

Decision Matrix: Evaluating a National Park

ight to each category based on how important it is to you in deciding which park should be saved. Then, rate each park on a scale of 1–4 for each c
et the weighted score. Add up the weighted scores to determine which park should be saved.

	Weight (0–1) Your Priorities	Score (1–4)	Park A
			Justification (Why did you give this score?)
nce			
ice			
Value			

Category Descriptors and Scoring Guide (1 = Little Benefit, 4 = Great Benefit of Retaining National Park Status)

	1 – Little Benefit	2 – Some Benefit	3 – Strong Benefit	4 – Great Benefit
	Very low diversity of species and habitats.	Some diversity; limited number of species or habitats.	High diversity; many species and habitats present.	Exceptional diverse species and habitats.
	Commonplace; many similar areas exist elsewhere.	Somewhat unique; similar areas exist but with some differences.	Unique; few similar areas exist.	Highly unique; one of the rarest of its kind.
Geological significance	Little to no geological significance.	Some interesting geological features or processes.	Significant geological features or processes of regional importance.	Outstanding geological features of national/global importance.
Ecosystem function or connectivity	Plays a small role in ecosystem function or connectivity.	Provides some ecosystem services or supports limited connectivity.	Important for ecosystem function, services, or regional connectivity.	Critical for ecosystem function, services, or large-scale connectivity.
Vulnerability	Not vulnerable; resilient to threats.	Somewhat vulnerable; can withstand some impacts.	Vulnerable; likely to be harmed by threats.	Highly vulnerable; likely to be severely damaged or lost.
Human impacts	Human beings are unlikely to significantly affect the ecosystem.	Human effects on the ecosystem will likely be minor with minimal impact on species.	Human effects on the ecosystem are likely to be significant and harm the living in the area.	Human effects on the ecosystem are likely to be catastrophic.
Recreational or cultural value	Very low recreational or cultural value.	Some recreational or cultural opportunities or values.	High recreational, educational, or cultural value.	Exceptional recreational or cultural value; destination.

Numbers only (1, 2, 3, or 4). Higher scores indicate greater benefit of retaining national park status.