



ADMIRALTY ISLAND

NATIONAL MONUMENT

At a glance:

Admiralty Island NM quick facts

Date established: Dec. 1, 1978; Dec. 2, 1980

Established by: Presidential proclamation, President Jimmy Carter (1978); Congressional designation, Public Law 96-487 (1980)

Forest Service region: 10, Alaska Region

State: Alaska

Associated national forest: Tongass

Total Forest Service acres: 997,226

Reasons designated: "archaeological, cultural, and historical resources, ecological and scientific value" (Presidential Proclamation, 1978)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: no metro areas within 500 miles

Population within 25 miles: 30,740

Population within 100 miles: 53,034

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Tongass National Forest—Juneau and Admiralty National Monument area: 491,923 estimated annual visits (2010, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Boating and water sports, swimming, tide-pooling, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, wildlife and nature viewing

DESCRIPTION

Admiralty Island National Monument (NM) is located on Admiralty Island, 15 miles southwest of Juneau in south-east Alaska, and is accessible only by water or air. The island is characterized by rugged coastline, remote old growth rainforest, towering mountains, and alpine tundra with permanent icefields. It hosts the largest concentration of brown bears and nesting bald eagles in the world, as well as harbor seals, porpoises and sea lions, humpback whales, and all five species of Pacific salmon in its waters. More than 90 percent of the monument is designated as the Kootznoowoo Wilderness, nearly 1 million acres. Admiralty Island has been the home to the Tlingit people for approximately 10,000 years. The monument area continues to provide subsistence for these Alaskan Natives. Angoon, Admiralty Island's only permanent community, continues to be an important cultural base.

BACKGROUND

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANSCA) of 1971 honored the rights of Alaska Natives to select approximately 44 million acres of Federal land in Alaska and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw 80 million acres of land to be studied for possible additions to the National Park, Wildlife Refuge, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Forest systems. As Congress worked to pass a comprehensive act based on study recommendations, President Jimmy Carter in 1978 proclaimed over 55 million acres of Alaskan land as national monuments to be administered by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service. Admiralty Island National Monument was included in that proclamation. Two years later, in 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA; P.L. 96-487), which honored ANSCA and congressionally-designated Admiralty Island NM, was signed into law.

