



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Learn About Wilderness

## *National Wildlife Refuge System*



*Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, MO/Vergial Harp/USFWS*



*Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, SC/Jannah Dupre*



*Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, NE/Chuck Melvin*

The Wilderness Act of 1964 established the National Wilderness Preservation System. Today that system includes 757 Congressionally designated wilderness areas comprising about 109.5 million acres in 44 states and Puerto Rico.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is one of four federal agencies with stewardship of designated wilderness. The others are the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages more than 20 million acres of designated wilderness in the National Wildlife Refuge System – about one-fifth of all the designated wilderness areas in the nation. There are 75 wilderness areas on 63 units of the Refuge System in 25 states. About 90 percent of Refuge System wilderness acreage is in Alaska. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services also manages one other wilderness area – at Leadville National Fish Hatchery in Colorado.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 – which was passed by Congress and signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson – includes this definition:

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions ...”

## For More Information

**National Wildlife Refuge System Wilderness page**  
<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/whm/wilderness.html>

**Wilderness.net**  
(an interagency database for wilderness information)  
<http://www.wilderness.net/>

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
<http://www.fws.gov/>



# National Wildlife Refuges With at Least One Wilderness Area

## Alaska

Alaska Maritime  
Arctic  
Becharof  
Innoko  
Izembek  
Kenai  
Koyukuk  
Selawik  
Togiak  
Yukon

## Arizona

Cabeza Prieta  
Havasu (partially in California)  
Imperial (partially in California)  
Kofa

## Arkansas

Big Lake

## California

Farallon  
Havasu (partially in Arizona)  
Imperial (partially in Arizona)

## Florida

Cedar Keys  
Chassahowitzka  
Great White Heron  
Island Bay  
J.N. "Ding" Darling  
Key West  
Lake Woodruff  
National Key Deer Refuge  
Passage Key  
Pelican Island  
St. Marks

## Georgia

Blackbeard Island  
Okefenokee  
Wolf Island

## Illinois

Crab Orchard

## Louisiana

Breton  
Lacassine

## Maine

Moosehorn

## Massachusetts

Monomoy

## Michigan

Huron  
Michigan Islands  
Seney

## Minnesota

Agassiz  
Tamarac

## Missouri

Mingo

## Montana

Medicine Lake  
Red Rock Lakes  
UL Bend

## Nebraska

Fort Niobrara

## New Jersey

Edwin B. Forsythe  
Great Swamp

## New Mexico

Bitter Lake  
Bosque del Apache

## North Carolina

Swanquarter

## North Dakota

Chase Lake  
Lostwood

## Ohio

West Sister Island

## Oklahoma

Wichita Mountains

## Oregon

Oregon Islands  
Three Arch Rocks

## South Carolina

Cape Romain

## Washington

Copalis  
Flattery Rocks  
Quillayute Needles  
San Juan Islands

## Wisconsin

Gravel Island  
Green Bay

