

Appendix A. Federal Mandates

We describe below some of the principal Federal mandates that govern our planning for national wildlife refuges. Our brief descriptions are not legal interpretations; they merely highlight some relevant points. Nor is our list all-inclusive; some of its items will not apply to all of our plans; additional items, not shown, likely may apply to others.

For example, this list does not include Federal treaties with Native American tribes, mandates on special land designations, waterways, or hazardous materials, or site-specific concerns that may affect refuge activities or resource management. It also does not include the many important cooperative agreements, memorandums of understanding, and permits that define roles and responsibilities in managing many refuges.

You may wish to view the more comprehensive list and fuller descriptions in our publication “Digest of Federal Resource Laws of Interest to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service” at <http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/indx.html>. It includes many other administrative laws, resource laws, treaties, executive orders, interstate compacts, and memorandums of agreement under which we function. Please refer to an actual copy of each act or other directive for its complete text. And finally, all of the laws that Congress has amended since their enactment are understood to be cited below “as amended.”

Law	Description
Administrative Procedures Act (1946)	Outlines the administrative procedures Federal agencies must follow in their identification of information to be made public; publication of material in the Federal Register; maintenance of records; attendance and notification requirements for specific meetings and hearings; issuance of licenses; and, review of agency actions.
Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980	Designates public lands in Alaska withdrawn under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act as conservation system units, including an increase of 79.54 million acres of National Wildlife Refuge System land. It also provides comprehensive management guidance for all public lands in Alaska, and makes the Service the lead agency in managing subsistence harvests of fish and wildlife on Federal lands.
Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (1971)	Authorizes Alaska Natives to select and receive title to 44 million acres of public land in Alaska, in partial settlement of their aboriginal claim to land in the State. The act makes special provisions for, and places restrictions on, the selection of lands within existing national wildlife refuges. It also requires the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw up to 80 million acres (later expanded to 110 million acres) of existing public land for specific consideration as national wildlife refuges, national parks, national forests, and wild and scenic rivers.
American Antiquities Act of 1906	Provides penalties for the unauthorized collection, excavation, or destruction of historic or prehistoric ruins, monuments, or objects of antiquity on lands owned or controlled by the United States. The act authorizes the President to designate as national monuments objects or areas of historic or scientific interest on lands owned or controlled by the United States.
American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978	Protects the inherent right of Native Americans to practice their traditional religions, including the freedom to access important sites, to possess and use sacred objects, and to worship through traditional ceremonial rites.
Americans With Disabilities	Intends to prevent discrimination against and make American society more accessible to

