



John Muir, The Lorax, and Silent Spring: Environmental Advocacy

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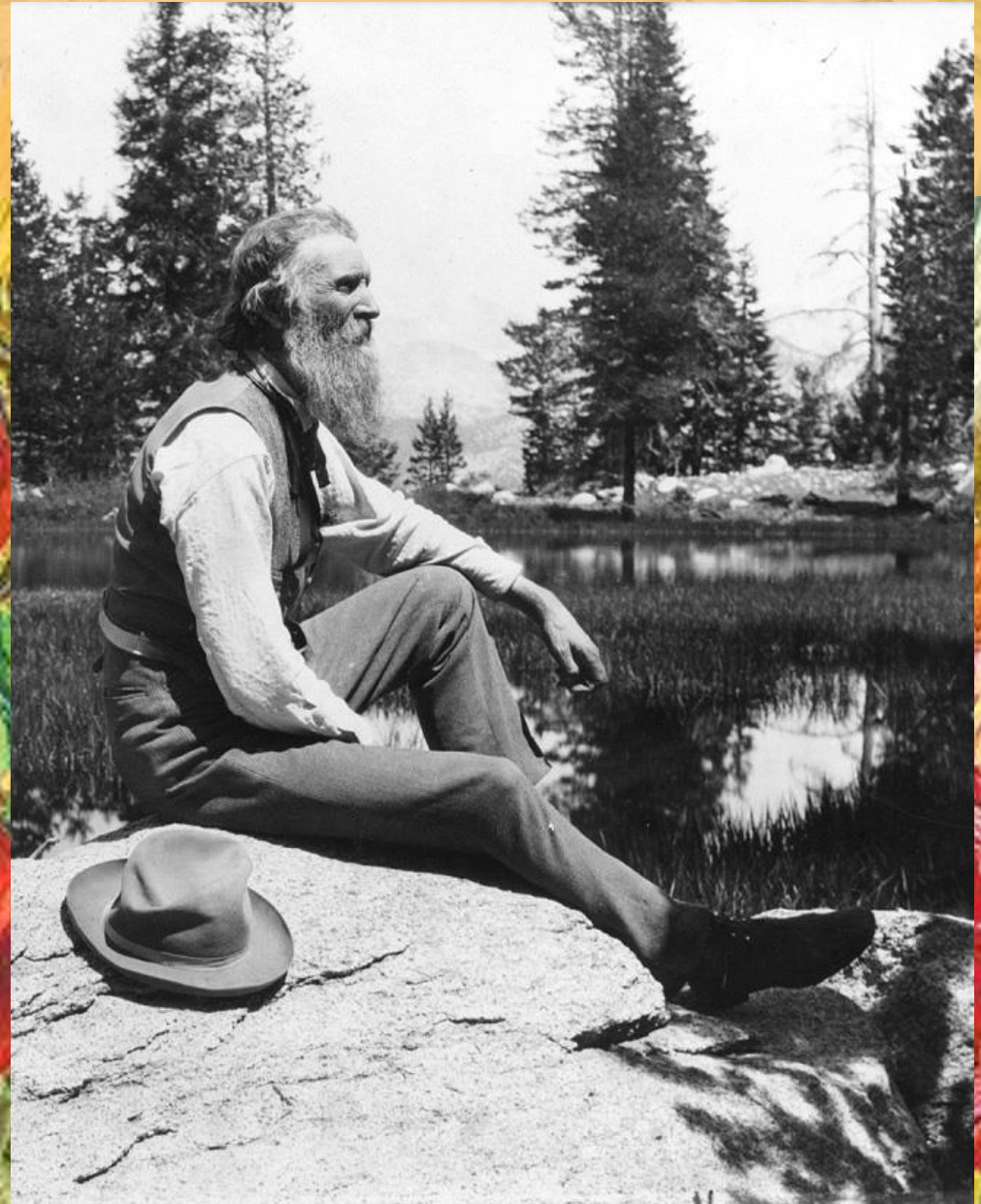
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John Muir

