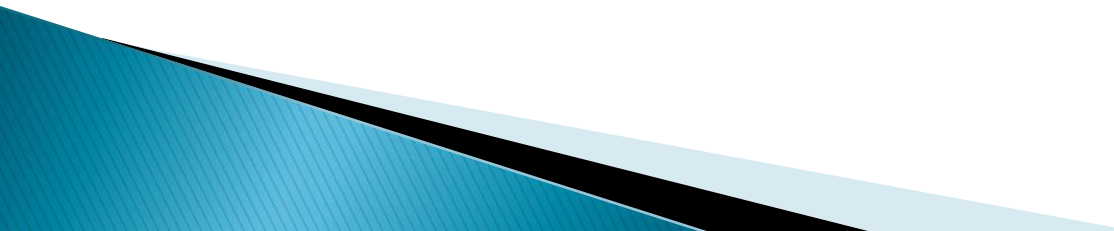


# Environmental History of the US

# Four Major Eras

- ▶ The Tribal Era
  - ▶ The Frontier Era (1607 – 1890)
  - ▶ Early Conservationists (1832 – 1870)
  - ▶ Current Era (1870 – 2012)
- 

# The Tribal Era

- ▶ Native Americans
  - Hunter Gatherers
  - Agricultural Communities



# The Frontier Era

## Frontier Environment World View

Wildness to be conquered and managed  
for human use

## European Settlement

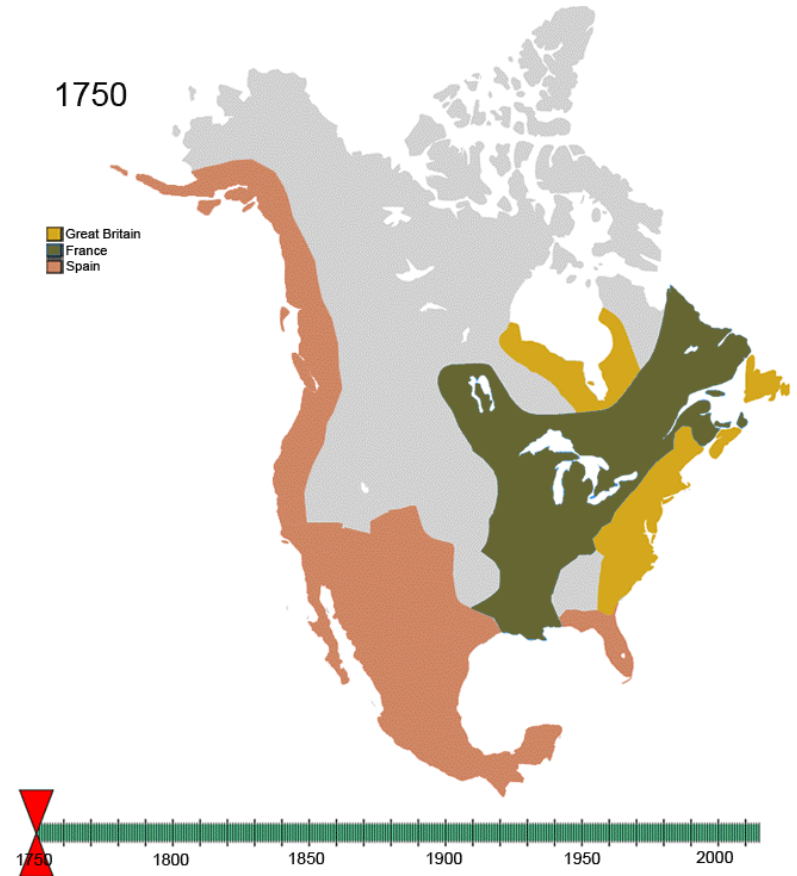
“Manifest Destiny”



Figure 2-1 Environment, 5/e

# North America's Frontier Era

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/40/Non-Native-American-Nations-Territorial-Claims-over-NAFTA-countries-1750-2008.gif>





# The Conservation Era

John James  
Audubon  
(1795– 1851)  
French–  
American  
Ornithologist,  
Naturalist and  
Painter.



# The Conservation Era

John James Audubon (1875– 1851)

