

Land Resources

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What are Land Resources?

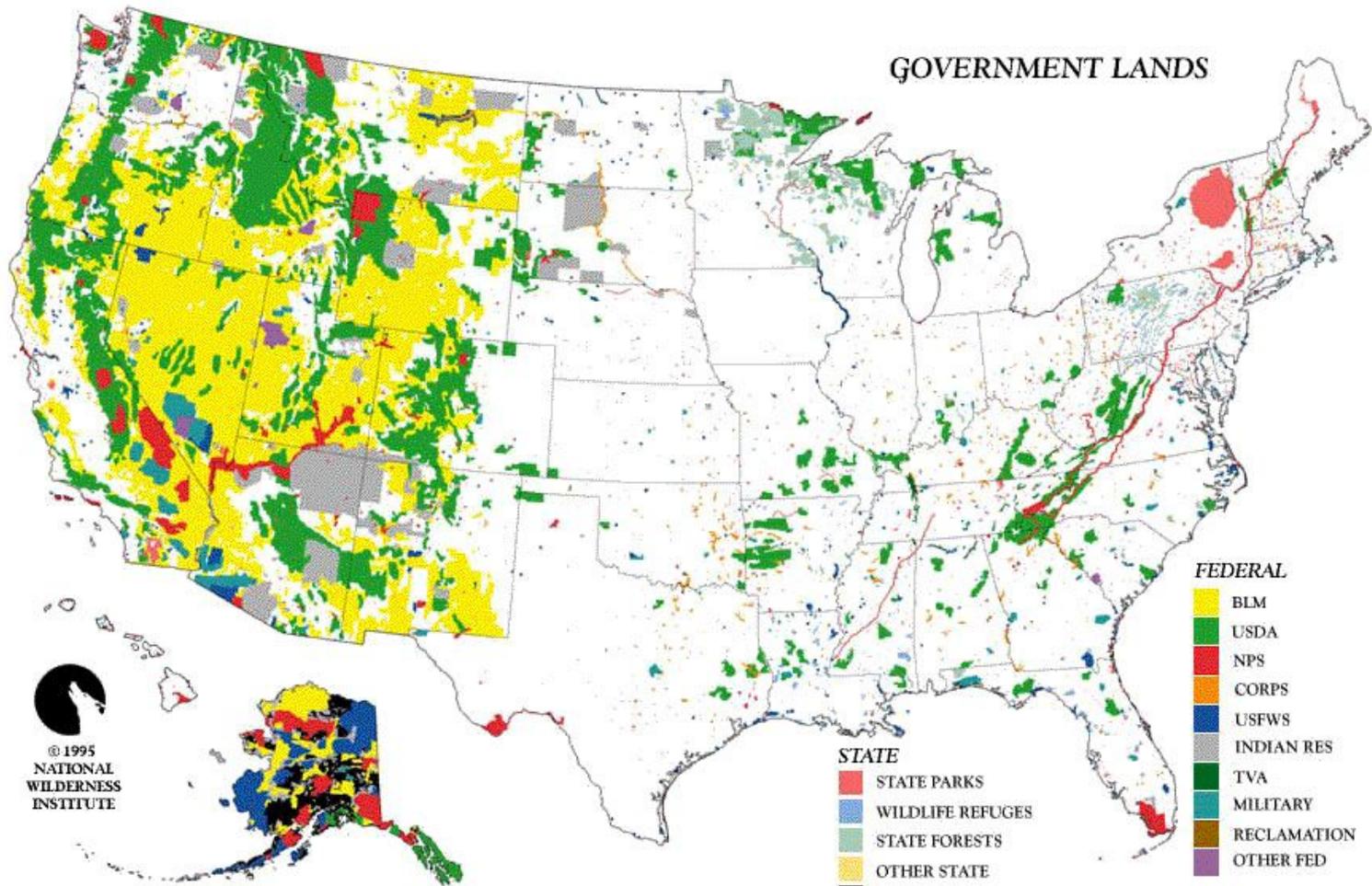
Land Resources include sand, mulch, peat, topsoil, all rocks, along with those resources that rely on land for survival, such as croplands, forests, grasslands and other wilderness areas.



How are Land Resources Managed?

