Formally Classified Lands

Formally Classified Lands are properties administered either by federal, state or local agencies or have been given special protection through formal legislative designation. Some of these have been listed and explained individually within this Guide. Others are noted here, but the list should not be considered complete. Formally Classified Lands include:

1. National Parks
2. National Reserves
3. Battlefields and Military Parks
4. National Lakeshores
5. National Parkways
6. National Conservation Areas
7. Forest Reserves
8. Wilderness Study Areas
9. Wild and Scenic Rivers
10. National Grasslands
11. Coordination Areas
12. Coastal Zones
13. Coastal Barriers Resource System
15. Recreation Areas
16. National Seashores
17. National Natural Landmarks
18. Cooperative Management and Protection Areas
19. Outstanding Natural Areas
20. Wilderness
21. National Scenic and Historic Trails
22. National Forest
23. National Wildlife Refuges
24. Waterfowl Production Areas
25. Areas of State and Local Interest

There is not a single source of information for the Formally Classified Lands. Individual land areas can be researched on line by the above titles. Any required consultation should be with the administrating agency. If a project is located near or within a Formally Classified Land, it does not automatically mean the project will be denied. Each agency has different requirements. Some allow compatible development and others have zero development policies.

Note that the classification is not limited to federal agencies. For example, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) oversees the State Parks, State Historic Sites, and State Natural Areas. The TPWD web site has specific information about each and it can be found here:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Most Rural Developments projects are not located in or near Formally Classified Land areas. Those that are located near one should note this in the report and indicate that there is no impact anticipated if that is case. Projects that are in or immediately adjacent to Formally Classified Land areas and may have potential impact should contact their administrator for comments.

Potential impacts to adjacent sites usually mean that the proposed project will have some type of water or air pollutant discharge. It may also mean that the project will generate large amounts of vehicle traffic which could burden the existing road system or generate noise which would disturb wildlife. In rare occasions, the size of a project could be the issue. Having a large electrical generating wind turbine adjacent to a Wildlife Refuge may require special mitigation measures or in the worse case may not be recommended by the consulting agency.

The graphics or maps which follow this page are only a small sample of what can be generated from searching the internet for information.
Texas

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge
Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge
Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge
Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge
Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Grulla National Wildlife Refuge

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge
Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
McFadden National Wildlife Refuge
Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge
San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge
Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge
Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge
Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge

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