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Act of 1990	people with disabilities. The act requires that reasonable accommodations be made for persons with disabilities in employment, public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications.
Anadromous Fish Conservation Act of 1965	Authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to enter into cooperative agreements with States and other non-Federal interests for the conservation, development, and enhancement of anadromous fish, and to contribute up to 50 percent as the Federal share of the cost of carrying out such agreements. It also authorizes reclamation programs for water resource projects needed solely for anadromous fish.
Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979	Strengthens and expands the provisions of the Antiquities Act of 1906 protecting archaeological resources. It also revises the permitting process for archaeological research.
Architectural Barriers Act of 1968	Requires that buildings and facilities designed, built, or altered with Federal funds, or leased by a Federal agency, comply with standards for physical accessibility.
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940	Prohibits the possession, sale or transport of any bald or golden eagle, alive or dead, or part, nest, or egg except as permitted by the Secretary of the Interior for scientific or exhibition purposes, or for the religious purposes of Indians.
Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (1937)	Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program of land use and conservation in order to correct maladjustments in land use and, thus, assist in such things as control of soil erosion, reforestation, preservation of natural resources, and protection of fish and wildlife. Some early refuges and hatcheries were established under its authority.
Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988	Establishes requirements for the management and protection of caves and their resources on Federal lands, including allowing land-managing agencies to withhold the location of caves from the public, and to require permits for any removal or collecting activities in caves on Federal lands.
Clean Air Act of 1970	Regulates air emissions from area, stationary, and mobile sources. This act and its amendments charge Federal land managers with direct responsibility for protecting the “air quality and related values” of lands under their control. Those values include fish, wildlife, and their habitats.
Clean Water Act of 1974	This act and its amendments have as their objective the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters. Section 401 requires that Federally permitted activities comply with the Clean Water Act standards, State water quality laws, and any other appropriate State laws. Section 404 charges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with regulating the discharge of dredge or fill materials into waters of the United States, including wetlands.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982	The CBRA identifies undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and includes them in the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS). Objectives are to minimize loss of human life and property, reduce Federal expenditures, and conserve natural resources within the CBRS through economic disincentives.
Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990	Reauthorizes the CBRA, expands the CBRS to include undeveloped coastal barriers along the Great Lakes and in the Caribbean, and establishes “Otherwise Protected Areas” (OPAs). The Service is responsible for maintaining official maps, consulting with Federal agencies that propose spending Federal funds within the CBRS and OPAs, and making recommendations to Congress about proposed boundary revisions.
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (1990)	Authorizes the Director (FWS) to participate in developing a Louisiana coastal wetlands restoration program, to participate in developing and overseeing a coastal wetlands conservation program, and to lead in implementing and administering a national coastal wetlands grant program.

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Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972	Establishes a voluntary national program within the Department of Commerce to encourage coastal States to develop and implement coastal zone management plans, and requires that “any Federal activity within or outside of the coastal zone that affects any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone” [shall be] “consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies” of that State’s coastal zone management plan. The law includes an Enhancement Grant Program for protecting, restoring, or enhancing existing coastal wetlands or creating new coastal wetlands. It also establishes the National Estuarine Marine Reserve Research System, guidelines for estuarine research, and financial assistance for land acquisition.
Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986	Removes a prior prohibition on the purchase of wetlands with monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The act requires the Secretary to establish a National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan, requires the States to include wetlands in their Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans, and transfers to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund amounts equal to the import duties on arms and ammunition. It also establishes entrance fees at national wildlife refuges.
Endangered Species Act of 1973	Provides for the conservation of threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife, and plants by Federal action and by encouraging the establishment of State programs. It provides for the determination and listing of endangered and threatened species and the designation of critical habitats. Section 7 requires Federal agencies to insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by them is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat, and provides guidance for consultation for emergency situations.
Environmental Education Act of 1990	Establishes the Office of Environmental Education within the Environmental Protection Agency to develop and administer a Federal environmental education program in consultation with other Federal natural resource management agencies, including the Service.
Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000	Creates a Federal interagency council that includes the Director of the Service, the Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Council is charged with developing a national estuary habitat restoration strategy and providing grants to entities to restore and protect estuary habitat to promote the strategy.
Estuary Protection Act of 1968	Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with other Federal agencies and the States, to inventory the estuaries of the United States, including land and water of the Great Lakes, and determine whether such areas should be acquired by the Federal Government for protection. It requires the Secretary to encourage State and local governments to consider the importance of estuaries in their planning related to Federal natural resource grants. It also requires the Secretary to establish conditions to ensure the permanent protection of estuaries in approving any State grants for their acquisition.
Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981	Minimizes the extent to which Federal programs contribute to the unnecessary conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. Federal programs include construction projects and the management of Federal lands.
Federal Advisory Committee Act (1972)	Governs the establishment and procedures of committees to advise the Federal Government. Committees may be established only if they will serve a necessary, nonduplicative function. They must be strictly advisory, unless otherwise specified, and their meetings must be open to the public.
Federal-Aid Highways Act of 1968	Establishes requirements for approving Federal highways through wildlife refuges and other designated areas. Directs the Secretary of Transportation to consult with the

