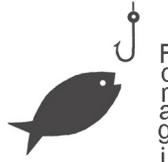


## Public Lands

Public lands are areas of land held in trust by national governments, states or local governments for the use and enjoyment by members of the public. Uses can include everything from taking pictures to mining. To start a discussion of public lands, print out this sheet on paper or cardstock (sturdier!) and cut out the squares with the icons. Each square represents one possible use of public lands. A few blank squares are provided for uses that may not fit in one of listed uses. Sort the squares into different categories and discuss which uses are compatible with each other. Possible categories: 1) recreation vs extractive uses; 2) uses with transient impacts vs those with permanent impacts; 3) non-motorized vs. motorized uses; 4) low impact vs. high impact uses. Keep in mind not every use will fit into one or the other category, there may be in-between cases, so just set up new categories. See if you can think of other sets of categories. Pick a particular public lands area and think about its multiple uses, could it absorb more or should it have fewer uses? What are the different kinds of public lands, and how does the kind of public land affect what it can be used for. Which agencies hold public lands in trust and manage them for different uses? Some folks argue all lands would be managed better if they were privately held – what are the pluses and minuses of this idea?

 ATVing	 Auto Touring	 Bicycling	 Camping	 Conserving Habitat	 Dams Rivers	
 Drilling	 Farming	 Grazing	 Hiking	 Hunting Fishing	 Logging	
 Mining	 Motor Boating	 Paddling	 Picnicking	 Preserving History	 Riding Horses	
 Rock Climbing	 Skiing	 Snowmobiling	 Swimming	 Taking Pictures	 Viewing Wildlife	

Resources for further discussion

<http://www.recreation.gov>

Federal Land Ownership Overview - <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42346.pdf>

Federal Lands Maps - [http://nationalmap.gov/small\\_scale/printable/fedlands.html](http://nationalmap.gov/small_scale/printable/fedlands.html)

Missouri Public Lands - <http://morap.missouri.edu/index.php/public-lands-mapping/>

National Public Lands Day - <http://www.publiclandsday.org>