

What is an ACEC?

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended

Title I: Short Title, Declaration of Policy, and Definitions:

- DECLARATION OF POLICY:
 - Sec. 102. [43 U.S.C. 1701] (a) The Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States that-

(8) the public lands be managed in manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air, and atmosphere, water resources, and archaeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural conditions; that, will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use;

(11) regulation and plans for the protection of public land areas of critical environmental concern be promptly developed;

- DEFINITIONS:
 - Sec. 103 [43 U.S.C. 1702] With altering in any way the meaning of the following terms as used in any way the meaning of the following terms as used in any other statute, whether of not such statute is referred to in, or amended by, this Act used in this Act-

(a) The term "areas of critical environmental concern" means areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Title II: Land Use Planning; Land Acquisition and Disposition:

- INVENTORY AND IDENTIFICATION:
 - Sec. 201 [43 U.S.C. 1711]

(a) The Secretary shall prepare and maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resource and other value (including, but not limited to, outdoor recreation and scenic values), giving priority to areas of critical environmental concern. This inventory shall be kept current so as to reflect changes in conditions and to identify new and emerging resources and other values. The preparation and maintenance of such inventory or the change or prevent change of the management or use of public lands.

- LAND USE PLANNING:
 - Sec 202, [43 U.S.C. 1712]
 - (b) In development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary of Agriculture shall coordinate land use plans for lands in the National Forest System with the land use planning and management programs of and for Indian tribes by, among other things, considering the policies of approval tribal land resource management programs.
 - (c) In the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary shall give priority to the designation and protection of areas of critical environmental concern.