Book – Birds of North America



# The Conservation Era



The Passenger Pigeon



© Musée de la civilisation, 2003



# The Conservation Era

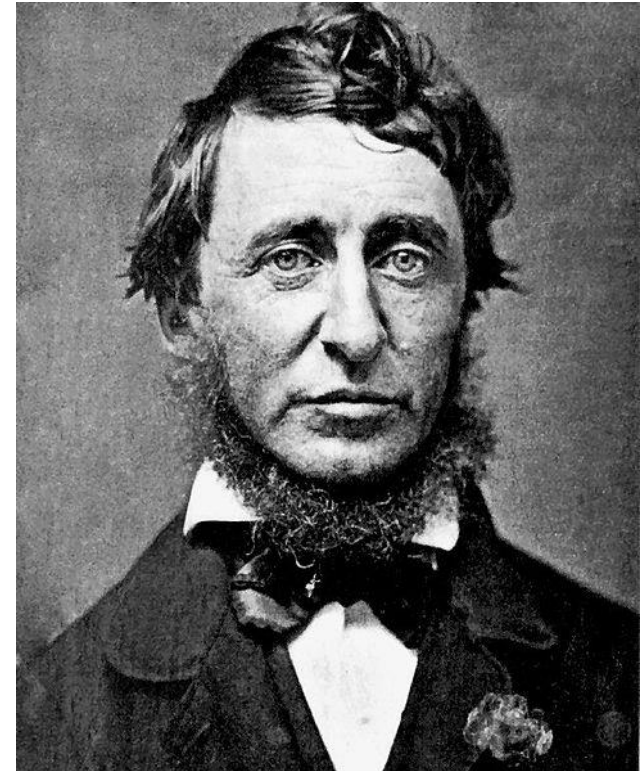
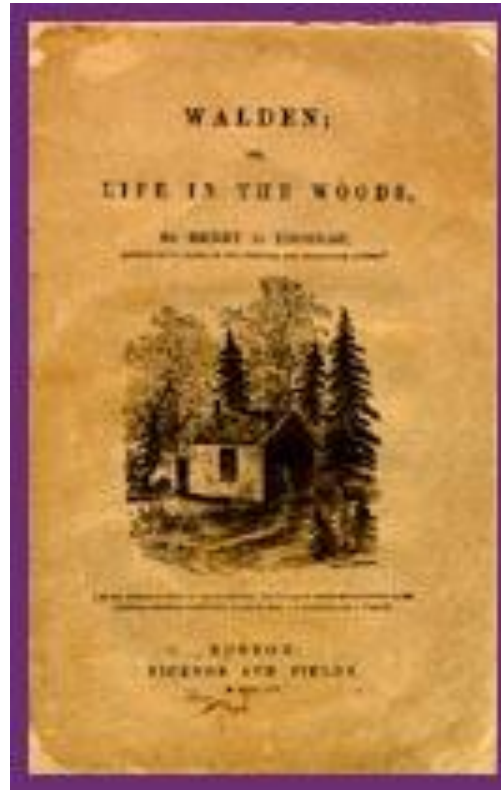
Henry David  
Thoreau (1817–  
1862)  
American Writer  
and Naturalist  
Lived on Walden  
Pond



# The Conservation Era

Henry David  
Thoreau  
(1817–  
1862)

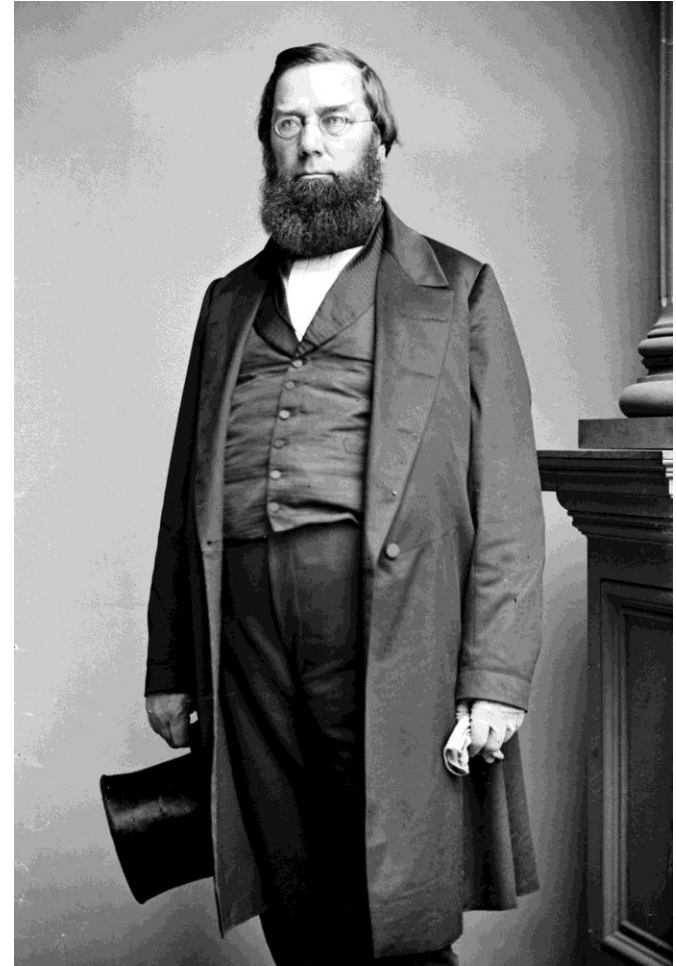
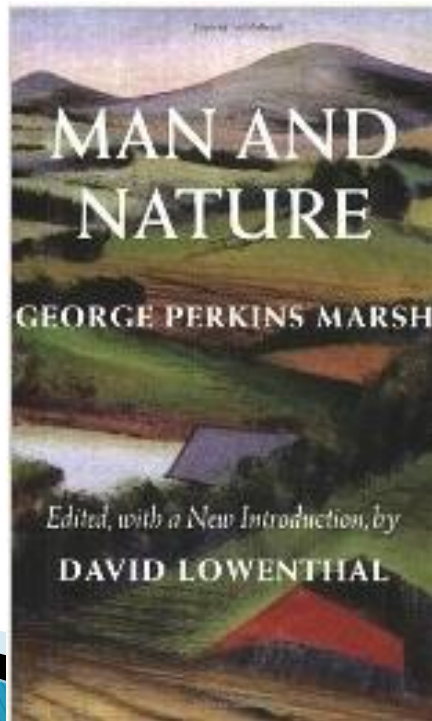
Book: Life in  
the Woods



# The Conservation Era

George Perkin Marsh  
(1801– 1882)

Book: Man and Nature  
(1864)

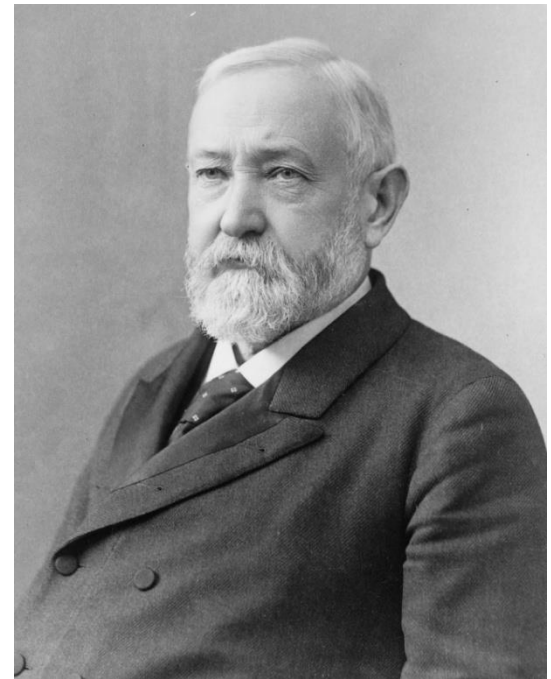


# The Current Era (1870– 1930)

The Forest Reserve Act of 1891 – passed by Congress

Federal Government responsible for protecting public land from resource exploitation

President: Benjamin Harrison

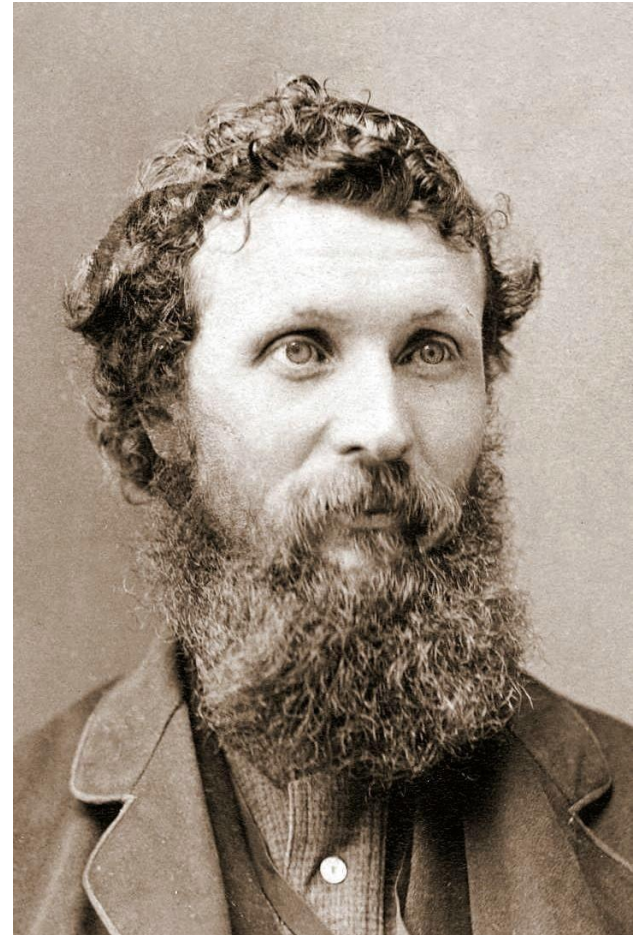




# The Current Era (1870– 1930)

Sierra Club –  
established in 1892  
Preservation  
Movement

Founder: John Muir



# The Current Era (1870– 1930)

Teddy Roosevelt  
(Office 1901–1909)

Golden Age of  
Conservation



# The Current Era (1870– 1930)

Teddy Roosevelt  
(Office 1901 –  
1909)

Established the  
first federal  
refuge at  
Pelican Island

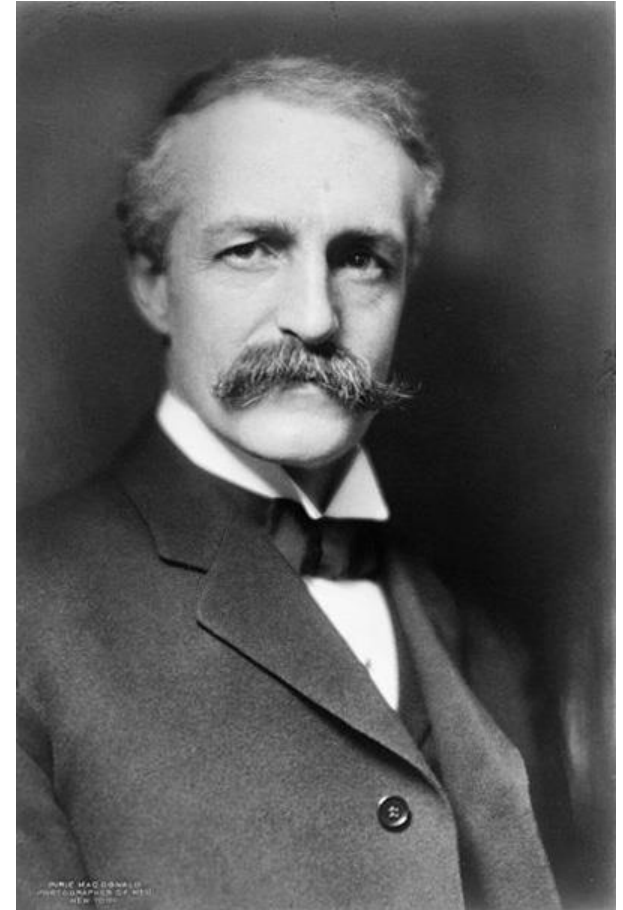




# The Current Era (1870– 1930)

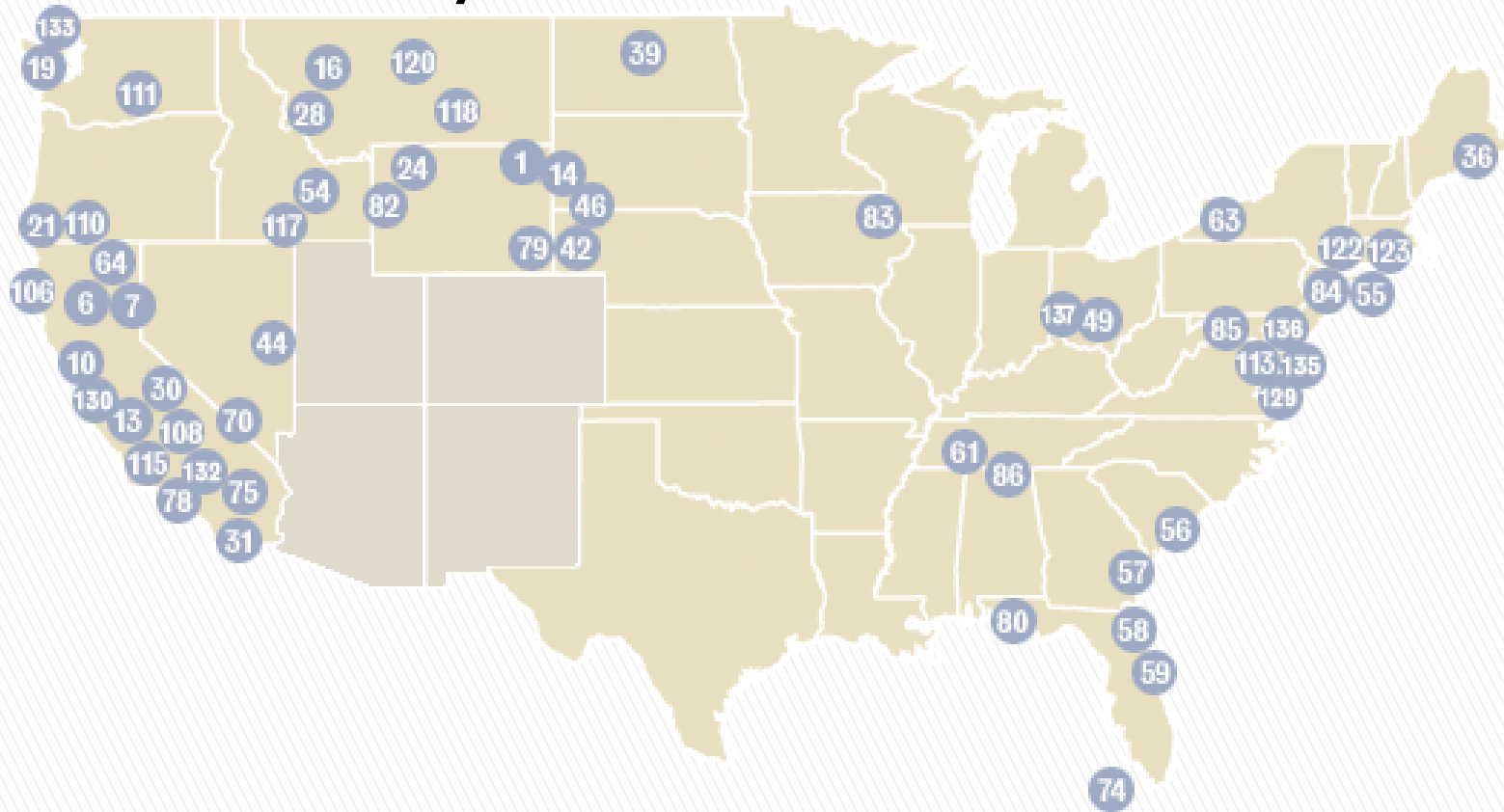
U.S. Forest Service  
(1905) – Gifford  
Pinchot

Antiquities Act (1906)  
President can  
establish National  
Monuments





# ▶ Currently about 155 monuments



<https://www.nps.gov/history/archeology/sites/antiquities/MonumentsList.htm>

# The Current Era (1870– 1930)

Divided into two factions:

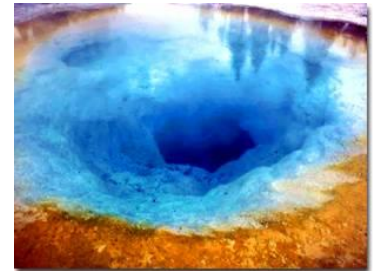
**Preservationists**

**Wise Use**

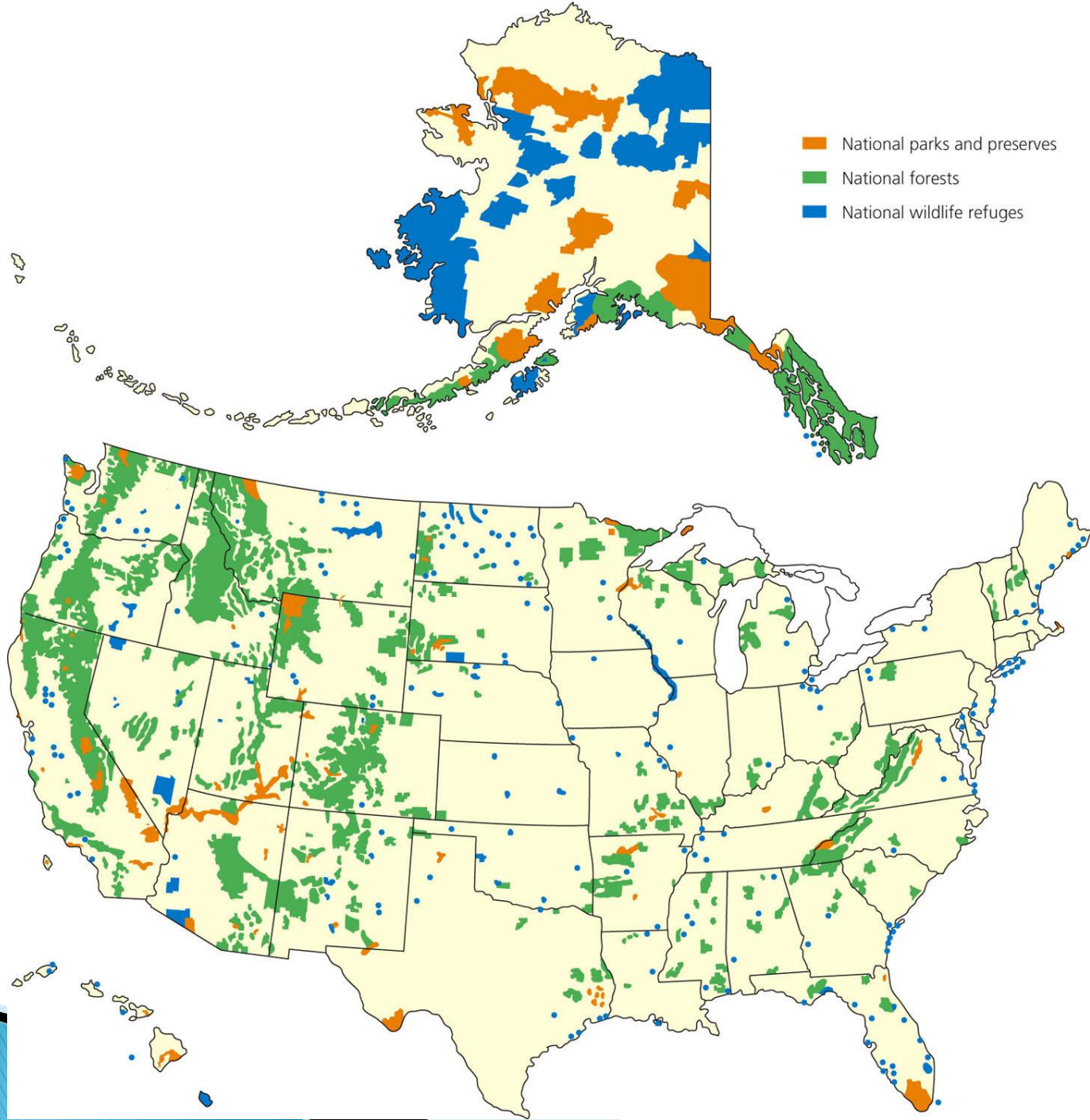


# The Current Era (1870– 1930)

## National Park Service Act (1916) – Stephen T. Mathers









# The Current Era (1930– 1960)

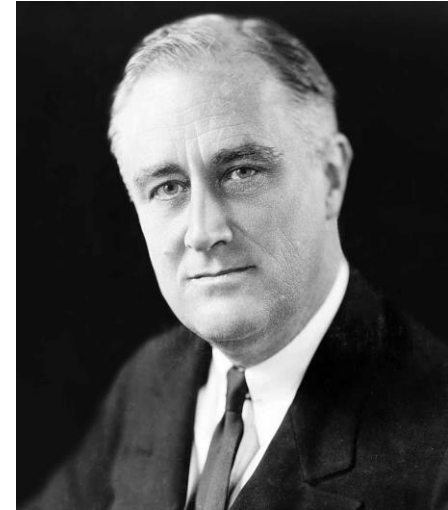
## Alice Hamilton Toxicologist

*Industrial Poisons in the  
United States* (1925)  
*Industrial Toxicology* (1934)  
and  
*Exploring the Dangerous  
Trades* (1943)



