

Federal Forest politics - past and present



Historical Context of Forests as Public Resource

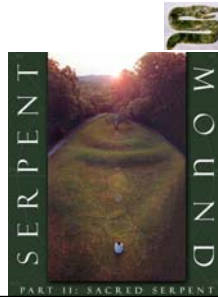
1. Prehuman history

- Realm of geological change
- Glacial cycles -> change
- Climate + tree distributions changing irrespective of human activity
- "the baseline"

Historical Context of Forests as Public Resource

2. Prehistory

- Human migration into N.America ~20k years ago
- Few humans, vast resources, low(er) impact technology



Historical Context of Forests as Public Resource

3. Exploration from W. Europe

- context of resource depletion in W. Europe
- Seeking natural resources in colonies
- Forests a "green goldmine"; *remember English Naval examples from earlier in quarter*

Historical Context of Forests as Public Resource

4. Settling

- For every person arriving/being born in US in the 1800's, acreage to be cleared to support that person (farming, fuels, forest products)
- Increasing population = increasing demand on forests ...

Historical Context of Forests as Public Resource

5. Late 1800's – early 1900's "the party's over"

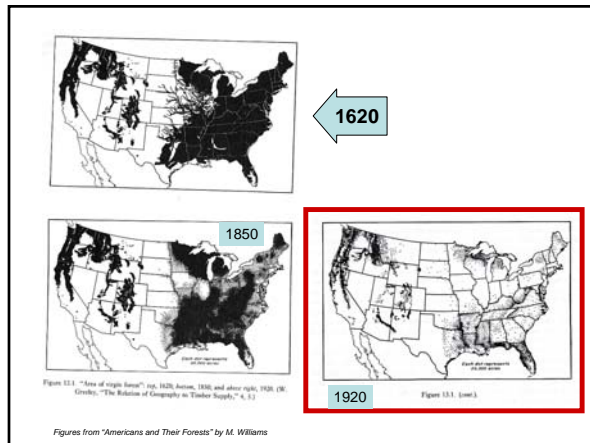
- Transcendentalists Emerson and Thoreau – new spirituality inspired by Natural World
- Huntsman, conservationists concerned about wildlife (NEED HABITAT)
- CUTTING WOOD MUCH FASTER THAN IT GROWS BACK!

Genesis of the US forest service

- Rapid deforestation in East, Midwest, PNW, and South
- 1865 – predictions of a “famine of wood”
- National parks set aside
 - Yosemite (1864)
 - Yellowstone (1872)
 - Adirondack (1885)
- **NEED TO HAVE FORESTED LAND TOO!**

By 1870 – 6 Key Questions

1. Are the forests worth preserving?
2. How should they be managed, and by whom?
3. Who owns the forest?
4. How much left?
5. How to protect the forest?
6. How should the forest be used?



Genesis of Forestry in the US as a discipline

- Discipline w/ origins in Germany
- B.Fernow – established US schools of Forestry
- Biltmore Estate, Vanderbilt-owned
- Gifford Pinchot - forester



Professor Bernard E. Fernow

- Born in Prussia, immigrated to America
- 1st professional forester in North America
- "Father of Forest Engineering"
- Helped establish 1st Forest Engineering program in North America @ Cornell University (Yale was the other one)
- 1st chief of U.S. Forest Service.



Gifford Pinchot (1865-1946)



graduated from Yale in 1889 and from moved to France to study forestry at L'Ecole Nationale Forestiere

1890 he returned to the U.S. and turned forestry conservation and environmental awareness into a national movement

appointed as Head of the Division of Forestry in 1898 by Theodore Roosevelt and was later named Chief Forester of the United States Forest Service

Under Pinchot's lead, national forests in the USA increased from 32 in 1898 to 149 in 1910 and encompassed an area of 193 million acres.

Pinchot and Roosevelt made environmental conservation a public issue and a significant part of domestic policy.



Forest History Society



The precursor to the United States Forest Service, the Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry was established in 1881.

The Division's primary mission was information. Three years later, scientific experimentation was added to the Division's responsibilities.

President Harrison established the first timber land reserve on March 30, 1891, and placed it under the control of the General Land Office, rather than the Division of Forestry

Forest History Society



In 1901 the Division was renamed Bureau of Forestry, with [Gifford Pinchot](#) as the Forester.

An Act on February 1, 1905, establishing the U.S. Forest Service, in the Department of Agriculture, also transferred the national forest reserves from the General Land Office to the Department of Agriculture.

A 100-year anniversary for the Forest Service!

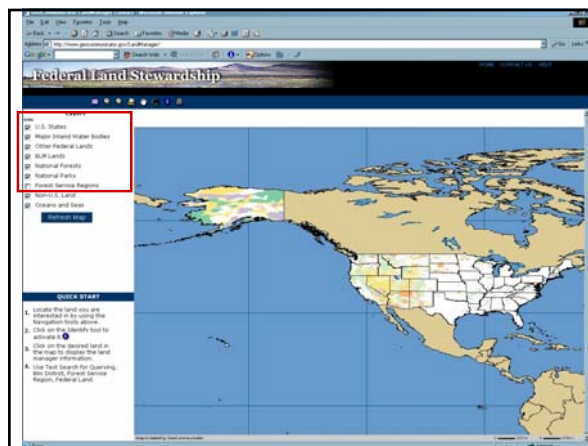


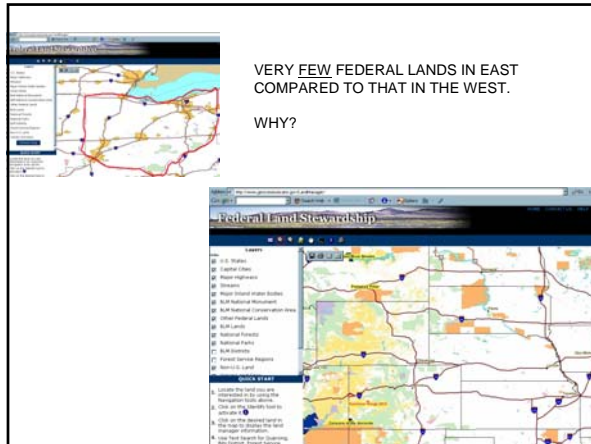
The **original** mandate of the USFS was to manage the land to

- Provide a constant source of timber
- Sustained Yield
- Manage (and/or) control forest fires

How has that changed?

- USFS **now "multiple-use"**
 - Timber
 - Recreation
 - Wildlife
 - Conservation/wildland experiences
- Most US timber needs **now met by private lands**
- What role does the US Federal Forest system have in meeting future timber needs for the US?





VERY FEW FEDERAL LANDS IN EAST
COMPARED TO THAT IN THE WEST.

WHY?

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976
16 U.S.C. §§ 1600-1614, August 17, 1974, as amended 1976,
1978, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1988 and 1990.

Overview. The National Forest Management Act reorganized, expanded and otherwise amended the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, which called for the management of renewable resources on national forest lands.

The National Forest Management Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to assess forest lands, develop a management program based on multiple-use, sustained-yield principles, and implement a resource management plan for each unit of the National Forest System.

It is the primary statute governing the administration of national forests.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

a.k.a., how federal forests used to have to run planned cuts or management units*

1. Silviculturalist plans a cut (sale)
2. Public comment period on plan
3. Open house meeting
4. Are federal laws being met? (NFMA, ESA)
5. Get bids, proceed with sale, roadbuilding

* But this is changing RADIPLY