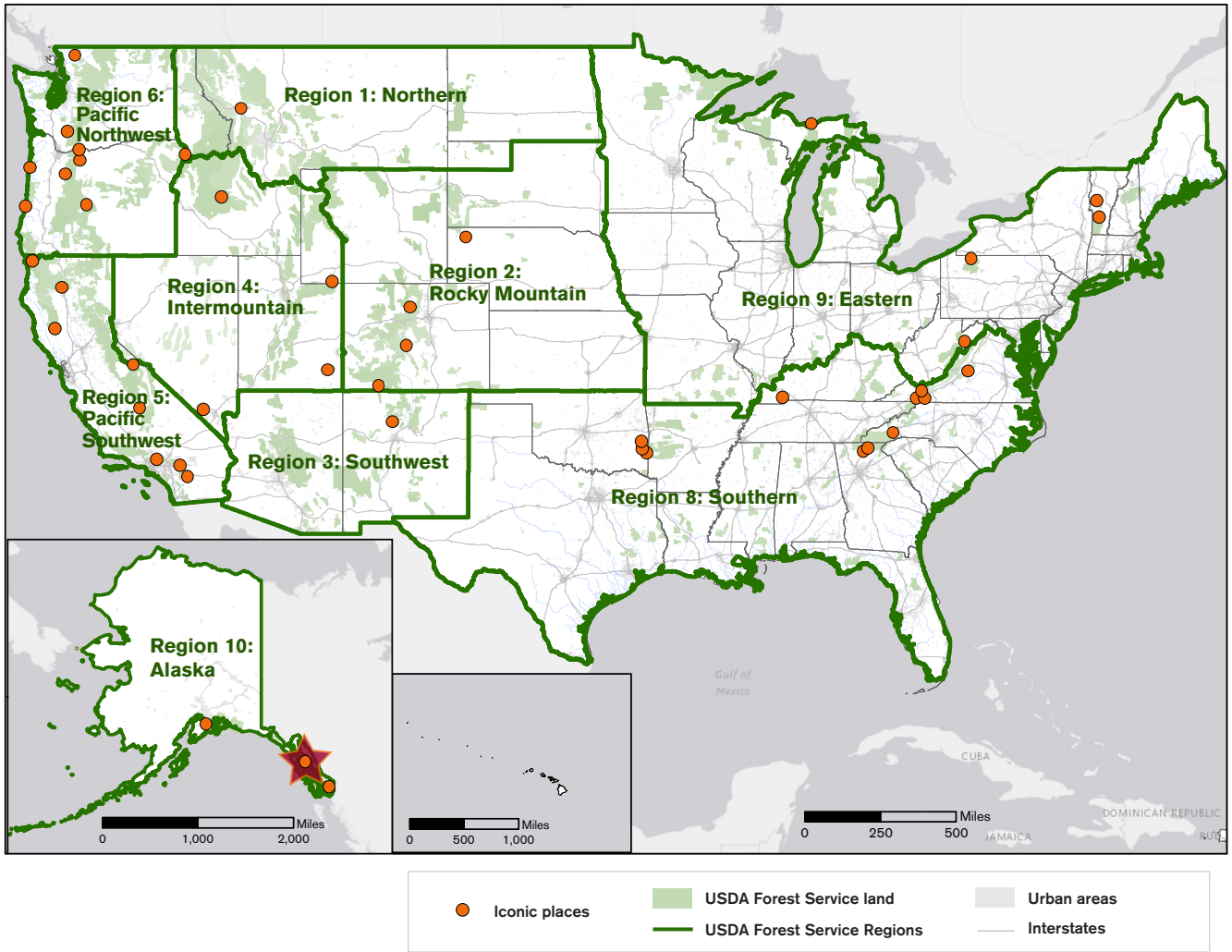


Photo: Admiralty Island, Alaska. Photo credit: Don MacDougall. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaska_region/14281280208/in/album-72157645301350823/. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>.



KENAI MOUNTAINS-TURNAGAIN ARM NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

At a glance:

Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm NHA quick facts

Date established: March 30, 2009

Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 111-11, S. 3045

Forest Service region: 10, Alaska

State: Alaska

Associated national forest: Chugach

Reasons designated: “to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area” (U.S. Congress, 2009)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: Anchorage, AK; 40 miles

Population within 25 miles: 307,968

Population within 100 miles: 459,652

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Chugach National Forest: 590,963 estimated annual visits (2013, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Bicycling, camping, cabins, skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, kayaking, whitewater rafting, and fishing

DESCRIPTION

The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (NHA) is located on the northern part of the Kenai Peninsula, north and east of Kenai Fjords National Park in the state of Alaska. The area consists of a rugged landscape with mountains, lakes, rivers, fiords and several transportation corridors of historical significance, including the Iditarod Trail, Seward Highway Scenic Byway, and the Alaska Railroad. Two major terminals for summer cruise ship traffic and several settled communities are located within the boundaries of the NHA. The area also encompasses Kenai Lake and several mining districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm NHA has a rich history of occupation by indigenous peoples, Russian miners, dog-sled mail carriers, and other employees of resource extraction activities.

BACKGROUND

Focusing on the historic transportation routes through the Kenai Peninsula, the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Corridor Communities Association formed in 2000 to study the potential of Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula for designation as a National Heritage Area. A bill to create the NHA failed within the U.S. House of Congress twice until the bill, sponsored by Alaskan Senator Lisa Murkowski, was finally passed into law March 30th, 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009.

