

FACT SHEET



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MANAGING PUBLIC LANDS

The League believes that outstanding lands should be set aside for special management as parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas. These lands provide some of the best wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities in the country. When these resources are threatened, League members step forward to protect them.

PROTECTION

One of the biggest threats facing America's national forests, refuges, parks, and wilderness areas is inadequate funding for maintenance and operations. Working through partnerships such as the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, the League is a staunch advocate of increased funding for public lands. We are also working to secure increased funding for programs such as the State Wildlife Grants Program and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, which leverage public funding with private dollars to restore habitat on public lands.

The League also steps in when new threats to public lands emerge. For instance, we recently opposed the sale of more than 300,000 acres of national forest land. This ill-advised proposal was ultimately dropped. We have come out in opposition to a proposed mine on state lands in southwestern Alaska, which would threaten the world's largest sockeye salmon population in Bristol Bay. And we also helped to stop a massive golf course and resort from being built next to Maryland's Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge—a habitat-rich area that is classified as a "Wetland of International Importance."

MANAGING OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

The popularity of off-road vehicles (ORVs) has skyrocketed in recent years. While many ORV riders ride responsibly, other riders don't. And even responsible, legal OHV riding can cause harm to natural resources.

The U.S. Forest Service has identified ORV damage as one of the top four threats to our country's national forests. To raise awareness of the problem, the League has produced reports on the impacts of ORVs on public lands, including fish and wildlife. Our most recent report included the results of a survey we conducted of state wildlife managers about the threat ORVs pose to hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands. Sixty-one percent of the managers who responded to our survey said that ORVs are having a negative impact; eighty-three percent said they had seen resource damage to wildlife habitat in their own states.

Through our publications and media outreach, the League is working to educate ORV users how to be more responsible. Furthermore, we are working to make sure that existing regulations on public lands are being upheld, enforced, and, when necessary, strengthened.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WILDERNESS AND PUBLIC LANDS PROGRAM

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