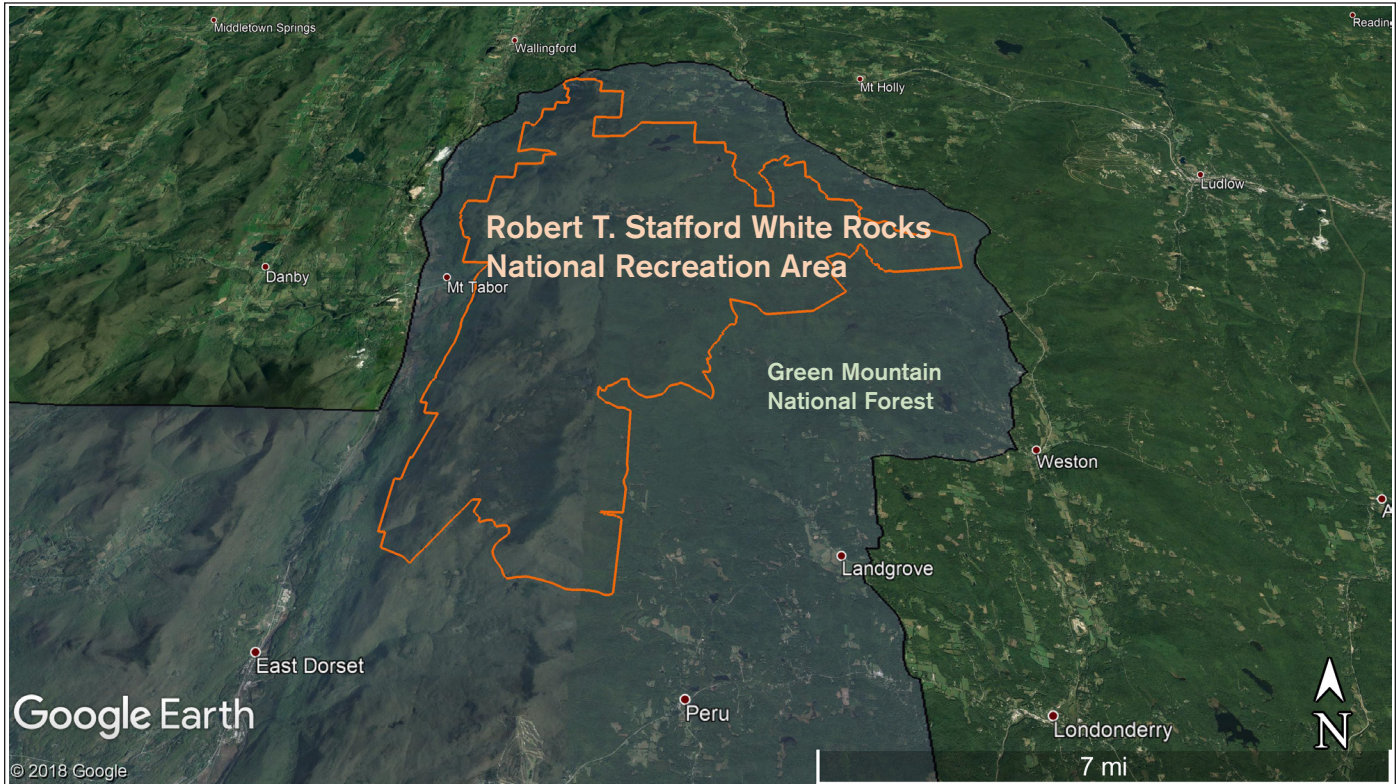
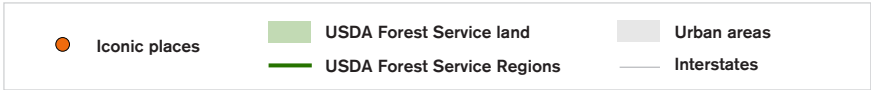
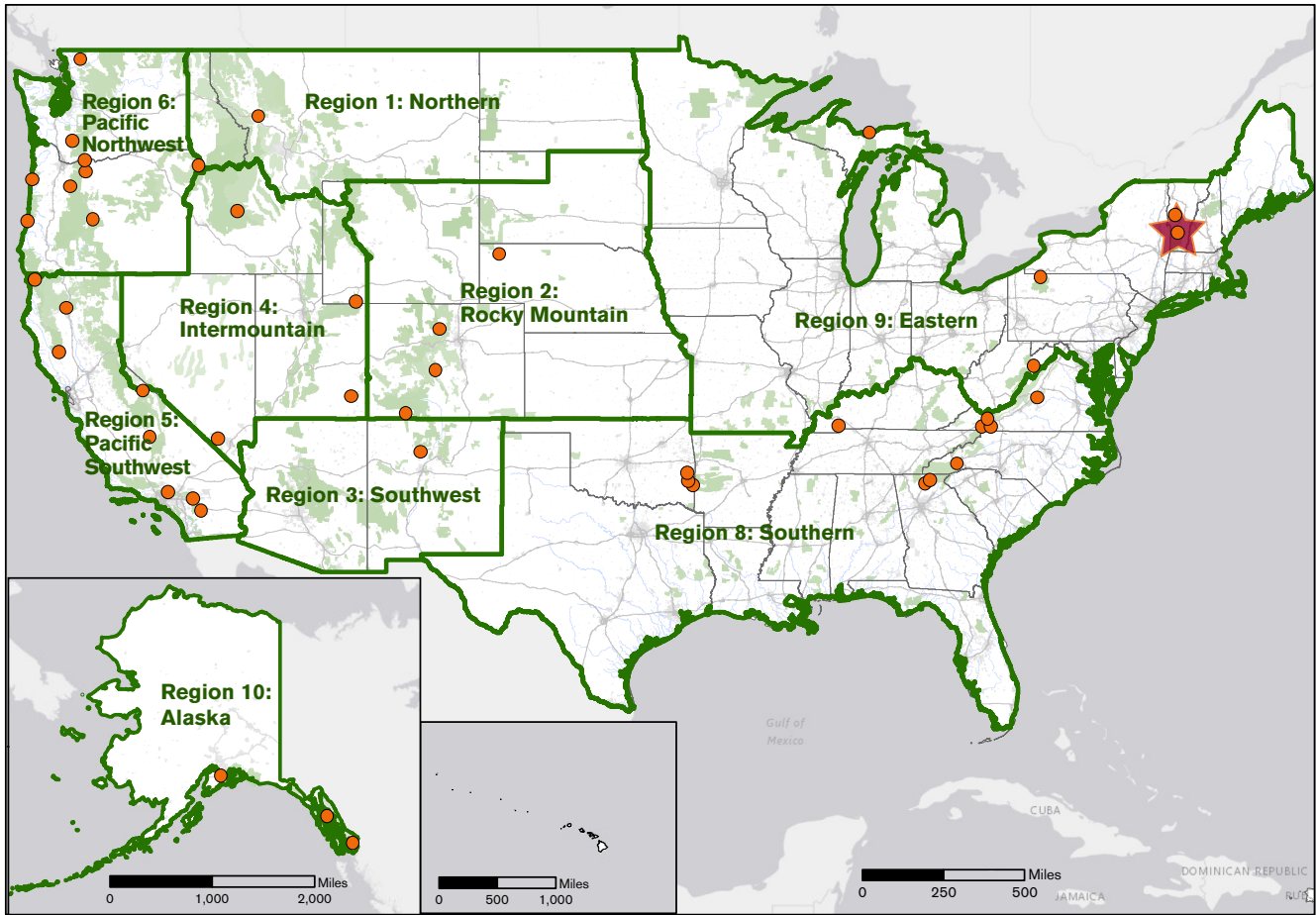


