



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Records About National Natural Landmarks (NLS),
1/12/1982 - 5/2004
Record Group 79**

Updated 5/15/2020

1. What information is in these records?

This series contains data on ecological and geological sites designated as National Natural Landmarks or sites that have been identified as having the potential to be natural monuments. The records identify the natural landmark's name, state and county, size, the agency's steps in securing designation, the dates of actions, the development of natural history studies, landowners, resource issues, and agency correspondence.

2. Why were these records created?

The agency created this system as a management tool to monitor the status of the sites and to conduct analyses.

3. I know the name of the park. How can I search this series?

The primary data file in this series is the National Natural Landmarks (NNL) System. To get the National Landmarks Site Identifier number, place the name into the name field in the NNL file. Query the remaining four files by placing that number into the National Landmarks Site Identifier fields in each of the other four data files to retrieve the appropriate results.

4. Why are there X's in the landowner name and address columns in some of the records?

NARA has masked the landowner name and address information in those records where the owners are private persons in keeping with the FOIA (b)(6) exemption.

5. How can I access a copy of the full file?

The raw data file, along with the associated technical documentation, may be downloaded from the National Archives Catalog at: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>. There you can search by the series name, Records About National Natural Landmarks (NLS), or using the National Archives Identifier 567569, which is the description identifier for this series.

In the results, select to view the full series description. Click on the link "file(s) described in the catalog" next to "Includes:" for a list of the file units within this series. Then select the file unit containing the records of interest to you. The file unit description will include the list of electronic records and documentation files available for viewing and/or downloading.

Additional information about downloading electronic records from the Catalog is available at:

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www.archives.gov

<https://www.archives.gov/research/electronic-records/access-in-catalog-faqs>.

Please keep in mind that the data file consists of the raw structured data as loaded into AAD (i.e. the coded values without meanings), but without the AAD software that displays the meanings for coded values and field titles. For more details about using files containing raw structured data, you may wish to review our "Introduction to Raw Data" at:

<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/electronic-records/raw-data-intro.pdf>.