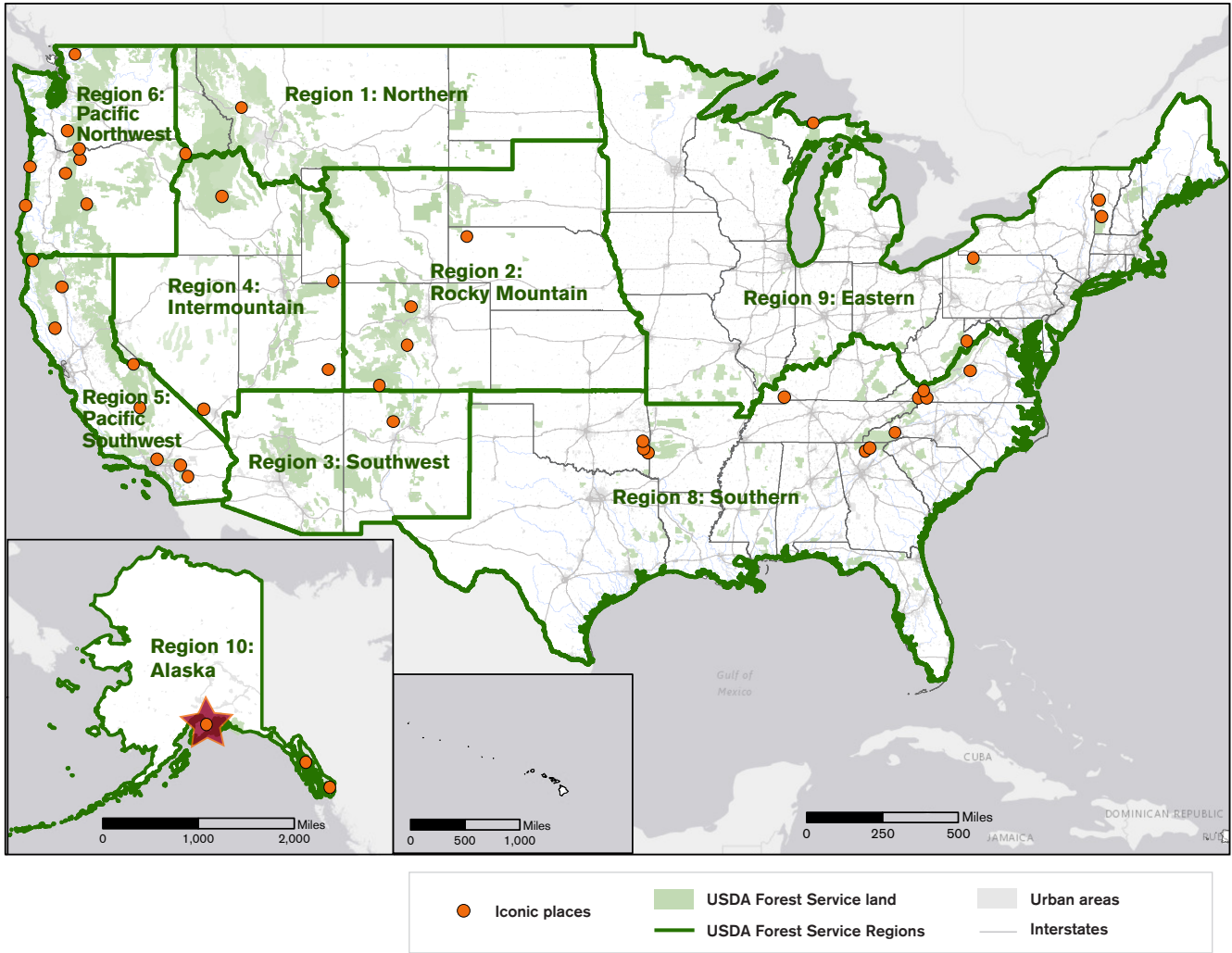


Photo: Kenai River Canyon in the Chugach National Forest. Photo by Marion Glaser. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaska_region/8056608950/in/gallery-befuddledsenses-72157637538953223/. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>.



