

10/24: Discussion/Workshop: What to do with the Wilderness Act?

- Wilderness Act (1964)
 - a key moment in environmental “_____”?...
 - example: preservation
 - chronology: starting story with 1776 (land policy), 1870-1900 (movement), start of 20th century (more governmental oversight), etc.
 - findings through research
 - foundation for how we think about “wilderness”
 - legal landmark - codified how we use public lands
 - it wasn't very clear about wilderness management, what is allowed and what isn't
 - made definitions that exclude/had consequences for indigenous peoples
 - Remember: separate spheres of control of land use: National Park Service, National Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc. → “wilderness areas” controlled most regularly
 - thinking about implications: what are the most valid uses of land? → this question tells us that Americans viewed it as relaxation (preservation, “the sublime”) v. commercialization
 - So why establish specific “wilderness areas”?
 - increasing population, expanding settlement, more mechanization
 - Kennedy-Nixon debate & Election of 1960, 60s movements, LBJ's “Great Society” - legislation for domestic improvement...
 - The last major piece of land environmental legislation in the U.S.
 - Objections to the act (wanting to use resources for economy)
 - Contest between *resource extraction* v. *landscape protection*
 - For/against resource extraction arguments: jobs, prices, questions about legality/sovereignty with people (who gets to access or lock away land?)
 - Conservation v. preservation; act as philosophy becoming law

- **Midterm II (Th. 10/26)**

- Review: all readings (including the rest of Braiding Sweetgrass), media, lectures, discussion, workshops from Dust Bowl through Wilderness Act
- Green book; notes for half of it
- Identifications/terms (on settler colonialism, rise of industrial capitalism, 60s, environmental movement, etc)
- Short answer questions (about texts like Braiding Sweetgrass, Dust Bowl and its art, etc.)
- Short essay about the 1964 Wilderness Act

- Next phase of the class...

- Environmental movement and its place within social changes in America, environmental consequences of industry/environmental racism
 - will culminate with group project and presenting a poster
 - then final project on environmental racism