



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

The Power of Public Lands

Public Versus Private

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act, which encouraged people to move West. The General Land Office (GLO) helped these people become landowners by giving out land titles. GLO also took care of public lands, like forests, rivers, and wide-open spaces that belong to everyone. Today, the Bureau of Land Management continues that work.

Some land is private, like homes and farms. Some land is public—like parks, trails, or natural areas—and is managed for various uses. Both kinds of lands are important, and people help care for them in different ways.



MY FAVORITE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS

PRIVATE LAND

Think about a building or piece of land that is special to you and that is owned by your family or someone in your community. It could be your home, a family garden, a local store or restaurant, or even your tribal homelands.

NAME AND DRAW (OR DESCRIBE) THAT PLACE HERE:

- What do you like to do there?
- Who do you share it with?
- How do you help take care of it?

PUBLIC LAND

Think about a public place that is special to you. This is a place that everyone can use and enjoy. It could be a park or playground, library or school, hiking trail, museum, or community center.

NAME AND DRAW (OR DESCRIBE) THAT PLACE HERE:

- What makes this place special?
- What do people do there?
- How can you help take care of it?

PUBLIC LANDS NEAR ME

About 40% of land in the United States is public and is managed by local, state, or national government agencies for the benefit of all Americans.

Public lands are used for many things, like energy production, mining, grazing, harvesting timber, hunting and fishing, recreation, and protecting critical habitats. Because we all share these lands, we all benefit from them and must help care for them.

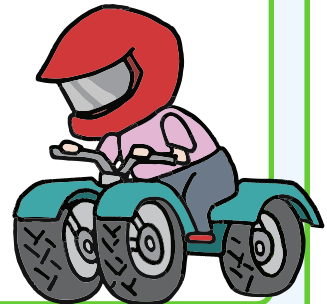
Think about a public land near you. It could be a place you've visited, seen, or heard about.



Write the name here: _____

Answer these questions about the land using words or drawings.

How does this land benefit you or your family?



How does it benefit other Americans, locally or nationally?



What can you do to help take care of it?