MISTY FIORDS

NATIONAL MONUMENT

At a glance:

Misty Fiords NM quick facts

Date established: Dec. 1, 1978; Dec. 2, 1980

Established by: Presidential proclamation, President Jimmy Carter (1978); Congressional designation of Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness, Public Law 96-487 (1980)

Forest Service region: 10, Alaska Region

State: Alaska

Associated national forest: Tongass

Total Forest Service acres: 2,293,162

Reasons designated: For the “unique ecosystem and remarkable geologic and biological objects and features it contains, [possessing] a collective array of objects of outstanding value for continuing scientific study” (Presidential Proclamation, 1978)

People and visitors

Nearest metropolitan area: no metro areas within 500 miles

Population within 25 miles: 16,164

Population within 100 miles: 24,580

Annual visitors estimate and geography: Tongass National Forest–Ketchikan Misty, Craig, and Thorne Bay area: 748,295 estimated annual visits (2014, NVUM)

Main recreational uses: Hiking, camping, non-motorized boating, fishing, hunting, wildlife and nature viewing

DESCRIPTION

Misty Fiords National Monument (NM) is located 22 miles east of Ketchikan in southeast Alaska. Its landscape is characterized by sea cliffs, steep fiords, rock walls, dramatic waterfalls, thick rainforests on vertical slopes, and lakes and streams that receive more than 150 inches of rainfall annually. The NM is home to bald eagles, brown and black bears, moose, wolves, mountain goats, Sitka black-tailed deer, and numerous bird species. It is a major producer of all five species of Pacific salmon, especially king salmon, and includes a diversity of virgin forests from coastal spruce-hemlock to alpine forests. The entire monument is designated as wilderness. It is the largest wilderness in Alaskan national forests and is strategically managed to preserve the undeveloped ecosystem.

BACKGROUND

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANSCA) of 1971 honored the rights of Alaska Natives to select approximately 44 million acres of Federal land in Alaska and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw 80 million acres of land to be studied for possible additions to the National Park, Wildlife Refuge, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Forest systems. As Congress worked to pass a comprehensive act based on study recommendations, President Jimmy Carter in 1978 withdrew by proclamation over 55 million acres of Alaskan land and designated them as national monuments to be administered by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service. Misty Fiords National Monument was included in that proclamation. Two years later, in 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA; P.L. 96-487), was signed into law. ANILCA honored the ANSCA and congressionally-designated the Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness.