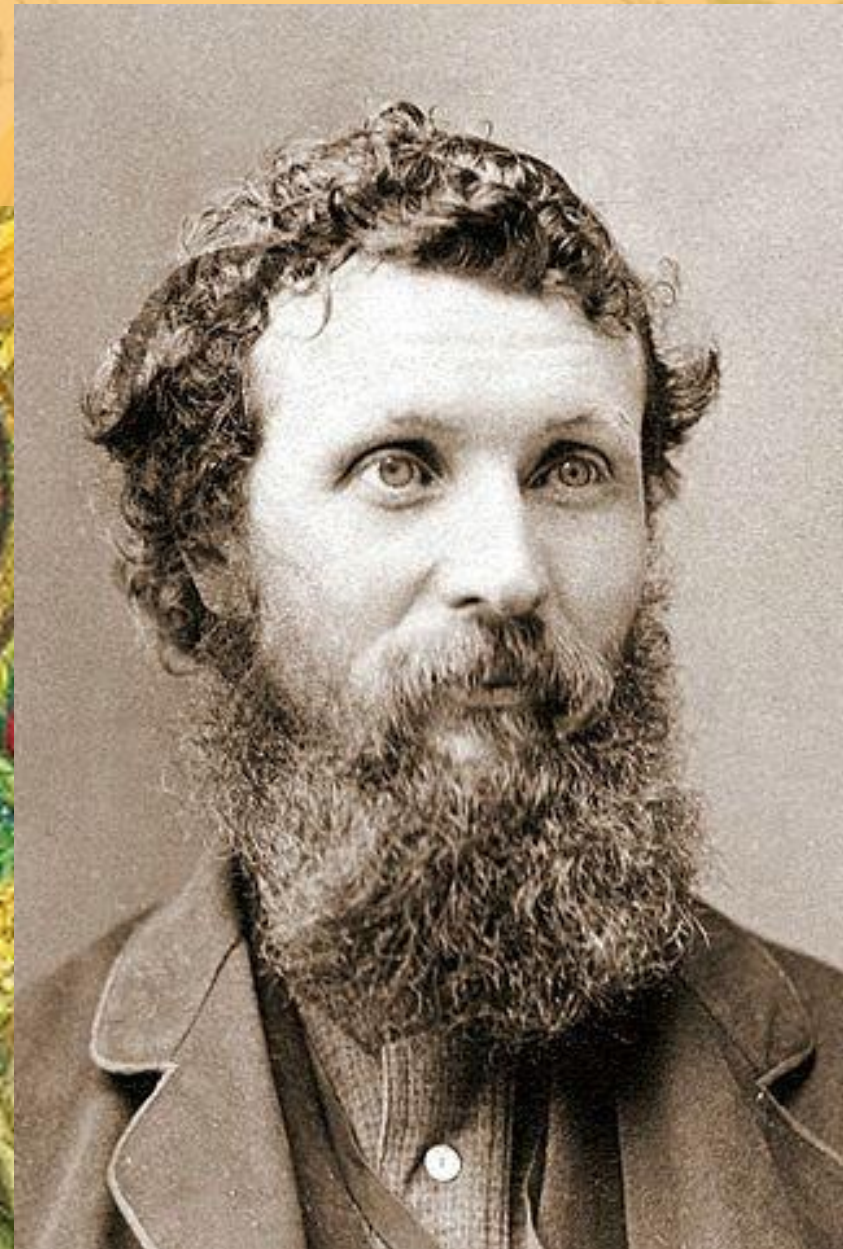
John Muir (April 21, 1838 – December 24, 1914) was a Scottish-American naturalist, author, environmental philosopher and early advocate of preservation of wilderness in the United States. His activism helped to the Yosemite Valley, Sequoia National Park and other wilderness areas. The Sierra Club, which he founded, is a prominent American conservation organization.
preserve



John Muir

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn.”



Yosemite

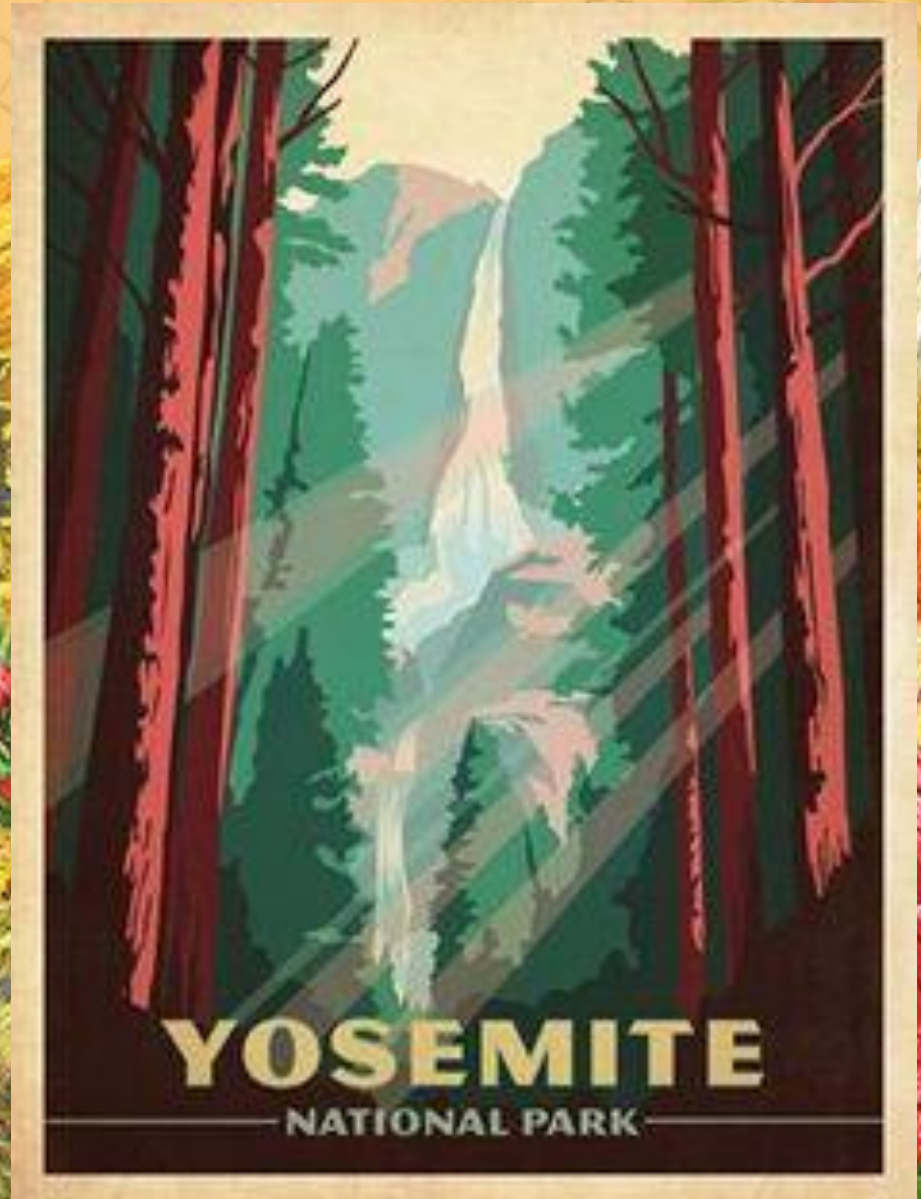
In 1889, Muir took Robert Underwood Johnson, editor of Century Magazine, to Tuolumne Meadows so he could see how sheep were damaging the land.

Muir convinced Johnson that the area could only be saved if it was incorporated into a national park.

Johnson's publication of Muir's exposés sparked a bill in the U.S. Congress that proposed creating a new federally administered park surrounding the old Yosemite Grant.

Yosemite National Park became a reality in 1890.

His published writings were also instrumental in the creation of Grand Canyon and Sequoia national parks.