Photo: Fall foliage on the Green Mountain National Forest. Public domain. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_eastern_region/22012874961/in/album-72157656058429224/.



SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

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)

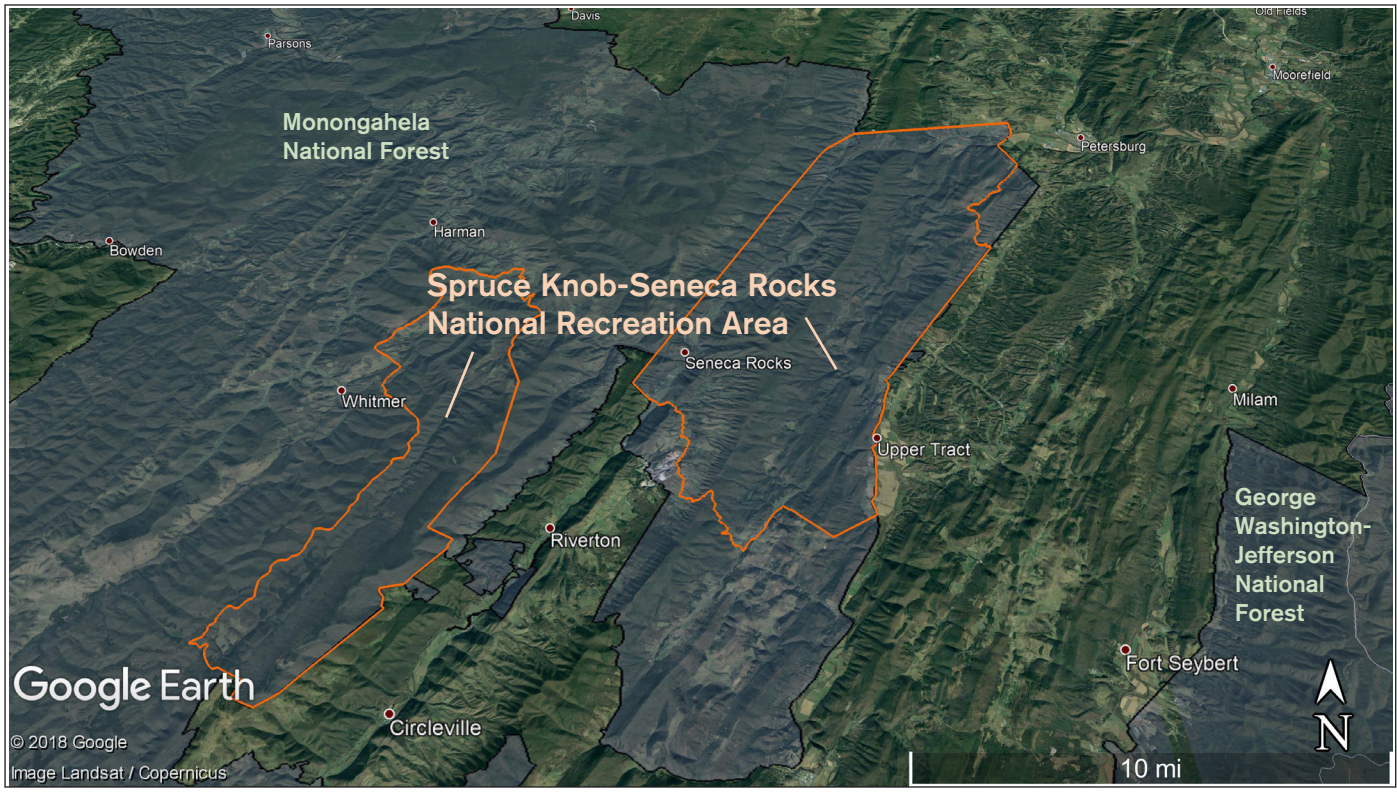
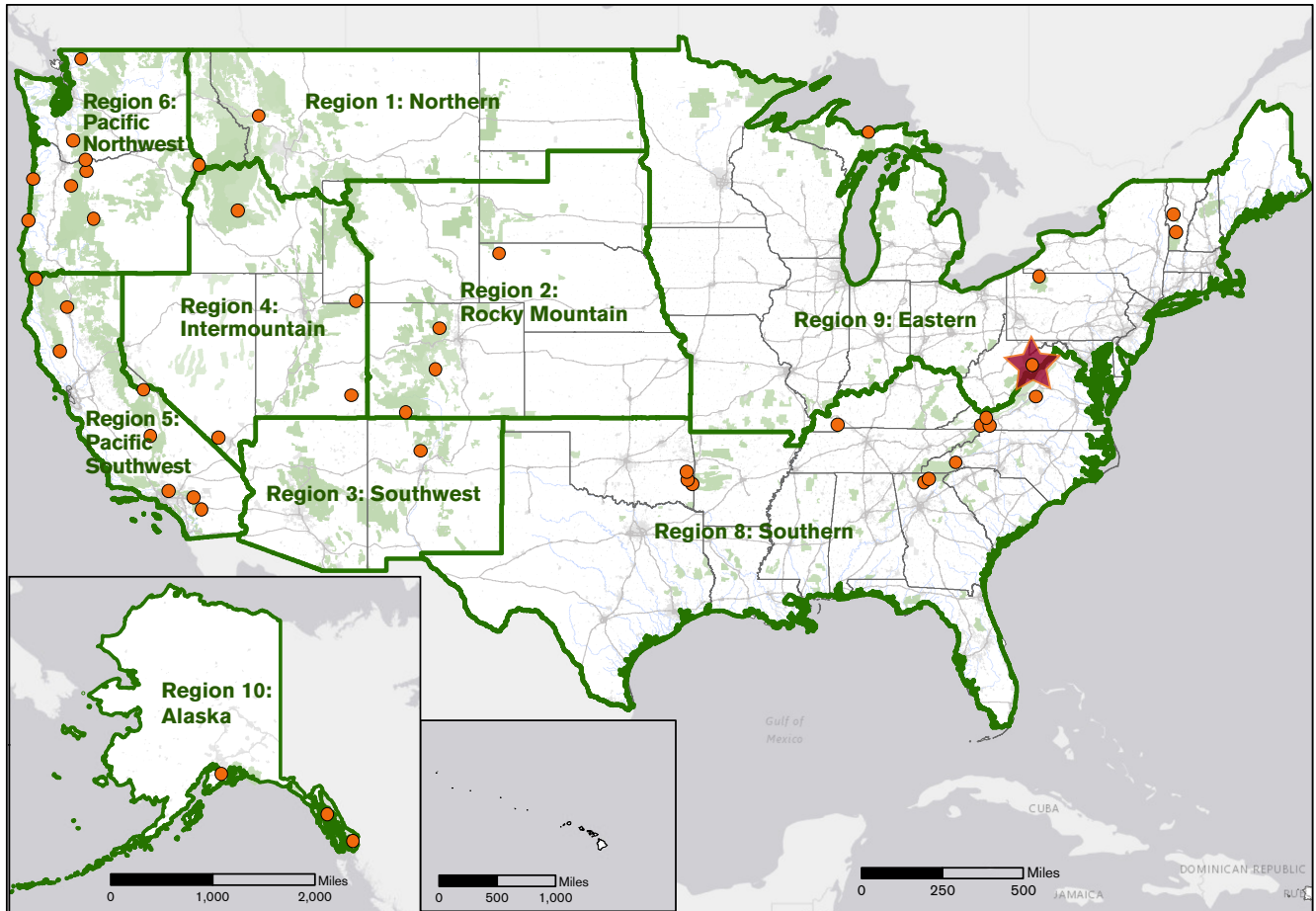
Main recreational uses: Camping, fishing, hiking, backpacking, nature viewing, caving

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 south-east 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.

