History of the Environmental Movement

Major Environmental Actions 1870-1940

1872  Yellowstone National Park
1885  Adirondack Park
1891  Forest Reserve Act (National Forests)
1903  Federal Wildlife Refuges
1933  Civilian Conservation Corps
      Soil Erosion Service
1934  Taylor Grazing Act
1937  Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
Adirondack Park
Forest Reserve Act 1891
Federal Wildlife Refuges 1903
THE CCC – A YOUNG MAN’S OPPORTUNITY

to work

— and to conserve our National Resources

to live
to learn
to build
Wildlife Restoration Act 1937
Historical Development of Environmental Concerns in the United States

I. Themes arising from the period 1830s to 1950s

A. Utilitarian: concern with the most efficient use of resources (timber, minerals, etc.) Concept started at the time of Teddy Roosevelt: “The greatest good for the greatest number for the longest time.”

B. Ecological: concern with developing a natural harmony or balance with nature.

C. Aesthetic: concern with preserving beauty in nature. This often translated to preserving land and habitats. (NOTE: not for the animals, but for the enrichment of the human environment.)
II. Theme from the 1960s (roots in the post WWII era)

   A. Pollution: a shift in production technology produces synthetic chemicals, non-biodegradable materials, and energy intensive production methods.

   The result is toxic and hazardous materials in the environment.

   B. Fear: As the decade of the 60s closed, there was considerable fear for the problems posed by environmental degradation and mis-use. This fear extended to politicians and the government and was fueled by several events:

   1. several environmental books ala Silent Spring
   2. wreck of the Torrey Canyon oil tanker off Lands End, England
   3. Santa Barbara oil spill
   4. Cuyahoga River Fire

III. Reaction: Beginning in 1969 and extending for approximately a decade, the Federal Government enacted a number of environmental laws...
1969  Council on Environmental Quality (makes recommendations to the President)

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

EPA founded (single agency to cut across jurisdictional lines)

1970  Clean Air Act Amendment (amends acts of 1963-1967 “general federal strategy for air pollution”)

1972  Clean Water Amendment (updated 1948 legislation) “set goals to achieve clean water by 1985”


1976  Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (control waste and conserve resources)
EPA Structure
SPIDER-PIG!
SPIDER-PIG!

GOOD NEWS — YOU'LL BE GOOD AS NEW IN ABOUT 200 YEARS!

MARYLAND ENVIRONMENT

WELL, AS LONG AS THERE'S NO HITTING OR SEXUAL FUNNY-BUSINESS.

LEAD
ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS
FATS
SALT
SUGARS

TRAPPuccino
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 is housed in the Executive Office of the President.

- Introduced in the Senate as S. 1075 by Henry M. Jackson on February 18, 1969

- Committee consideration by: Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

- Passed the Senate on July 10, 1969 (Unanimous)

- Passed the House of Representatives on September 23, 1969 (372-15)

- Reported by the joint conference committee on December 17, 1969; agreed to by the Senate on December 20, 1969 () and by the House of Representatives on December 23, 1969 ()

- Signed into law by President Richard Nixon on January 1, 1970
Steps in the NEPA process as addressed by NOAA fisheries-- specifically how the fisheries might affect the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal.

http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/hawaiian-monk-seal/
NEPA contains three important sections:

1. The declaration of national environmental policies and goals.
2. The establishment of action-forcing provisions for federal agencies to enforce those policies and goals.
3. The establishment of a Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in the Executive Office of the President.
The NEPA Process

The NEPA process consists of an evaluation of relevant environmental effects of a federal project or action undertaking, including a series of pertinent alternatives.

**CE**: (Categorical Exclusion) a category of actions that the agency has determined does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment

**EA**: (Environmental Assessment) determine the significance of the environmental effects and to look at alternative means to achieve the agency's objectives. The EA is intended to be a concise document that (1) briefly provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS; (2) aids an agency's compliance with NEPA when no environmental impact statement is necessary; and (3) facilitates preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement when one is necessary

**FONSI**: (Finding of No Significant Impact) presents the reasons why an action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. It must include the EA or summary of the EA that supports the FONSI determination
Notice of Intent

Sec. 1508.22 Notice of intent.

"Notice of intent" means a notice that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered. The notice shall briefly:
(a) Describe the proposed action and possible alternatives.
(b) Describe the agency's proposed scoping process including whether, when, and where any scoping meeting will be held.
(c) State the name and address of a person within the agency who can answer questions about the proposed action and the environmental impact statement.
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

If it is determined that a proposed federal action does not fall within a designated categorical exclusion or does not qualify for a FONSI, then the responsible agency or agencies must prepare an EIS. The purpose of an EIS is to ultimately help public officials make informed decisions that are a reflection of an understanding of environmental consequences and the alternatives available.

An EIS is required to describe:

- The environmental impacts of the proposed action;
- Any adverse environmental impacts that cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented;
- The reasonable alternatives to the proposed action;
- The relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity; and
- Any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented.
The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) coordinates Federal environmental efforts and works closely with agencies and other White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives. CEQ was established within the Executive Office of the President by Congress as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and additional responsibilities were provided by the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970.

For more information specific to the CEQ: http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm
“Our focus is to ensure that there is a strong science and policy basis for our environmental policy, to move the nation to greater reliance on clean energy and increase energy security, to combat global warming while growing the green economy, to protect public health and the environment, especially in vulnerable communities, and to protect and restore our great ecosystems.”
– Chair Nancy Sutley
Ok, so Nixon signed the act, have other Presidents been equally as friendly?

Carter: in 1977 contemplated having the CEQ eliminated but ran into the statutory implementation. Created by congress and therefore cannot be eliminated without an act of congress.

Reagan: Decreased the CEQ staff from 50 to 11 and decreased the budget from $3.1 million (1980) to $700,000 (1985) George HW Bush – no information…

Clinton: Tried again to eliminate CEQ however, budget 2.0 million and staff up to 14 by 1995.

George W Bush: Don’t get me started…… Dub-ya appointed (Philip Cooney) a former lobbyist for the American Petroleum Institute as the CEQ chair….. In June 2005, the New York Times published a memo internal to the CEQ provided by federal whistleblower Rick Piltz. The memo showed Cooney had repeatedly edited government climate reports in order to play down links between emissions and global warming. Cooney, who says he had been planning to resign for two years, resigned two days after the scandal broke "to spend more time with his family."

Obama: the budget is up to a whopping $3 million – roughly 1.4 million in 1985 $$
So what happens to regulation when the regulators have no teeth?

You find other pathways to keep yourself afloat.

Think smoothies!

NEPA was originally created to get government organizations talking to each other. The future of NEPA and the CEQ is to find the perfect mix of cooperation, compromise and ingenuity.
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