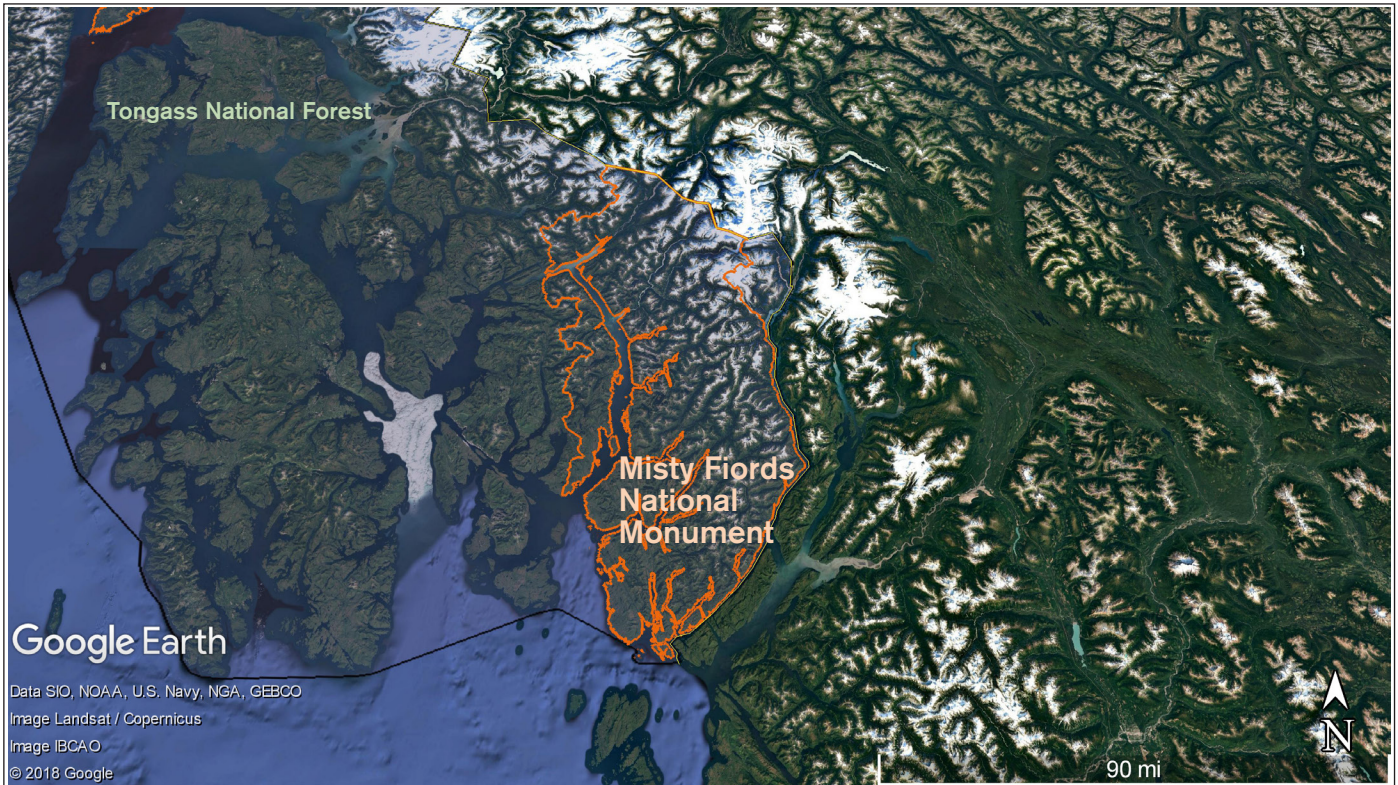
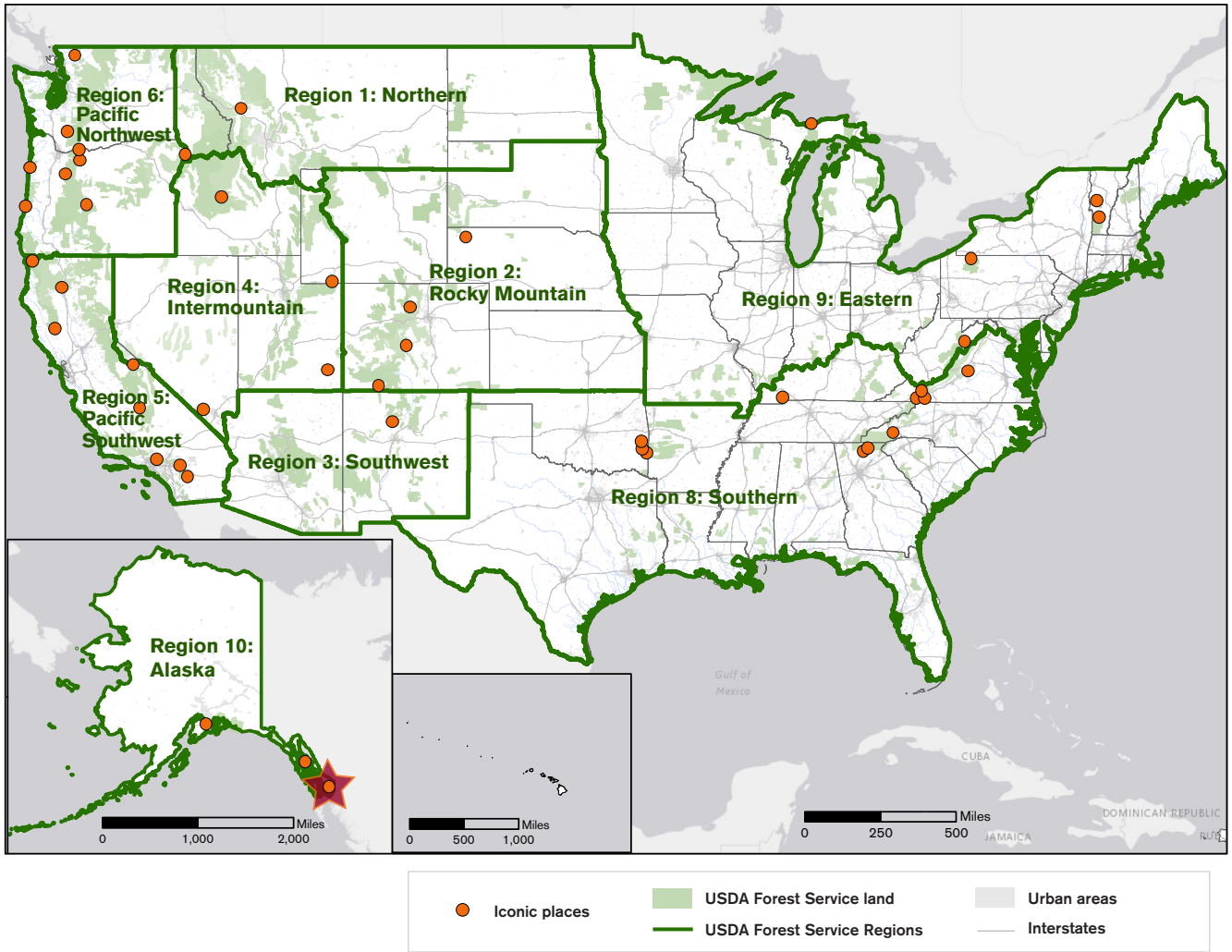