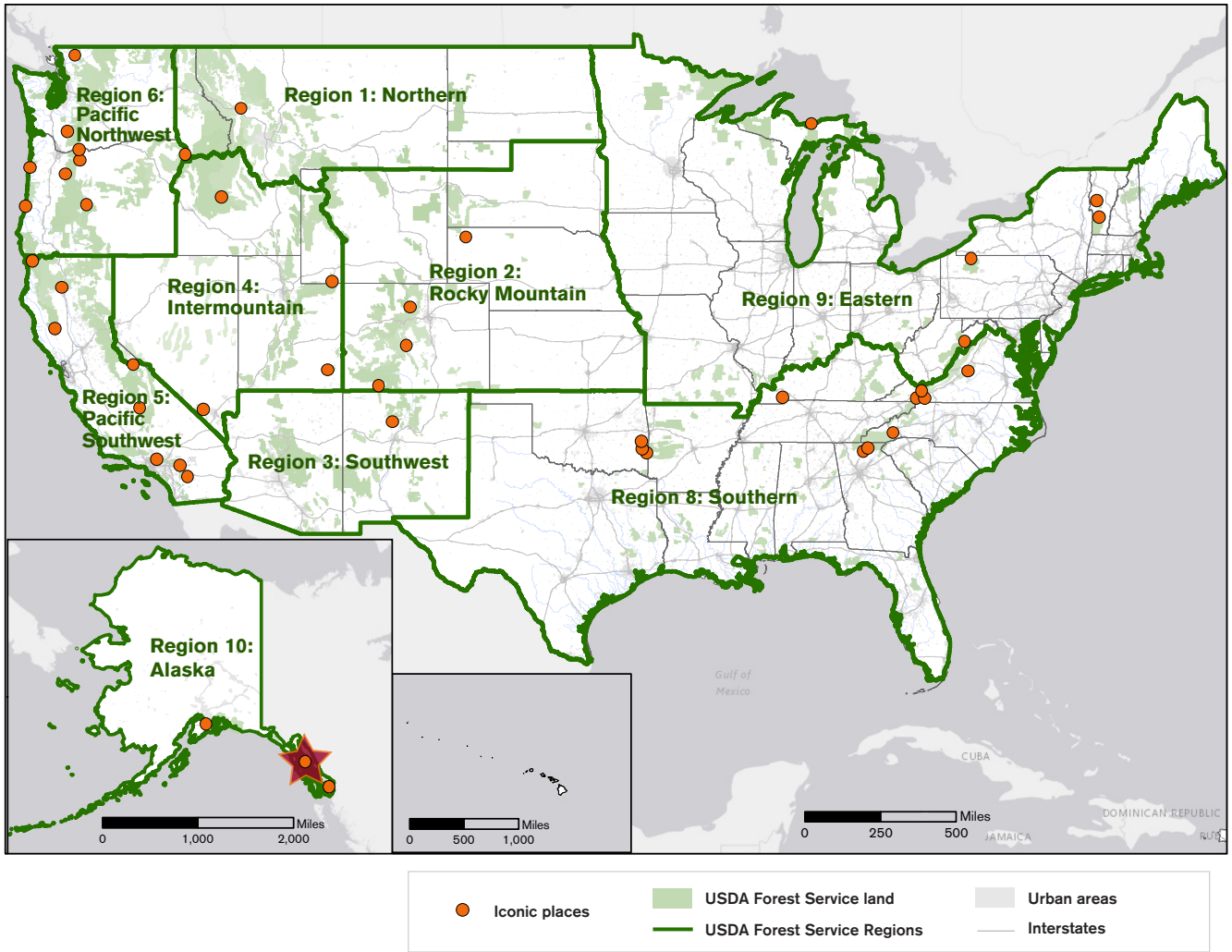


Photo: Admiralty Island, Alaska. Photo credit: Don MacDougall. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaska_region/14281280208/in/album-72157645301350823/. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>.



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.

