Access Pass Available for Disabled Veterans - Disabled American Veterans are eligible for the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass. This pass which is free of charge to disabled citizens, grants access to National Parks which provides access to recreation areas managed by US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forrest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation. To apply for the pass, disabled veterans should secure proof of permanent disability such as a rating decision letter, a VA Healthcare Card noting service connected status, or some other means. The veteran must bring that information in person to a participating federal recreation site or office. Keep in mind, this is a lifetime pass. As we all know, no two federal agencies operate under the same regulations and structures so we would advise interested disabled veterans to check on the Access Pass discounts on the following Web sites:

Bureau of Land Management http://www.blm.gov
Bureau of Reclamation http://www.usbr.gov
Fish and Wildlife Service http://www.fws.gov
USDA Forest Service http:///www.nps.gov
National Park Service http:///www.nps.gov

You ask "Who qualifies for the Access Pass?" The pass may be issued to U.S. Citizens or permanent residents of the U.S., regardless of age, that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities.

You ask "What is a permanent disability?" They define permanent disability as a permanent physical, mental, or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.