Photo: Misty Fiords National Monument. USDA Forest Service Alaska Region. Available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/alaska_region/11316163953/in/album-72157638563702744/. License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>.



NEZ PERCE

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

At a glance:

Nez Perce National Historic Trail quick facts

Date established: October 6, 1986

Established by: Congressional designation, Public Law 99-445

Forest Service region(s): 6, Pacific Northwest and 1: Northern

State(s): Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming

Associated national forests: The trail crosses multiple forests: Caribou-Targhee, Lolo, Clearwater, Bitterroot, Nez Perce, Gallatin, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Shoshone, Salmon-Challis, Wallowa-Whitman

Reasons designated: to “best protect a historically significant event, provides additional opportunities for low impact recreation, and respond to public demand.” (USDA Forest Service, 1990)

Main recreational uses: Geocaching, nature viewing, and scenic driving

DESCRIPTION

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail traces the 1,170 mile route that the Nez Perce (in their language, Nimi’ipuu or Nee-Me-Poo) took in 1877 as they fled the U.S. Army. About 750 men, women, and children with about 2,000 horses were pursued from their homelands by U.S. Army Generals Howard, Sturgis, and Miles between June and October of 1877. The trail begins in Wallowa, Oregon and ends at the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana, where the fleeing Nez Perce ultimately surrendered. This Battlefield is 40 miles from the Canadian Border, where they were hoping to find sanctuary. The trail winds through exceptionally rugged scenery, crossing canyons, traversing over the Continental Divide and a succession of other ridges, through forests and plains, across the Snake River, and through Yellowstone’s National Park. Although this historic route was used in its entirety only once, travelers today can retrace the approximate route by following the Nez Perce Trail auto route. The route is marked by Nez Perce Trail signs crossing three-season, all-weather roadways ranging from interstates to high-standard gravel roads traveling through Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.

BACKGROUND

Congress established the framework for a national system of scenic, recreational, and historic trails with the passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968. The Nez Perce National Historic Trail was added to this system in 1986 by Congress as a way to commemorate the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce.