About 828 million acres of land in the United States is managed by Federal, State, and local governments

GOVERNMENT LANDS



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NATIONAL
WILDERNESS
INSTITUTE

National Parks

Preserve scenic & unique natural landscapes while protecting wildlife habitats/ wilderness areas

About 50% of the land in the National Park system is designated as Wilderness

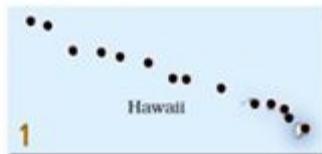
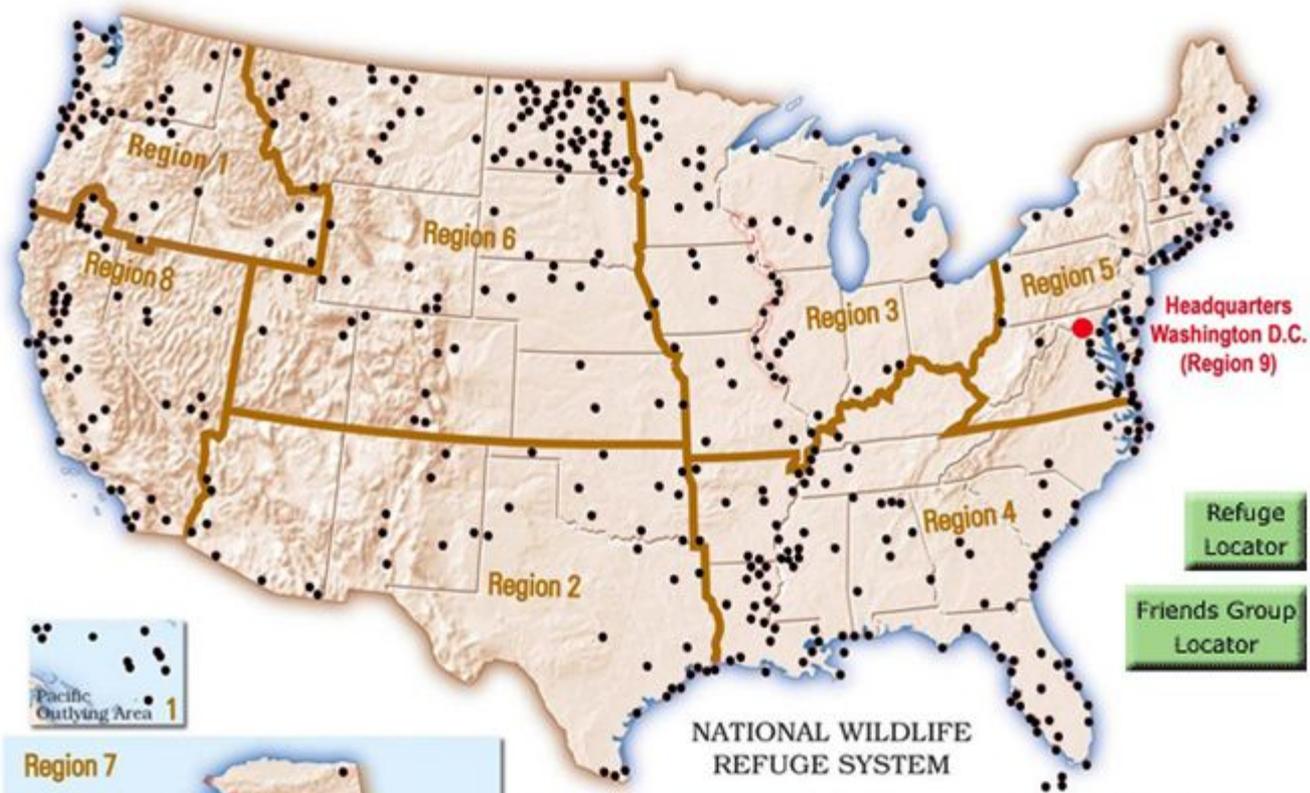


National Wildlife Refuges

Provide protection of habitats and breeding areas for wildlife

Some provide protection for endangered species

Fishing, trapping, hunting, logging, and farming are permitted as long as they are compatible with the purpose of the refuge



• = National Wildlife Refuge

Resources from Earth's Crust

Soil

Aggregates

Bedrock

Ores

Soil

In some places on Earth's crust it can take up to 1000 years to form just a few centimeters of topsoil

In some places on Earth's crust it can take only a few minutes for topsoil to be lost as a result of erosion by wind or water

Desertification



Deforestation



Desertification

In arid and semiarid parts of the world, the loss of topsoil leads to desertification, which is the process whereby productive land becomes desert

Often caused by overgrazing and deforestation

Desertification



Aggregate

Sand, gravel, and crushed stone that can naturally accumulate on or near Earth's surface

Used as the first layer of material before laying down asphalt



Bedrock

Solid rock, often referred to as unweathered parent rock, which can consist of limestone, granite, marble, or other rocks that can be mined in quarries

Used to construct buildings, monuments, flooring, countertops, and fireplaces



Ore

Natural resource that can be mined for a profit so long as the market value is greater than the extraction cost

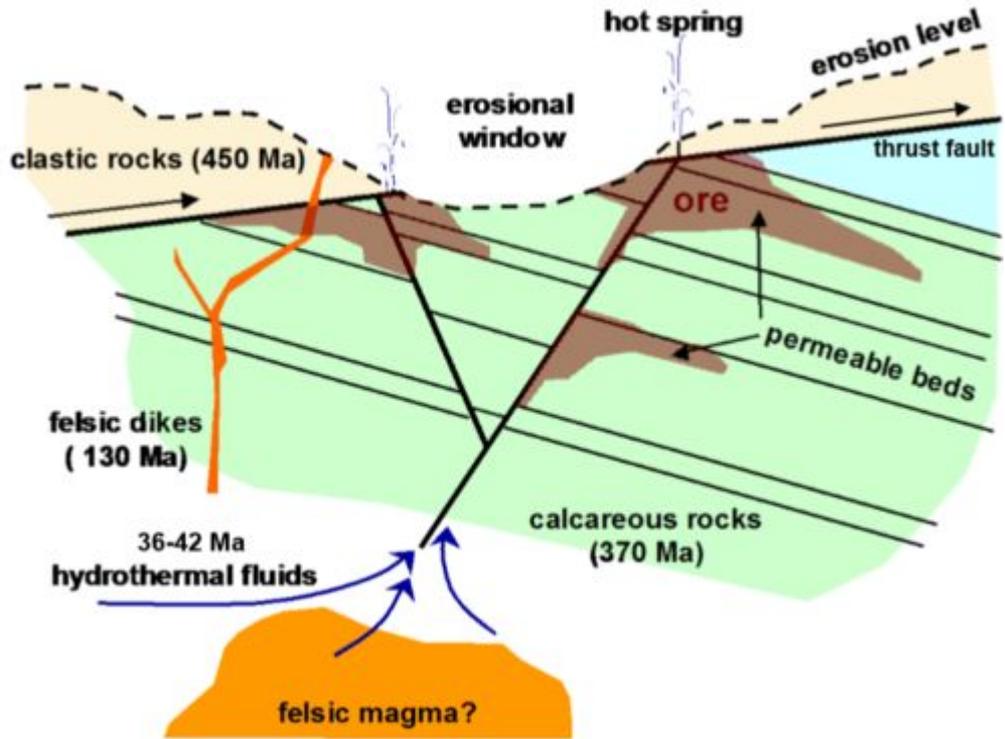
Ores are classified by the manner in which they form



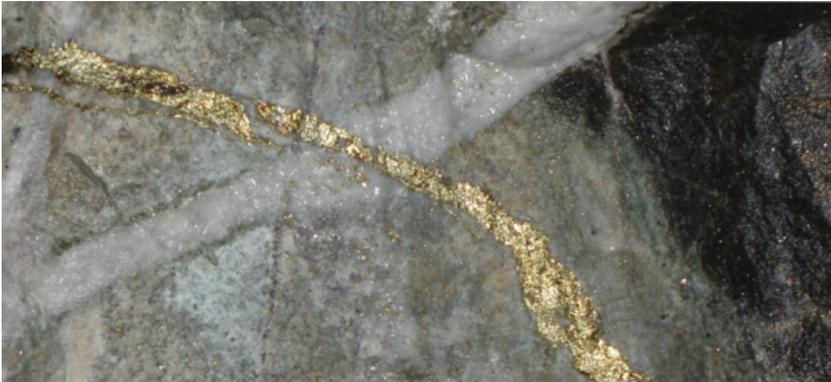
Hydrothermal Fluids / Veins

The most important source of metallic ore deposits are hydrothermal fluids

A solution rich in metals and silica moves into surrounding rocks to create deposits known as hydrothermal veins



Hydrothermal Veins



Chemical Precipitation

Banded iron formations form when iron is exposed to increased atmospheric oxygen and chemical precipitation

Most banded iron formations date back to the Precambrian



Placer Deposits

Sediments that are more dense are deposited in bars of sand and gravel when stream velocity decreases

These sediments, such as gold nuggets, gold dust, diamonds, etc, are known as placer deposits