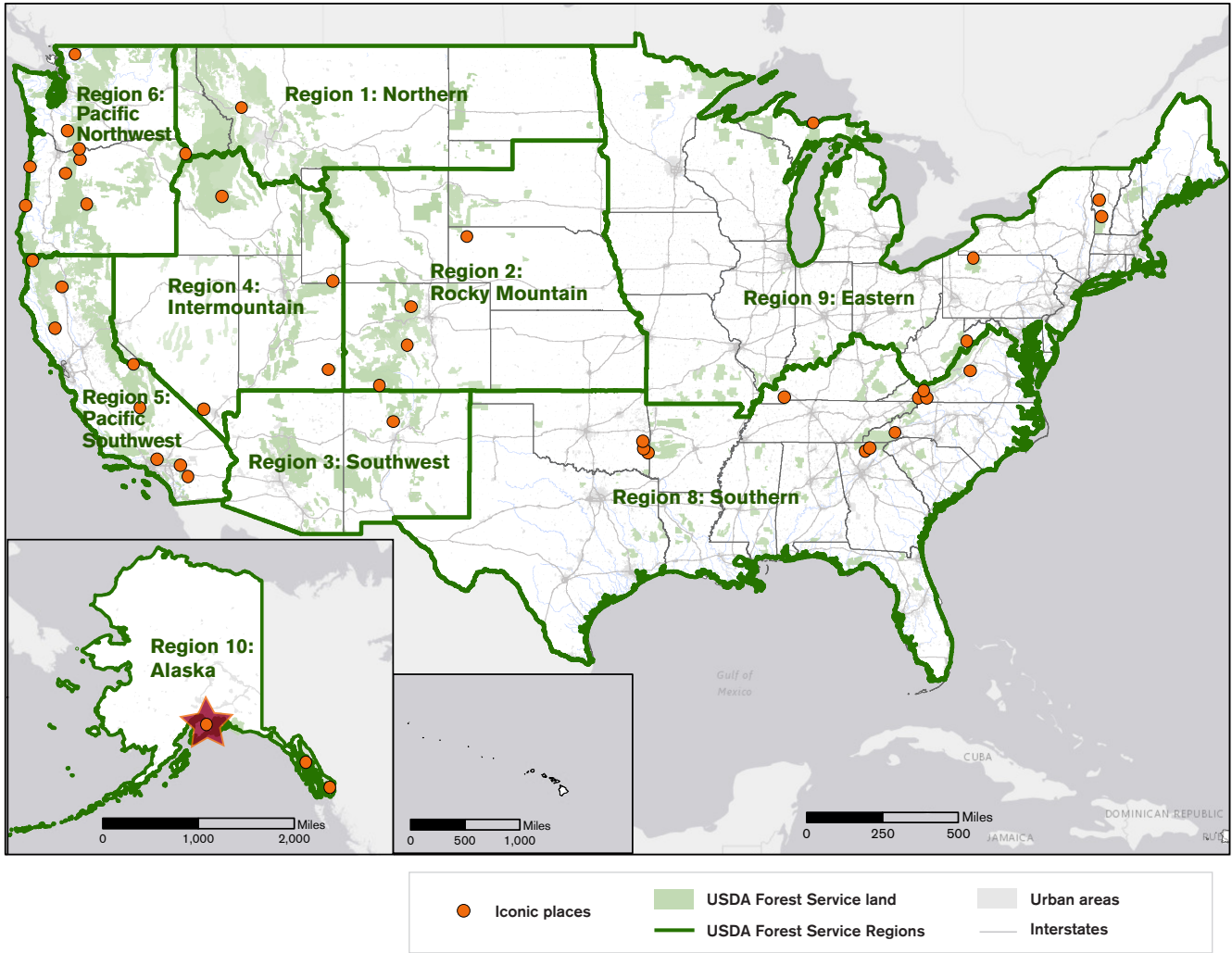


Photo: Kenai River Canyon in the Chugach National Forest. Photo by Marion Glaser. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/aska_region/8056608950/in/gallery-befuddledsenses-72157637538953223/. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>.



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.