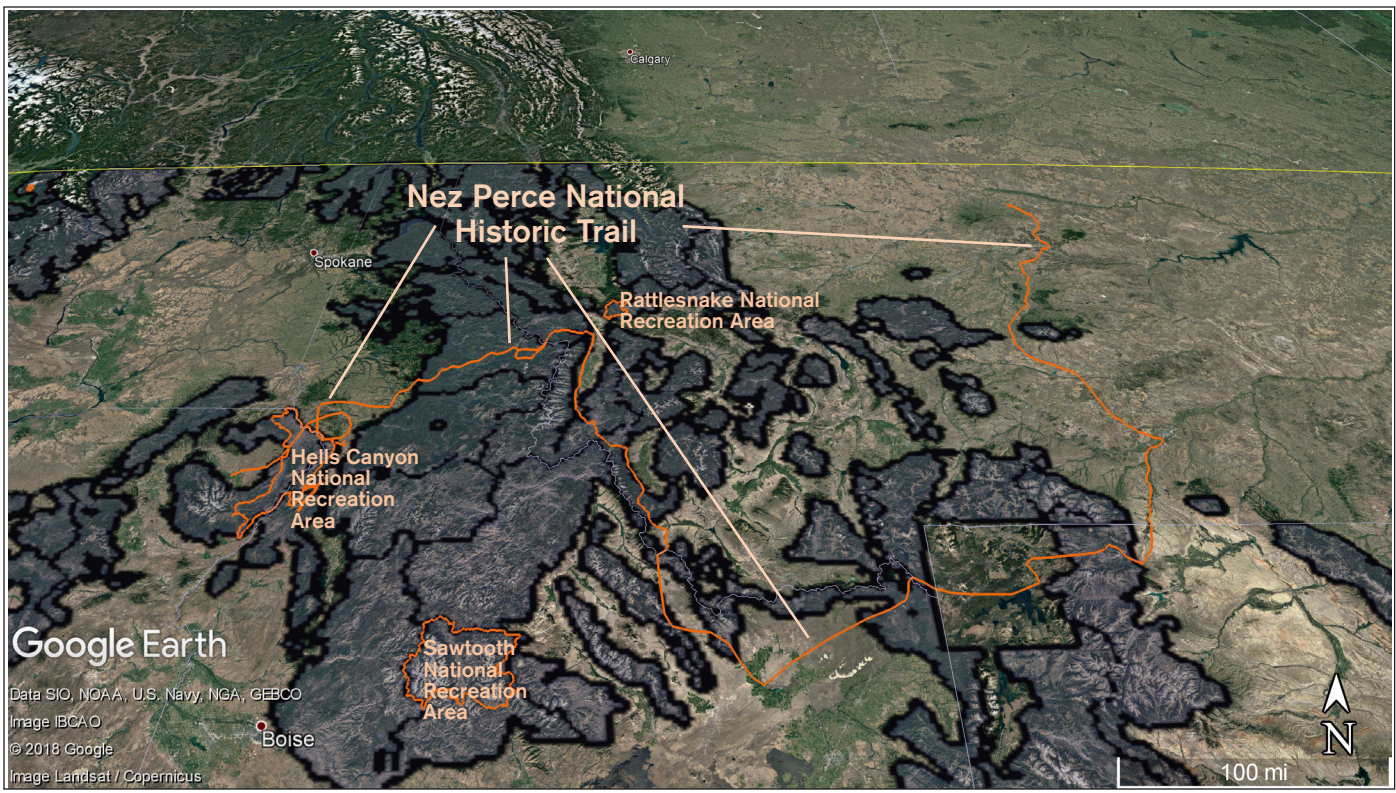
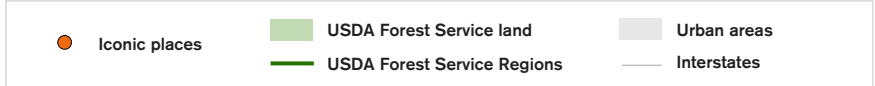
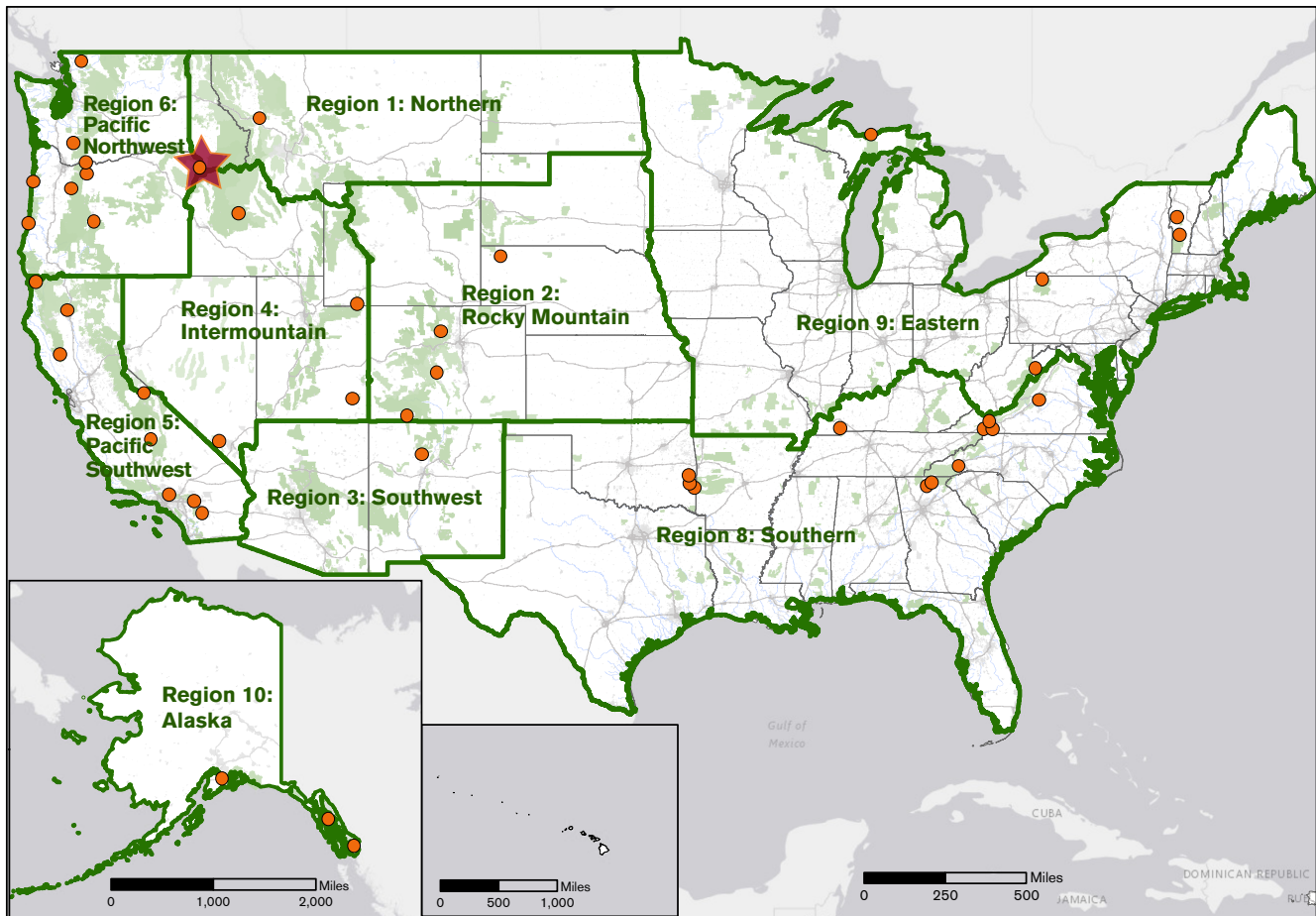


Photo: The Nez Perce National Historic Trail from Big Hole Valley, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Photo by Roger M. Peterson. Public domain. Available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usforestservice/41283155260/>.