

# Introduction: A History of Environmental Concern The Environmental Movement



## Chapter 1

# Indigenous (Traditional Peoples) Cultural Areas:

1. A common set of natural conditions that resulted in similar plants and animals
2. Inhabitants used common hunting, fishing, food gathering tools and techniques
3. Traveled within well-defined regions
4. Oral traditions or social, cultural norms
5. Established governance / spiritual structure



# TABLE 2-2

## A COMPARISON OF EARLY-20TH-CENTURY APPROACHES TO CONSERVATION

### Expansionist Worldview

"Wise management" is based on the values of the Enlightenment tradition:

- Nature is a resource to be used, not preserved.
- Conservation must work together with the dominant values of the surrounding society, not against them.
- The primary value of natural areas lies in their value to modern society.
- Conservation should work against the wastefulness and environmentally disruptive excesses of a developing society.
- Conservation is equated with sustainable exploitation.

### Ecological Worldview

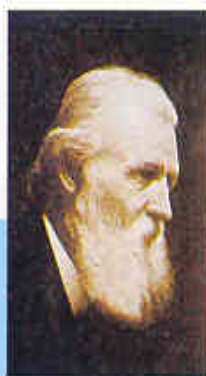
"Preservation" or "righteous management" is based on the values of the Counter-Enlightenment tradition:

- The universe is nondualistic, a totality with all of its parts interrelated and interlocked.
- The biotic community and its processes must be protected.
- Nature is intrinsically valuable—animals, trees, rock, etc., have value in themselves.
- Human activities must work within the limitations of the planet's ecosystems.
- Preservation works against the dominant societal values.
- Nature provides a forum to judge the state of human society.

SOURCE: Adapted from Taylor, D.M. (1992). Disagreeing on the basics: Environmental debates reflect competing world views. *Alternatives*, 18(3), 29. Reprinted by permission.

**Figure 2-2**

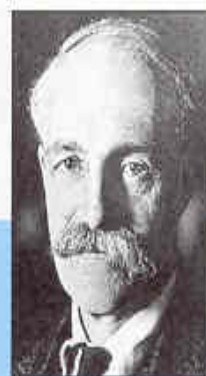
Key early figures in  
20th-century conservation



**John Muir**

(1838–1914)

- explorer, naturalist, writer
- crusaded for establishment of parks and preservation of forests
- instrumental in establishment of Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks



**Gifford Pinchot**

(1865–1946)

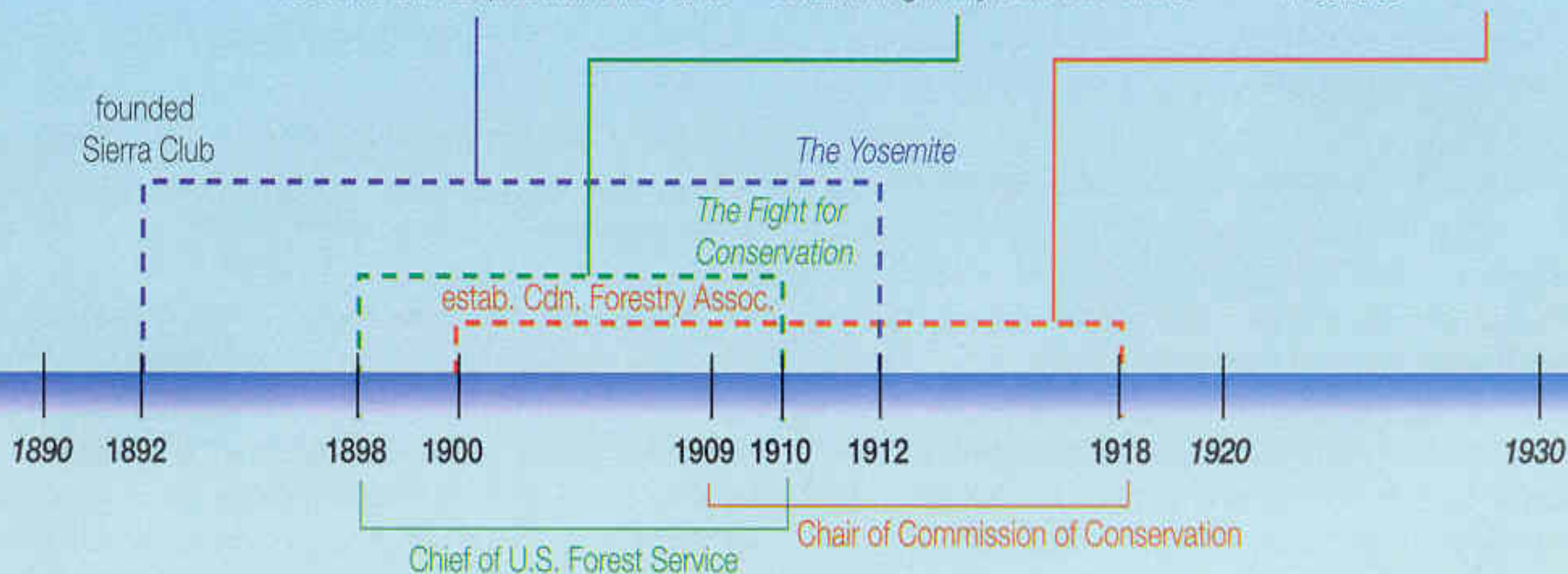
- forester and politician
- introduced principles of scientific forest management
- worked with F.D. Roosevelt in establishing many National Forests



**Clifford Sifton**

(1861–1929)

- lawyer and politician
- Minister of Interior—created separate forestry branch (1902)
- considered father of conservation in Canada







**Aldo Leopold**  
(1886–1948)

- naturalist and wildlife conservationist
- pioneer in applying principles of ecology to wildlife management



**Rachel Carson**  
(1907–1964)

- marine biologist
- warned of danger of indiscriminate use of pesticides in *Silent Spring*, a book that marked the beginning of the contemporary environmental protection movement

*A Sand County Almanac*

*The Sea Around Us*

*Round River*

*Silent Spring*

1940

1949

1950

1953

1960

1962

# TABLE 2-3

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND WAVES OF ENVIRONMENTALISM

### Environmental Issues

#### *First Wave (1968-76)*

- pollution
- energy crisis
- offshore oil drilling, tanker spills
- nuclear power
- population
- resource depletion, especially of oil
- urban neighbourhood preservation

#### *Second Wave (1985 onward)*

- global warming
- ozone depletion
- new wilderness and habitat concerns: old-growth forests, tropical rain forests, animal rights
- waste reduction, recycling
- hazardous wastes, carcinogens, pollution
- resource depletion, especially of forests, fisheries, and biodiversity
- oil tanker spills
- urban planning, automobiles, land use
- indoor air quality

### Characteristics and Emphases

#### *First Wave (1968-76)*

- tendency for individuals and groups to alienate themselves, to detach from social, political, and economic order
- antitechnological character
- tendency to millennialism (escapism)
- regulatory, "end-of-pipe" solutions favoured by decision makers (standards for emissions)
- building awareness of problems

#### *Second Wave (1985 onward)*

- reemergence of preservationist issues
- globalized concerns
- acceptability of some environmental ideas within economic and political elites
- professional character of major environmental organizations
- split between those inclined to compromise and those opposed
- multiple tools approach



## **Next Class: Read Chapter 1 from Course Text**

Dearden, Philip and Mitchell, Bruce (2012). *Environmental Change and Challenge (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)*, Oxford University Press, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada