

# USFS Hunting Considerations

- Camping may be limited or permit-based
- Vehicle access may be limited
- **When on Forest Service land remember that:**
  - All firearms and bows with arrows should be cased and unloaded while in a recreation area or other public areas.
  - Discharging a firearm (including a bow and arrow) is prohibited in or within 150 yards of a developed recreation site, a residence, or any place where people are likely to be.
  - Shooting across bodies of water or a Forest Service road is prohibited.
  - Shooting into or within any cave, mine or open shaft is prohibited.
  - Private land is interspersed with public land and you must obtain written permission from the private landowner to hunt on their property. Obtain a map and use caution to ensure you don't inadvertently stray off public land onto private.
  - Only portable stands or blinds are allowed. Check with your local ranger district for restrictions and time limits.



# Wilderness Areas

- The Wilderness Act of 1964 established the National Wilderness Preservation System and authorizes Congress to designate wilderness areas. Here, in the Wilderness Act, is a definition of wilderness: “A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain ... An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions ...”
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/know-before-you-go/hunting>





# Public Hunting Options

- Wilderness Areas
- *“In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of **an enduring resource of wilderness.**”*
- Excerpt from [The Wilderness Act of 1964](#)





# Wilderness Area Considerations

- Special Use Permits for entry
  - 60% for reservations and 40% are first come first serve
  - Permits are needed to track the number of people in the wilderness at any given time
- General rules
  - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recreation/recarea/?recid=37201>
  - **Nation-wide Wilderness regulations:**
    - Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is prohibited. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, game carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters.