

MUSH: Timeline of Progressive Era Environmental Movement

1800s

[English romantics and reformers](#) express ideas about saving nature and man from the [Industrial Revolution](#).

1886

The very first conservation group, the [National Audubon Society](#), formed to save [plume birds](#) from being killed and made into ladies hats.

1887

Establishment of the [U.S. Forest Bureau](#). [George Perkins](#) wrote [Man and Nature](#) in 1864 in which he said the most important consequence of losing forests was the forest's role in stabilizing the natural environment. His book received wide attention and became the basis for the U.S. Forest Service.

1872

[Yellowstone National Park](#) was established; meanwhile Australia and New Zealand, South Africa, India, and Europe are also establishing national parks.

1899

[Mt. Rainier](#) was established as National Park.

1890

[Yosemite National Park](#) and [Sequoia National Park](#) established

1892

[John Muir](#) established the [Sierra Club](#) and persuaded President Roosevelt to set aside millions of acres of forest reserves.

1901

[Theodore Roosevelt](#), known as the “conservationist president,” used his authority to protect wildlife and public lands from exploitation and development by creating the U.S. Forest Service and established 150 national forests, 51 federal bird reserves, 5 national parks (including Mesa Verde), and 18 national monuments by enabling the [1906 American Antiquities Act](#). In total, during his presidency, Roosevelt protected approximately 230 million acres of public land. Roosevelt's legacy in conservation was that he established the government's role as a manager of the continuing development of the wilderness.



1902

The [National Reclamation Act \(aka Newlands Act\)](#) provided federal funds for the construction of dams, reservoirs, irrigation projects, and canals in the West. These projects--such as the Roosevelt Dam in Arizona and the Shoshone Dam in Wyoming--would open new lands for cultivation and provide cheap electric power. This was the beginning of

many years of critical federal aid for irrigation and power development. The Newlands Act established the precedent that the federal government would manage the precious water resources of the West.

1903

[Wind Cave in South Dakota](#) was established as National Park

1905

President Roosevelt named professional conservationist, [Gifford Pinchot](#) (pronounced 'pin-show'), as head of the U.S. Forest Service. He advised Roosevelt to not sell large tracts of federal land to private individuals or companies.

1906

[Mesa Verde National Park](#) in Colorado was established

1908

[Grand Canyon National Park](#) Established; National parks are established in Australia and New Zealand (1879 and 1887), South Africa (1898), India (1905) and Europe (Sweden established seven national parks in 1909.)

1918

Conservation group "[Save the Redwoods League](#)" begins buying the last old-growth redwood trees