

# Pre-History

- Did native American inhabitants really live in harmony with nature?
  - $H_1$ : Values and beliefs
  - $H_2$ : Low numbers and low technology
- Evidence of impact
  - Extinction of megafauna
  - Landscape alteration

# Colonial Era: First Environmental Regulations

- 1626 – Plymouth Colony regulates timber cutting & sales
  - other colonies prohibit forest fires & limit deer hunting
- 1681 – Wm. Penn (Pennsylvania) decrees that 1 acre of trees must be left standing for every 5 cut
- 1691 – Massachusetts sets up forest reserves for timber conservation (ship masts)
- 1698 – Mass. Prohibits deer hunting Jan-July
  - deer hunting prohibited completely 1718-1722
- 1710 – Massachusetts sets up rudimentary coastal protection
- 1739-1772: Connecticut & New York regulate game hunting

# Government Opens Western Lands

- 1795 USG sells off territorial land to pay war debt
- 1862 Homestead Act
- 1872 Mining Law

# Preservationist Movement

- Late -1800s Elite movement
  - Writers, artists, “beautiful people”
- Need to preserve the grand scenery and natural features of the unspoiled western landscape
  - Romanticized nature
- → National Parks

# American Urbanization

- 1870-1900 City Growth
  - Boston 3x (500,000)
  - New York >triples population (3.5 million)
  - Chicago increases by 6x (1.7 million)
  - San Francisco by 2x
  - LA by 20x
- → First Pollution Concerns

# Conservationist Movement

- Early 1900s Elite movement
  - Reaction to extensive deforestation
  - Use governmental bureaucratic power
- Nature and the Environment as an Exploitable Resource
  - Sustainable economic management
  - Commodity view

# Modern Environmentalism

- 1960s-1970s
- Pollution Comes into Focus
  - Human-health concerns
    - Crises → public concern
  - Air, water, and soil pollution
  - Pesticides and chemicals in food
- Earth Day 1970
  - Environment as a social movement
    - Mobilization from anti-war and civil rights movements

# Government to the Rescue – 1970s

- National Environmental Policy Act (1969)
- Clean Air Act (1970)
- Clean Water Act (1972)
- Endangered Species Act (1973)

# Reagan Anti-Environmentalism -- 1980s

- Environmentalism harms economic growth and liberty
  - Curtail Environmental Enforcement
  - Stalled by Democratic Congress
- Natural resources are here for human exploitation
  - Open public lands for energy, grazing, mining, logging, etc.
  - Wise Use Movement
- ➔ Huge surge in membership & donations to environmental organizations
- Environmental justice movement

# Environmental Agenda -- 1990s

- Congressional Efforts for environmental deregulation
  - Economic impact and property rights
  - Stalled by Democratic president
- Global Issues
  - Ozone layer
  - Climate Change
  - Biodiversity