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	Secretary of the Interior and other Federal agencies before approving any program or project requiring the use of land under their jurisdiction.
Federal Coal Leasing Amendment Act of 1976	Section 16 provides that nothing in the Mining Act, the Mineral Leasing Act, or the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands authorizes coal mining on refuges.
Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1990	Gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority to designate plants as noxious weeds and to cooperate with other Federal, State, and local agencies, farmers associations, and private individuals in measures to control, eradicate, prevent, or retard the spread of such weeds. The act requires each Federal land-managing agency, including the Service, to designate an office or person to coordinate a program to control such plants on the agency's land and implement cooperative agreements with the States, including integrated management systems to control undesirable plants.
Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956	Establishes a comprehensive national policy on fish, shellfish, and wildlife resources, with emphasis on the commercial fishing industry; but, also includes the inherent right of every citizen and resident to fish for pleasure, enjoyment, and betterment, and to maintain and increase public opportunities for recreational use of fish and wildlife resources. Among its other provisions, it authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to take such steps as may be required for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources, including, but not limited to, research, development of existing facilities, and acquisition by purchase or exchange of land and water or interests therein.
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980	Requires the Service to monitor non-game bird species, identify species of management concern, and implement conservation measures to preclude the need for listing them under the Endangered Species Act.
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958	Promotes equal consideration and coordination of wildlife conservation with other water resource development programs, by requiring consultation with the Service and State fish and wildlife agencies "whenever the waters of any stream or other body of water are proposed or authorized to be impounded, diverted, the channel deepened, or the stream or other body of water otherwise controlled or modified for any purpose whatever, including navigation and drainage, by any department or agency of the United States, or by any public or private agency under Federal permit or license."
Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978	Enacted to improve the administration of fish and wildlife programs and amend several earlier laws, including the Refuge Recreation Act, the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act, and the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, this act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to accept gifts and bequests of real and personal property on behalf of the United States. It also authorizes the use of volunteers on Service projects and appropriations to carry out volunteer programs.
Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (Magnuson Act)	Establishes Regional Fishery Management Councils composed of Federal and State officials, including the Service. It provides for regulation of foreign fishing and vessel fishing permits.
Food Security Act of 1985 (Farm Bill Conservation Features)	Contributes to wetlands conservation. Its Swampbuster provisions state that farmers who convert wetlands for the purpose of planting are ineligible for most farmer program subsidies. The act also establishes the Wetland Reserve Program to restore and protect wetlands through easements and restore the functions and values of wetlands on such easements.
Freedom of Information Act (1966)	Requires all Federal agencies to make available to the public for inspection and copying their administrative staff manuals and staff instructions, official, published and unpublished policy statements, final orders deciding case adjudication, and other documents. It reserves special exemptions for nine categories of privileged material,

