

XI. Management *of* National Monuments vs. National Conservation Areas

National Monuments and National Conservation Areas are the most well known and recognized of the National Conservation Lands. Although different in name, the management of these two designated areas is typically very similar– both are managed with a focus on conservation of the resources they were designated to protect.

In fact, the language creating each National Monument and National Conservation Area is unique to that area, in order to address the specific values and issues relating to the individual place. In general, both designations allow for broad access while protecting the natural and cultural resources. Below is a chart that describes in more detail the differences and similarities in the two types of protected areas.

Type of Designation	National Monument	National Conservation Area
# of units in the system	16	16
How is it Designated?	Congress through Legislation or the President through the Antiquities Act	Only Congress through Legislation
What Land can be Protected?	Public land Currently Managed by the Federal Government	Public land Currently Managed by the Federal Government
Legal Language	<p>Congress finds that the federal public lands in x be protected and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>I (the President) hereby proclaim that there is hereby set apart and reserved as the X National Monument, for the purpose of protection of the objects identified [in the proclamation language] above.</p>	<p>Congress finds that the federal public lands in x be protected and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.</p>
Limits on the # of acres?	NO	NO
Document which Governs Day to Day Management	Resource Management Plan– Developed by BLM w/ Public Support	Resource Management Plan– Developed by BLM w/ Public Support
Examples	Sonoran Desert (AZ), Carrizo Plain (CA)	Red Rock Canyon (NV), Gunnison Gorge (CO)



Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area, AZ