Yosemite

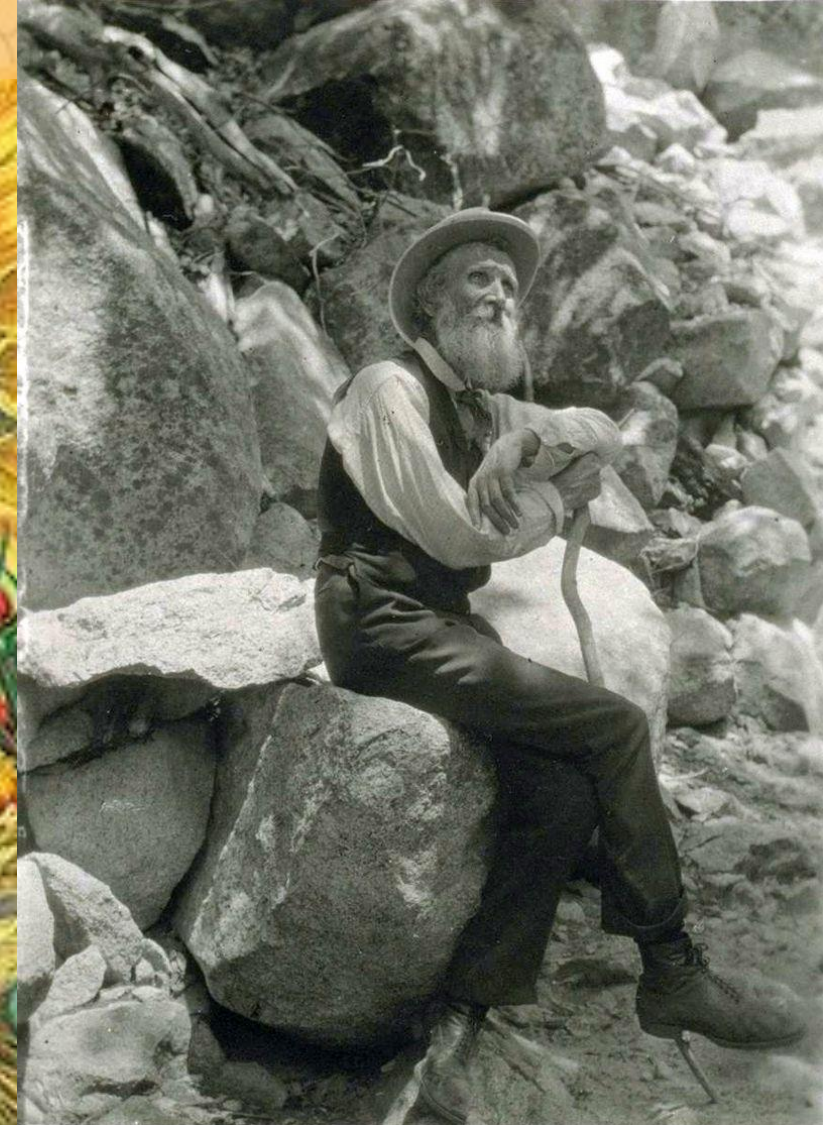
The United States has
59 national parks.

The first national park, Yellowstone, was signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872



Machinists v. Street, 367 US 740 - Supreme Court 1961

- MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS, concurring.
- Some forced associations are inevitable in an industrial society. One who of necessity rides busses and street cars does not have the freedom that **John Muir** and Walt Whitman extolled. The very existence of a factory brings into being human colonies. Public housing in some areas may of necessity take the form of apartment buildings which to some may be as repulsive as ant hills. Yet people in teeming communities often have no other choice.



Old-growth forest is the end result of an ancient and intricate process. *Its ecosystem is rich and complex, and because we do not fully understand the inner workings of the relationships between the plants and species that inhabit them, human harm to old-growth forests remains irreversible.* In the words of John Muir, a preservationist and the man largely credited for the creation of Yosemite National Park:

It took more than three thousand years to make some of the trees in these Western woods,—trees that are still standing in perfect strength and beauty God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods, but he cannot save them from fools,—only Uncle Sam can do that.

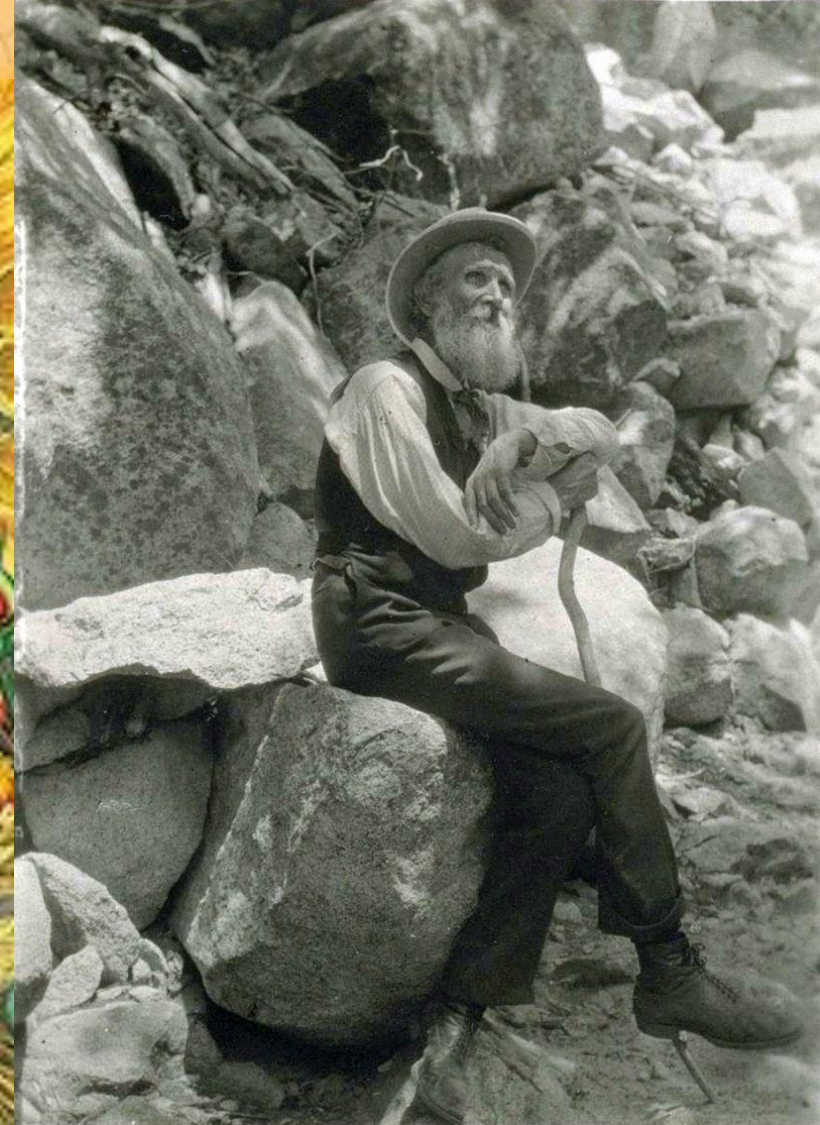
John Muir, American Forests, Atlantic Monthly, Aug. 1897, at 145, 157.

A tremendous amount of scientific study, litigation, and effort on all sides of the issue has brought management of the Pacific Northwest's forests to the delicate balance it enjoys today. In 1994, in a historic step in Uncle Sam's effort to preserve and protect the viability of ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture adopted the NWFP. At the heart of the NWFP are areas of Pacific Northwest old-growth forest designated as Late Successional Reserves. *These LSRs serve as refuges for the threatened northern spotted owl and preserves of the old growth ecosystem. Except in extreme cases where logging is imperative to save a LSR itself, logging in a LSR is forbidden.*

League of Wilderness Defenders v. Allen, (Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit 2010) (PAEZ, Circuit Judge, dissent)

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Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

Silent Spring is an environmental science book written by Rachel Carson and published in 1962. The book documented the detrimental effects on the environment—particularly on birds—of the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Carson accused the chemical industry of spreading disinformation and public officials of accepting industry claims unquestioningly. - Wikipedia



Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

“Why should we tolerate a diet of weak poisons, a home in insipid surroundings, a circle of acquaintances who are not quite our enemies, the noise of motors with just enough relief to prevent insanity? Who would want to live in a world which is just not quite fatal?”