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	including but not limited to confidential matters relating to National defense or foreign policy, law enforcement records, and trade or commercial secrets. The act requires the party requesting the information to pay reasonable search and duplication costs.
Geothermal Steam Act of 1970	Authorizes and governs the lease of geothermal steam and related resources on public lands. Section 15(c) of the act, however, prohibits their issuance on virtually all Service-administered lands.
Lacey Act of 1900	Designed to help States protect their native game animals and to safeguard U.S. crop production from harmful foreign species, this act and its amendments of 1981 prohibit interstate and international transport of animals killed in violation of domestic or foreign laws, and regulate the introduction of foreign animals into new locations in America.
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1948	Provides funding through receipts from the sale of surplus Federal land, appropriations from oil and gas receipts from the outer continental shelf and from other sources, for land acquisition under several authorities. Appropriations from the fund may be used for matching grants to States for outdoor recreation projects and for land acquisition by various Federal agencies, including the Service.
Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972	Establishes a Federal responsibility for conserving marine mammals; vests management in the Department of the Interior for sea otter, walrus, polar bear, dugong, and manatee; assigns to the Department of Commerce the responsibility for cetaceans, and pinnipeds other than the walrus. With certain specified exceptions, the act establishes a moratorium on the taking or importation of marine mammals or products taken from them.
Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929	Establishes a Migratory Bird Conservation Commission to approve areas recommended by the Secretary of the Interior for acquisition with Migratory Bird Conservation Funds. The North American Wetland Conservation Act expands the role of the Commission to include approving wetlands acquisition, restoration, and enhancement proposals recommended by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council.
Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act of 1934	Also commonly known as “the Duck Stamp Act,” this act requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to possess a valid Federal hunting stamp. Receipts from its sale are deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund for the acquisition of migratory bird refuges.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918	Implements various treaties and conventions among the United States, Canada, Japan, Mexico, and the former Soviet Union for the protection of migratory birds. Except as allowed by special regulations, this act makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, barter, export, or import any migratory bird, part, nest, egg, or product.
Mineral Leasing Act of 1920	Authorizes and governs the leasing of public lands for development of deposits of coal, oil, gas and other hydrocarbons, sulphur, phosphate, potassium, and sodium. Section 185 provides for the granting of rights-of-way over Federal lands for pipelines.
Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (1947)	Authorizes and governs mineral leasing on acquired public lands.
Mining Act of 1872	Authorizes and governs prospecting and mining for the so-called "hardrock" minerals, such as gold and silver, on public lands.
National and Community Service Act of 1990	Authorizes several programs to engage citizens of the United States in full- or part-time projects designed to combat illiteracy and poverty, provide job skills, enhance educational skills, and fulfill environmental needs. Among other things, this law establishes the American Conservation and Youth Service Corps to engage young adults in approved human and natural resource projects that will benefit the public or are carried out on Federal or Indian lands.

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National Environmental Policy Act of 1969	Requires analysis, public comment, and reporting of the environmental impacts of Federal actions. It stipulates the factors to be considered in environmental impact statements, and requires that Federal agencies employ an interdisciplinary approach in related decision-making and develop means to ensure that unquantified environmental values are given appropriate consideration, along with economic and technical considerations.
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966	Establishes a National Register of Historic Places and a program of matching grants for preserving significant historical features. It also directs Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on items or sites listed or eligible for listing in the National Register.
National Trails System Act (1968)	Establishes the National Trails System to protect the recreational, scenic, and historic values of important trails, some of which cross units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Secretaries of the Interior or Agriculture may establish National Recreation Trails on land wholly or partly within their jurisdiction, with the consent of the involved State(s) and other land-managing agencies, if any. National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails may only be designated by an Act of Congress.
National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966	The 1966 Act provides guidelines and directives for administration and management of all areas in the system, including "wildlife refuges, areas for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction, wildlife ranges, game ranges, wildlife management areas, or waterfowl production areas." The Secretary is authorized to permit by regulations the use of any area within the system provided "such uses are compatible with the major purposes for which such areas were established."
National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act of 2000	Recognizes the vital importance of the Refuge System and that the System will celebrate its centennial anniversary in the year 2003; establishes the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commission, composed of 11 voting members, including the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The act charges the commission with the responsibility for preparing a plan to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the System, coordinating activities to celebrate that event, and hosting a conference on the National Wildlife Refuge System. Finally, this act directs the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and submit to the Congress a long-term plan to address priority operating, maintenance, and construction needs of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997	Amends the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, and reiterates into law Executive Order No. 12996 (see below). The act defines the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, establishes the legitimacy and appropriateness of six priority wildlife-dependent public uses, establishes a formal process for determining compatible uses of System lands, identifies the Secretary of the Interior as responsible for managing and protecting the System, and requires the development of a comprehensive conservation plan for all refuges outside of Alaska.
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990	Requires Federal agencies and museums to inventory, determine ownership of, and repatriate certain cultural items and human remains under their control or possession. The act also addresses the repatriation of cultural items inadvertently discovered through construction activities on lands managed by the agency.
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000	Establishes a matching grants program to fund projects that promote the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean.
North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989	Provides funding and administrative direction for implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Tripartite Agreement among Canada, Mexico, and the United States on wetlands conservation. Creates the North American Wetlands