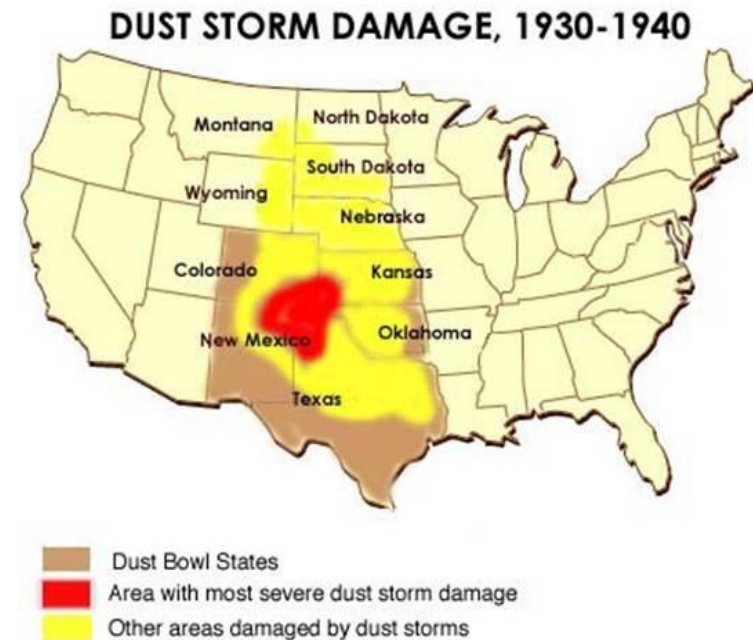
# The Current Era (1930– 1960)

**Out of the Depression**  
**Franklin D. Roosevelt**  
**Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)**  
**3 million to work**  
**planting trees and**  
**building waterways**



# The Current Era (1930– 1960)

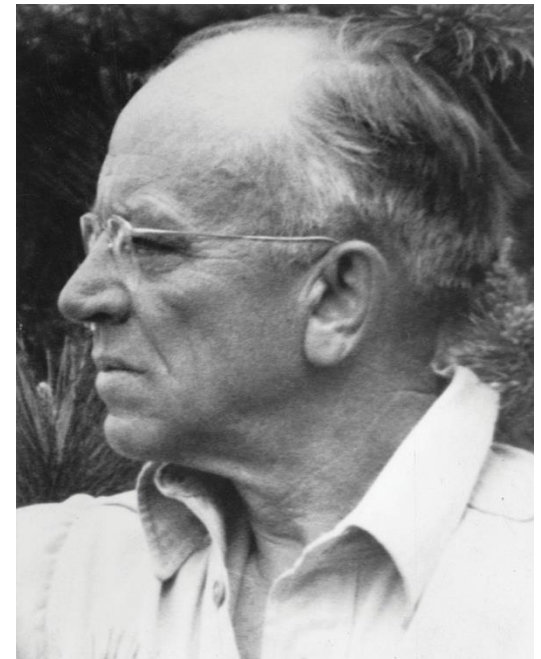
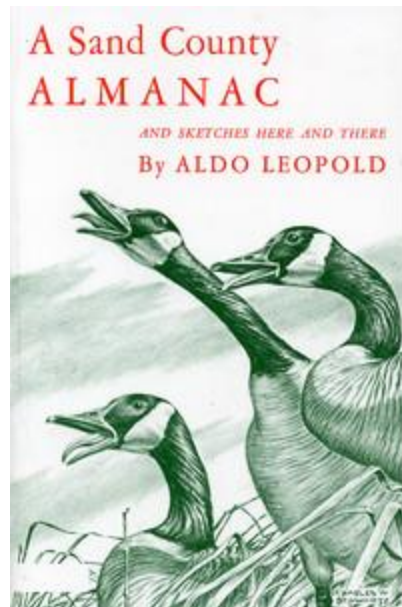
**Soil Conservation Act (1935)  
which turned into the Soil  
Conservation Service (SCS)**



# The Current Era (1930– 1960)

**Aldo Leopold  
(1935)  
Founded the  
U.S.  
Wilderness  
Society**

**Book: A Sand  
County  
Almanac  
Essay: The  
Land Ethic**

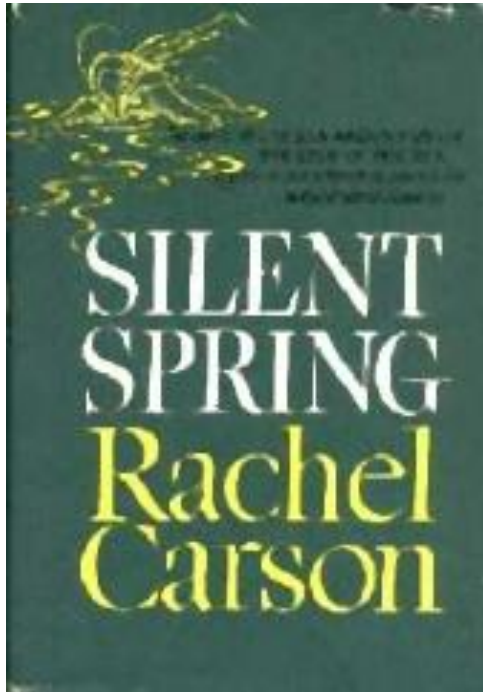




# The Current Era (The 1960's)

**Rachel Carson**

**Book: Silent Spring**



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uno\\_Bl60i40](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uno_Bl60i40)