SILENT SPRING

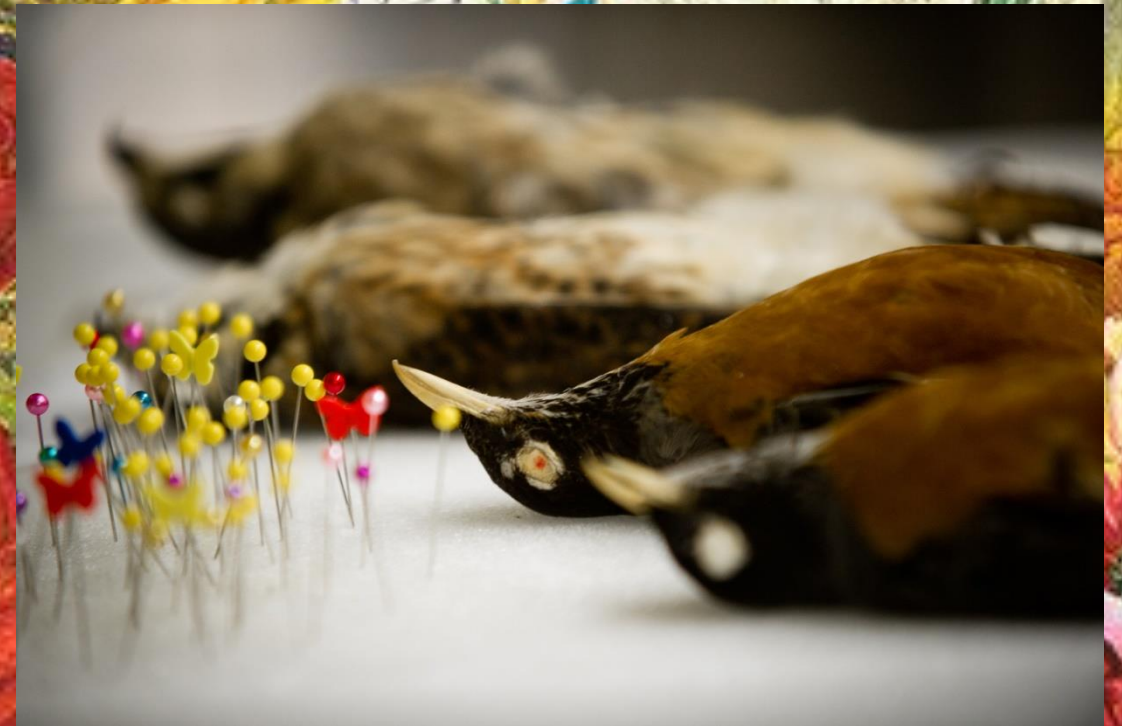
The CLASSIC that LAUNCHED
the ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

RACHEL
CARSON

Introduction by LINDA LEAR Afterword by EDWARD O. WILSON

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

“We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road — the one less traveled by — offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth.”



Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

We hold that nothing in the statutory structure compels the Secretary to close his eyes to all that others see or think they see. The establishment was entitled, if not required, to consider ecological factors and, being persuaded by them, to deny that which might have been granted routinely five, ten, or fifteen years ago before man's explosive increase made all, including Congress, aware of civilization's potential destruction from breathing its own polluted air and drinking its own infected water and the immeasurable loss from a **silent-spring**-like disturbance of nature's economy. We reverse.

Zabel v. Tabb, 430 F. 2d 199 - Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit 1970



Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

The DDT debate. The publication fifteen years ago of **Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*** set off a furious controversy that, even today, continues to rage around the insecticide DDT. **Naturalists** and environmentalist groups like the National Audubon Society have vigorously opposed DDT because, in their view, use of the chemical endangers bird life. **Proponents** of the pesticide deny this charge and forcefully urge that, without DDT, millions of human beings will die of insect-carried diseases and starvation caused by the destruction of crops by insect pests.