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	Council to recommend projects to be funded under the act to the MBCC. Available funds may be expended for up to 50 percent of the United States share of the cost of wetlands conservation projects in Canada, Mexico, or the United States, or 100 percent of the cost of projects on Federal lands.
Partnerships for Wildlife Act (1992)	Establishes a Wildlife Conservation and Appreciation Fund to receive appropriated funds and donations from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other private sources, to assist State fish and game agencies in conserving nongame species. Its funding formula stipulates no more than one-third Federal funds, at least one-third Foundation funds, and at least one-third State funds.
Refuge Recreation Act of 1962	This act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to administer refuges, hatcheries and other conservation areas for recreational use, when such uses do not interfere with the area's primary purposes; provides for public use fees and permits and penalties for violation of regulations; and, authorizes the acceptance of donations of funds and real and personal property to assist in carrying out its purposes. Later amendments (1973) authorize acquisition of lands and interests suitable for: (1) fish and wildlife-oriented recreation, (2) protection of natural resources, (3) conservation of endangered or threatened species, or (4) carrying out two or more of the above, provided such lands are within or adjacent to existing conservation areas.
Refuge Revenue Sharing Act of 1935	Provides for refuge revenue sharing payments to counties to offset tax revenues lost due to the removal of Government-owned land from their tax base. Requires each county to pass payments along to other units of local government within the county.
Rehabilitation Act of 1973	Requires nondiscrimination in the employment practices of Federal agencies of the executive branch and contractors. It also requires all Federally assisted programs, services, and activities to be available to people with disabilities.
Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act of 1899	Requires the authorization of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before any work in, on, over, or under any navigable waters of the United States. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act authorizes the Service to review and comment on the effects on fish and wildlife of activities proposed, undertaken, or permitted. Service concerns include contaminated sediments in dredge or fill projects in navigable waters.
Sikes Act	Provides for cooperation by the Departments of the Interior and Defense with State agencies in planning, developing, and maintaining fish and wildlife resources on military reservations in the United States. It requires the Secretaries of the military departments to use trained professionals to manage the fish and wildlife resources under their jurisdiction, and requires that Federal and State fish and wildlife agencies be given priority in managing fish and wildlife activities on military reservations.
Transfer of Certain Real Property for Conservation Purposes Act (1948)	Provides that, upon determination by the Administrator of the General Services Administration, real property no longer needed by a Federal agency can be transferred to the Secretary of the Interior without reimbursement, if the land has particular value for migratory birds, or, to a State agency for other wildlife conservation purposes.
Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century (1998)	Establishes the Refuge Roads Program; requires transportation planning that includes public involvement; and, provides funding for approved public use roads, trails, associated parking lots, comfort stations, and bicycling and walking facilities.
Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970	Establishes uniform land acquisition policies for all Federal agencies, and requires equitable assistance for persons displaced from their homes, businesses, or farms by Federal or Federally assisted programs, including land acquisition. The act also requires that any offer to purchase property be no less than its approved, appraised market value.
Water Resources Planning Act of 1965	Establishes a Water Resources Council composed of Cabinet representatives, including the Secretary of the Interior. The council reviews river basin plans for their agricultural,