# The Current Era (The 1960's)

**Wilderness Act of 1964**

**Lyndon B. Johnson**

**Preserve undeveloped  
land for undestructive  
forms of recreation**

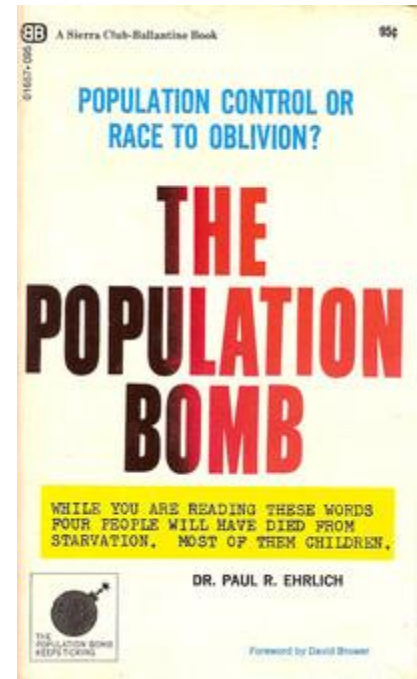
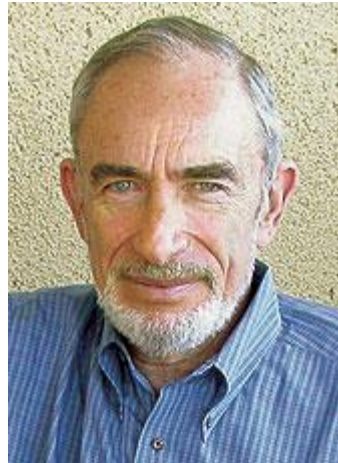


# The Current Era (1930– 1960)

**Paul Erlich**  
**Toxicologist**

Warning on  
Population Growth

Book: The  
Population Bomb  
(1968)



# The Current Era (The 1970's)

## The Environmental Decade

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – 1970

Established Environmental Impact Studies

1<sup>st</sup> annual Earth Day

April 20<sup>th</sup> 1970

EPA was established in 1970

Endangered Species Act (1973)





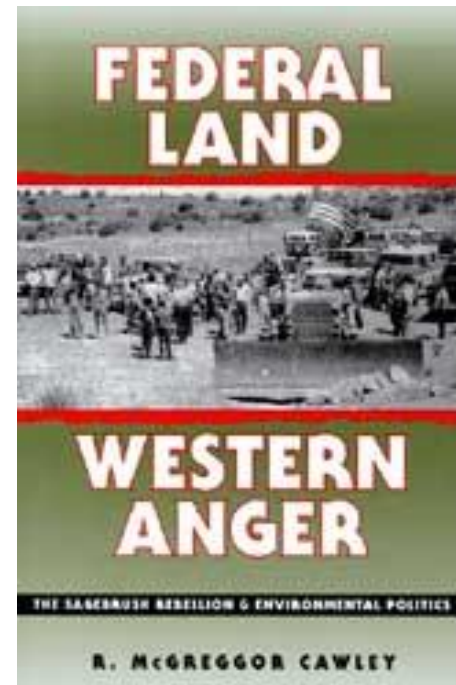
# The Current Era (The 1970's)

## The Environmental Decade

Federal Land Policy and Management Act  
(1977)

BLM gained power

The Sagebrush Rebellion



# The Current Era (The 1970's)

**The United States  
Department of  
Energy (DOE) was  
established in 1977  
by Jimmy Carter  
Nuclear Weapons  
Nuclear Power**