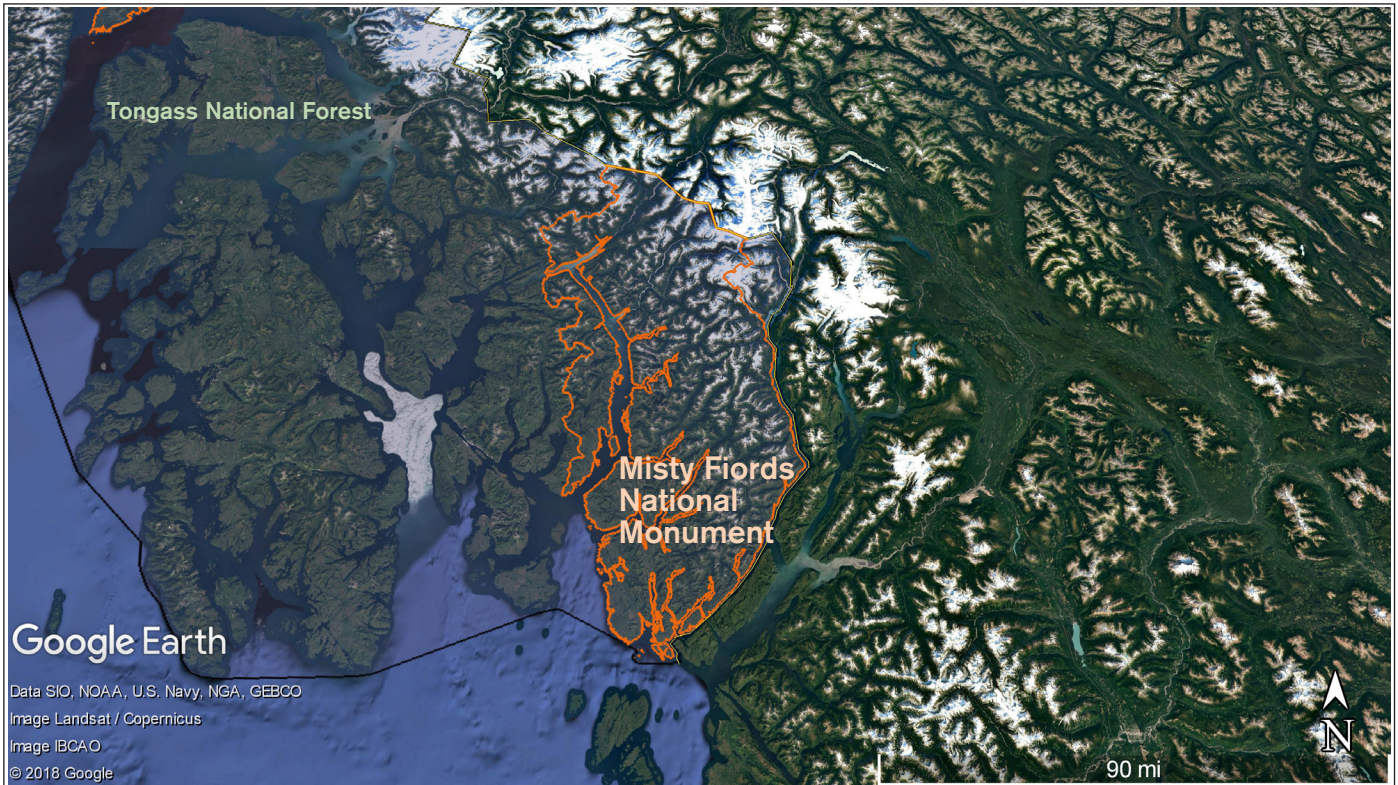
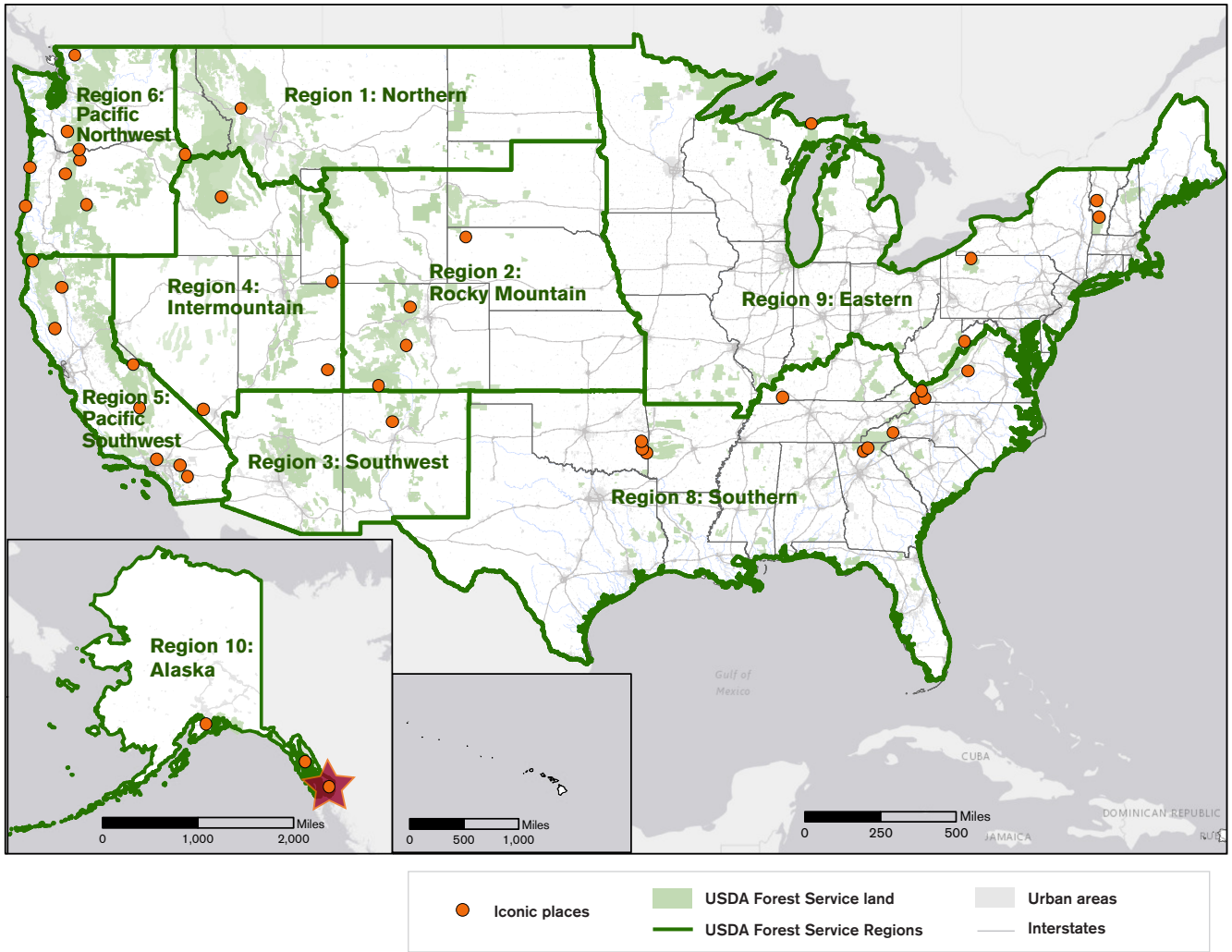