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	urban, energy, industrial, recreational, and fish and wildlife needs. The act also establishes a grant program to assist States in developing related comprehensive water and land use plans (cf. sole-source aquifers).
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968	Selects certain rivers of the Nation that possess remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, preserves them in a free-flowing condition, and protects their local environments.
Wilderness Act of 1964	Directs the Secretary of the Interior to review, within 10 years, the suitability for designation as a wilderness of every roadless area of 5,000 acres or more and every roadless island, regardless of size, within the National Wildlife Refuge System, and make recommendations. The act permits certain activities within designated Wilderness Areas that do not alter natural processes. It preserves wilderness values through a “minimum tool” approach, which requires refuge managers to use the least intrusive methods, equipment, or facilities necessary for managing the areas.
Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970	Establishes a permanent Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) within the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. Corps job participants perform many tasks for the Service at refuges, hatcheries, and research stations.
Executive Order	Description
E.O. No. 11593. Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment	States that, if the Service proposes any development activities that may affect archaeological or historical sites, we will consult with Federal and State Historic Preservation Officers, to comply with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.
E.O. No. 11644. Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Land (1977)	Establishes policies and procedures to ensure that the use of off-road vehicles on public lands will be controlled and directed so as to protect the resources of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands (cf. E.O. No. 11989. “Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands”).
E.O. No. 11988. Floodplain Management (1977)	Prevents Federal agencies from contributing to the “adverse impacts associated with occupancy and modification of floodplains” and the “direct or indirect support of floodplain development.” In fulfilling their responsibilities, Federal agencies “shall take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.”
E.O. No. 11989. Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands (May 24, 1977)	Amends E.O. No. 11644, above. Section 9 directs Federal agencies to close areas to ORV use immediately whenever they determine that ORVs are adversely impacting soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, or cultural or historic resources. The order also authorizes each agency to adopt the policy that portions of the public land within its jurisdiction shall be closed to ORV use except those areas that are suitable and specifically designated as open.
E.O. No. 11990. Protection of Wetlands (1977)	Directs Federal agencies to provide leadership and take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values.
E.O. No. 12372. Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (1982)	Fosters intergovernmental partnerships by requiring Federal agencies to use the State process to determine and address the concerns of State and local elected officials about proposed Federal assistance and development programs.
E.O. No. 12898. Environmental Justice (1994)	Requires Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

Executive Order	Description
E.O. No. 12906. Coordinating Geographic Data and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (1994)	Recommends that the executive branch, in cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments, develop a coordinated National Spatial Data Infrastructure to support public and private sector applications of geospatial data. Particularly important to our planning is the NSDI-adopted standard for mapping vegetation, the National Vegetation Classification System. The NVCS facilitates our compiling regional and national summaries, which, in turn, can provide ecosystem contexts for refuges.
E.O. No. 12962. Recreational Fisheries (1995)	Directs Federal agencies, in cooperation with States and Tribes, to improve the quantity, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of aquatic resources in the United States for increased recreational fishing opportunities.
E.O. No. 12996. Management and General Public Use of the National Wildlife Refuge System (1996)	Identifies the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, recognizes that compatible wildlife-dependent recreation uses are priority public uses of the System, and specifically names six: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.
E.O. No. 13007. Indian Sacred Sites (1996)	Provides for access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands used by Indian religious practitioners, and direction on avoiding adverse effects on the physical integrity of such sites.
E.O. No. 13061. Federal Support of Community Efforts Along American Heritage Rivers	Establishes the American Heritage Rivers initiative for natural resource and environmental protection, economic revitalization, and historic and cultural preservation. It directs Federal agencies to preserve, protect, and restore rivers and their associated resources important to our history, culture, and natural heritage.
E.O. No. 13084. Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments (2000)	Provides a mechanism for establishing regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have implications for those tribes.
E.O. No. 13112. Invasive Species (1999)	Directs Federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species, detect, respond rapidly to, control, and accurately monitor their populations in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner, provide for the restoration of native species and habitat conditions, conduct research on preventing and controlling invasive species, and promote public education on invasive species and the means for addressing them. It rescinds E.O. No. 11987, "Exotic Organisms" (1977).
E.O. No. 13186. Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds (2001)	Instructs Federal agencies to conserve migratory birds by several means, including incorporating into our management plans and guidance documents the strategies and recommendations of Partners In Flight bird conservation plans, the North American Waterfowl Plan, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, and the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan.

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