# The Current Era (The 1980's)

## The Environmental Backwash

**CERCLA – Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act often known as the Superfund**

**Clean up toxins  
Love Canal in  
New York**

**Wise Use Movement  
Weaken Environmental Laws**



# The Current Era (The 1980's)

**Ronald Reagan**

**Anti-environmental**

**Lowered Car mpg standards**

**Opened public lands to mining, development, and timber cutting**

**U.S led the world in wind and solar technologies but funding was cut 90%**

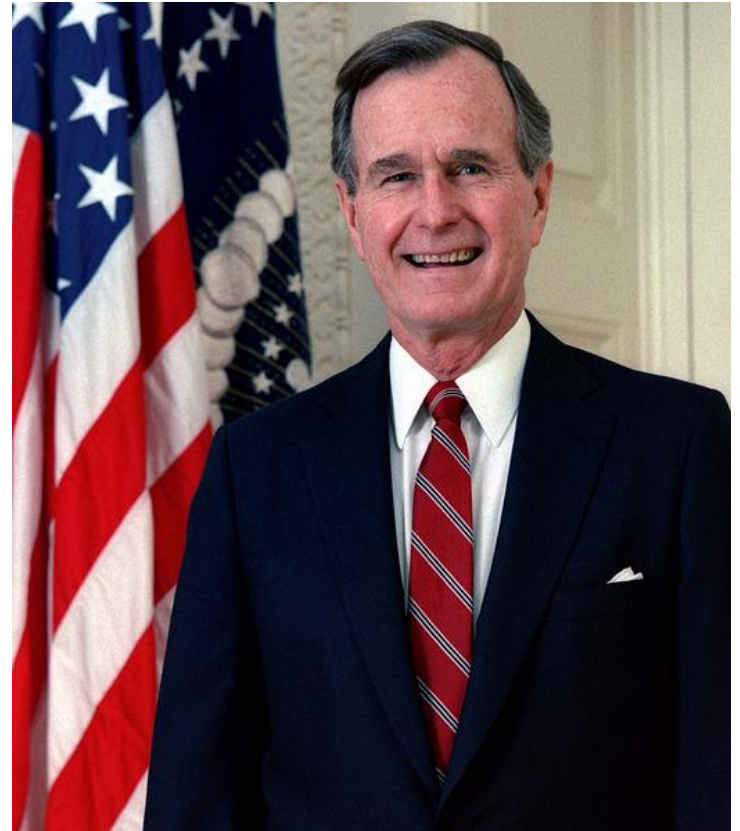




# The Current Era (The 1990's)

## George Bush Sr.

- ▶ In 1992, a total freeze was put on new regulations.
- ▶ In 1992, Bush opposed international efforts at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by refusing to sign the biodiversity treaty and lobbying to remove all binding targets from the proposal on limiting global carbon dioxide emissions.



# The Current Era (The 1990's)

## Bill Clinton

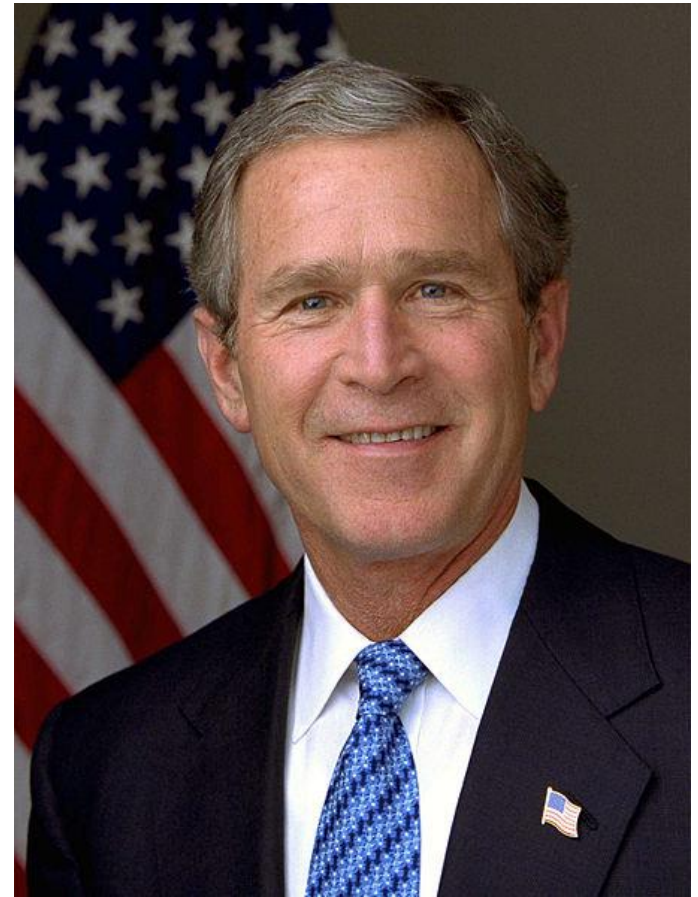
- ▶ Issued a new executive order to **require polluters to disclose information** to the public and **expanded the public's right-to-know** about toxic releases.
- ▶ Issued a new standard to **cut pollution from chemical plants 90%** by 1997.
- ▶ Signed the **California Desert Protection Act**, October 31, 1994.
- ▶ Issued a new standard to **cut pollution from incinerators 95%**.
- ▶ Ended decades of conflict over the allocation of **California Bay-Delta water**.



# The Current Era (The 2000's)

## George W. Bush

- Proposed The Clear Skies Initiative allowing energy companies to buy and trade pollution credits. (Weaken the Clean Air Act)
- Refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol, citing fears of negative consequences for the U. S. economy



# The Current Era (The 2010's)

## Barack Obama

### 1. National climate progress

- Clean Power Plan

### 2. An international climate agreement

- work with China (Paris Agreement) - 195 nations to reduce climate pollution.

### 3. Pollution limits for power plants

### 4. Reducing air pollution from oil and gas operations

### 5. Cleaner cars and trucks (mpg)

### 6. Clean energy investment

### 7. Chemical safety

### 8. Sustainable agriculture, western water, and endangered species

### 9. Fisheries rebound

10. Protecting our natural heritage The president has preserved 260 million acres for future generations, more than any of his predecessors, by designating 23 national monuments.





# The Current Era (The 2010's)

????????????????  
????????????????  
????????????????  
????????????????

## Donald Trump



# The Current Era (The 2010's)

Protecting our natural heritage  
The president has preserved 260 million acres for future generations, more than any of his predecessors, by designating 23 national monuments.

National monuments created by President Obama



# National monuments under review

● No changes   ● Reduce in size   ● Status to be determined



Source: U.S. Department of Interior

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