Photo: Misty Fiords National Monument. USDA Forest Service Alaska Region. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaska_region/11316163953/in/album-72157638563702744/. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>.



NEZ PERCE

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

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

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.

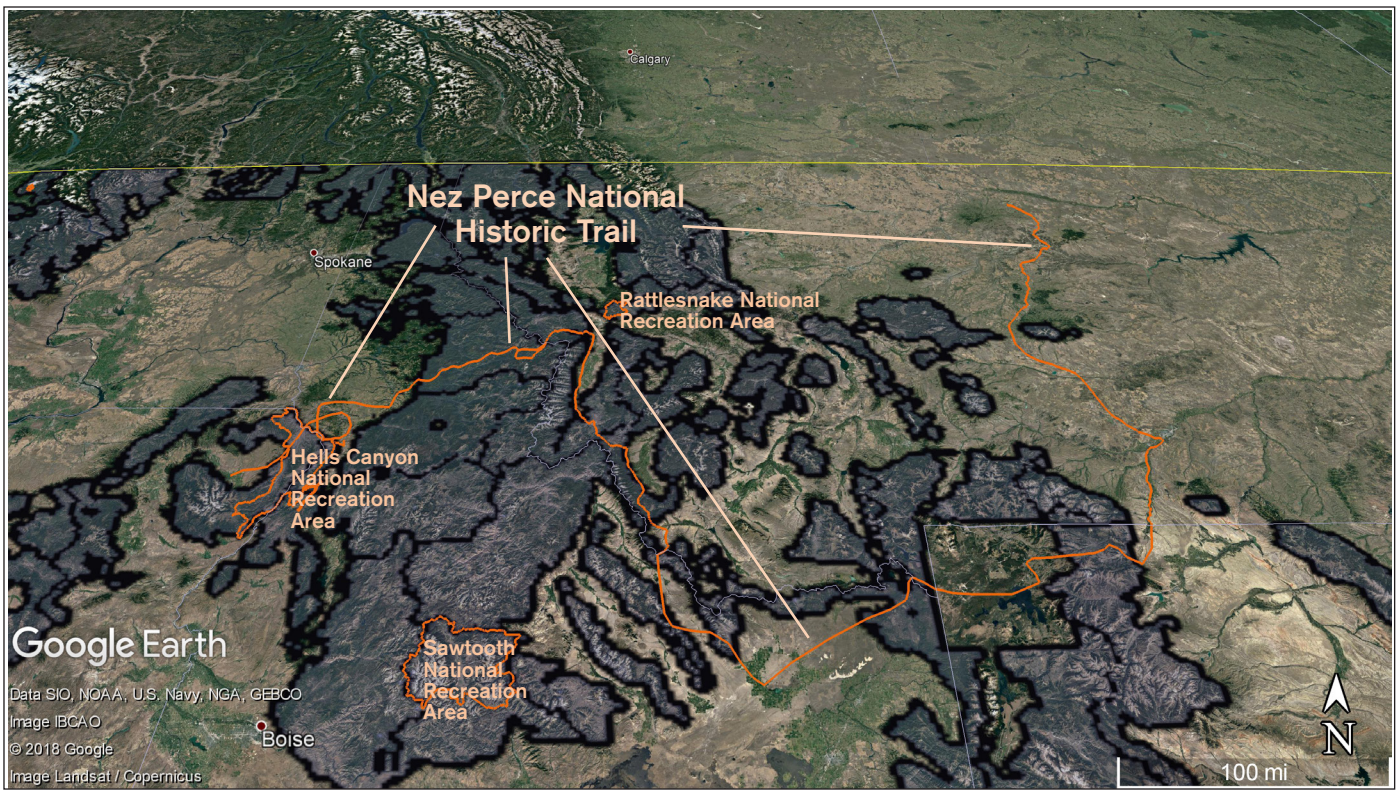
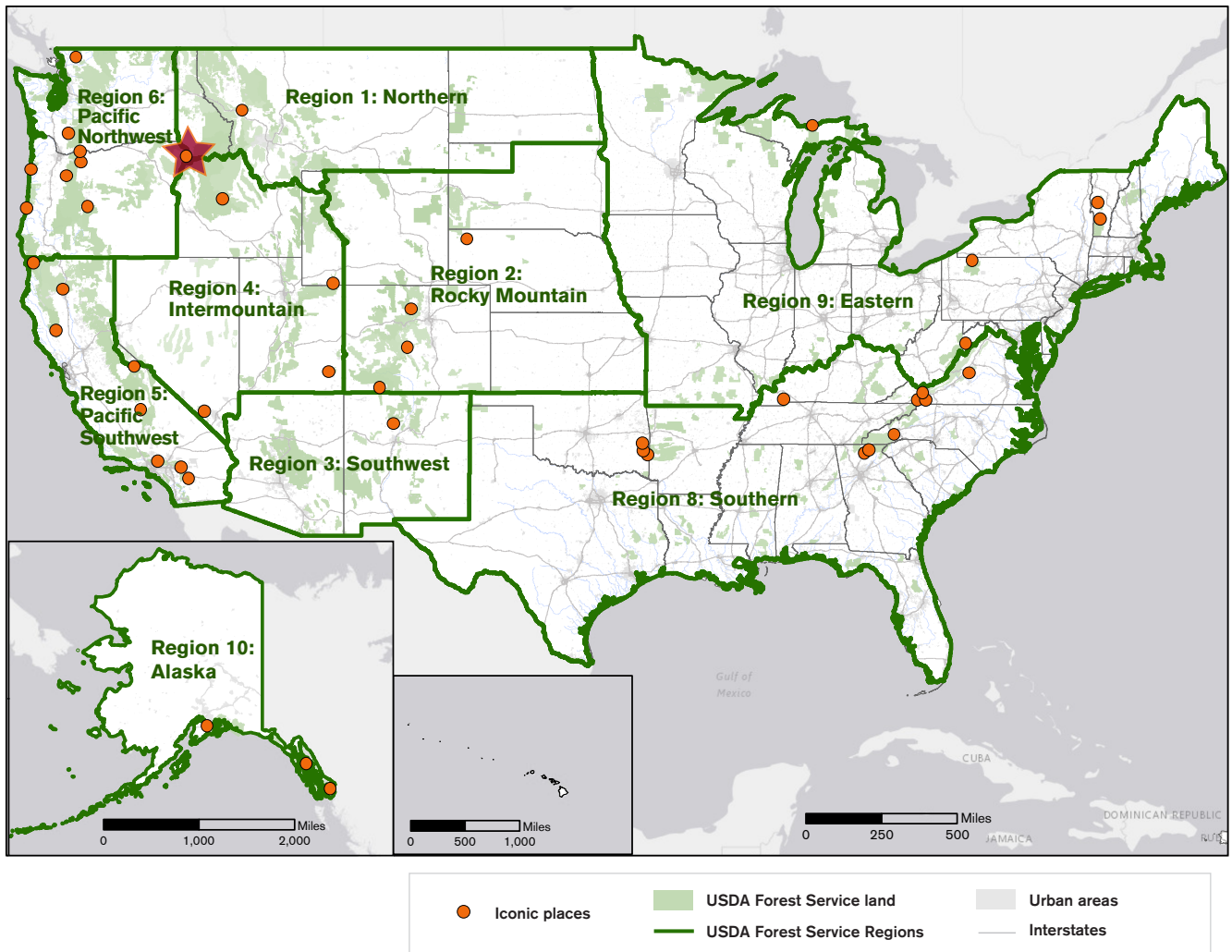


Photo: The Nez Perce National Historic Trail from Big Hole Valley, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Photo by Roger M. Peterson. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usforestservice/41283155260/>.

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Region 2: Rocky Mountain

Arapaho National Recreation Area, Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests

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Region 3: Southwestern

Jemez National Recreation Area, Santa Fe National Forest

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Region 4: Intermountain

Bears Ears National Monument, Manti LaSal National Forest

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Multiple Regions

Nez Perce National Historic Trail, Multiple National Forests

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Data sources and methods

Data	Sources	Methods
Area	USDA Forest Service 2017 Land Area Report (LAR)	For each iconic place, we looked up the NFS acres (National Forest System acres) listed in the Land Area Report (available at: https://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/lar-index.shtml).
Distance to nearest metropolitan area	ArcGIS 10.4, ArcToolbox	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 Managment 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: https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=4e02a13f5ec6412bb56bd8d3dadd59dd) and selected urban areas with equal to or greater than 50,000 residents.
Population estimates	ArcGIS 10.4, ArcToolbox	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.
Annual visitor estimates	USDA Forest Service National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) Program; Results application	We used the NVUM results application (available at: https://apps.fs.usda.gov/nvum/results) 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.
Main recreational uses	USDA Forest Service webpages	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.