

Topographic Map Symbols











Featured Website of the Month
U.S. Geological Survey <http://www.usgs.gov/>

Map Symbols

For more information on map symbols, see the *Fieldbook* Web site. 

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SYMBOLS














Roads, Railroads, and Other Features

Primary highway		Railroad: single track	
Secondary highway		Railroad: multiple track	
Light-duty road		Overpass; underpass	
Unimproved road		Power transmission line	
Trail		Landmark line	





















Land Surface Features

U.S. mineral prospect		Distorted surface	
Quarry; gravel pit		Gravel beach	
Mine shaft		Glacier	
Mine dump		Woodland	
Tailings		Orchard	
Tailings pond		Vineyard	
Dune area		Mangrove	
Sand area		Scrub	
Levee			

Buildings and Related Features

Buildings		Airport, paved landing strip, runway, taxiway, or apron	
School		Campground; campsite	
House of worship		Winter recreation area	
Cemetery		Ranger district office	
Tanks		Guard station or work center	
Wells			
Picnic area			
Landmark			


Water Features

Dam with lock		Rapids	
Canal with lock		Falls	
Exposed wreck		Intermittent lake	
Rock or coral reef		Dry lake bed	
Rock: bare or awash		Marsh (swamp)	
Wide wash		Submerged marsh	
Narrow wash		Wooded marsh	
Perennial streams		Aqueduct tunnel	
Intermittent streams		Channel	
Water well; spring		Sounding; depth curve	

Elevation

Horizontal control station		Index contour	
Vertical control station		Supplementary contour	
Checked spot elevation		Intermediate contour	
Unchecked spot elevation		Depression contours	

Boundary

Federally administered park, reservation, or monument (internal)	
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Meaning of Map Colors

Green	Major vegetation (forest, brush, orchard)
Blue	Water (lake, stream, spring, marsh, water tank)
Red	Highways or boundaries
Black	Human-made structures and place names (buildings, roads, trails, bridges, railroads)
White	Absence of major vegetation, (prairie, meadow, tundra—above timberline)
Brown	Contour lines and standard elevations