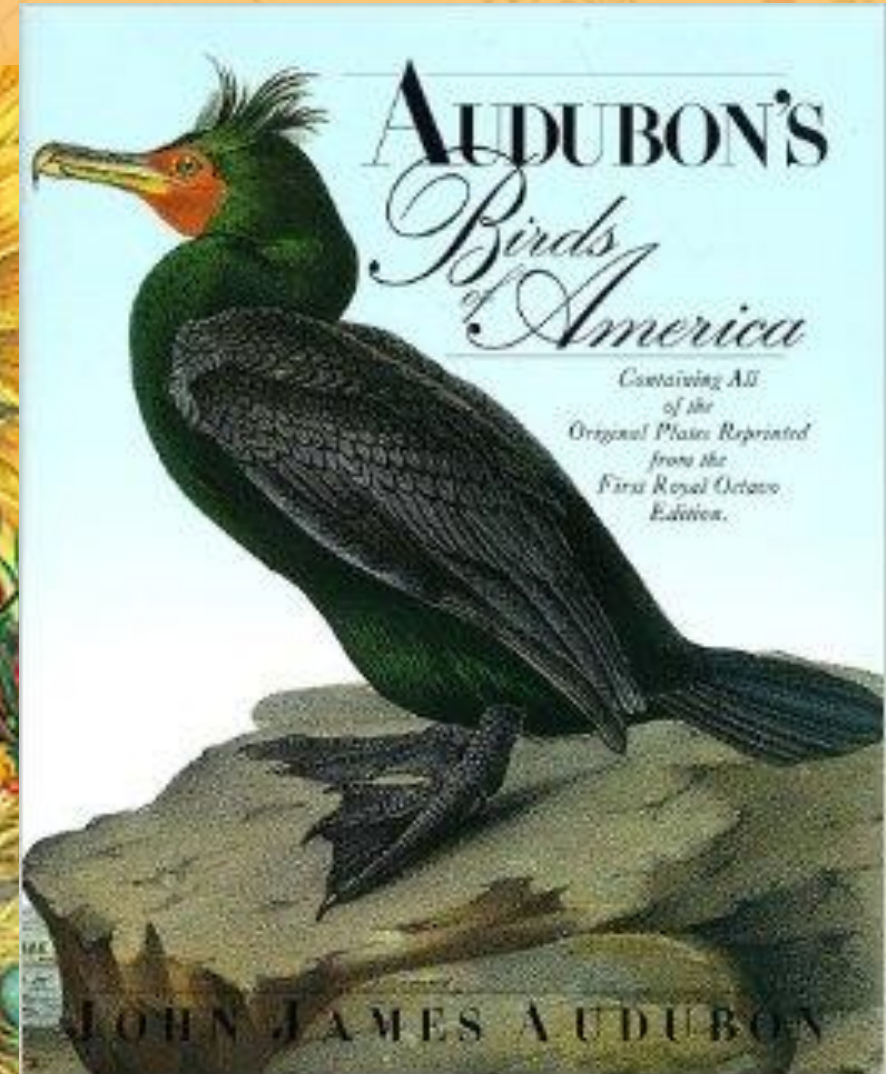
Edwards v. National Audubon Society, Inc., 556 F.2d 113 - Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit 1977



Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

From 1947 to 1982, Montrose Chemical Corporation of California (Montrose) manufactured the pesticide dichloro-diphenyl-trichlorethane (DDT) at its facility in Torrance, California. During the 1960's conservationists began to raise serious concerns about the effect of DDT on the environment (see, e.g., Carson, *The Silent Spring* (1963)), and in 1972 the federal government prohibited its use within this country. **Montrose continued to manufacture DDT for export at the Torrance facility until it closed the plant in 1982.**

Montrose Chemical Corp. v. Superior Court, 861 P. 2d 1153 - Cal: Supreme Court 1993



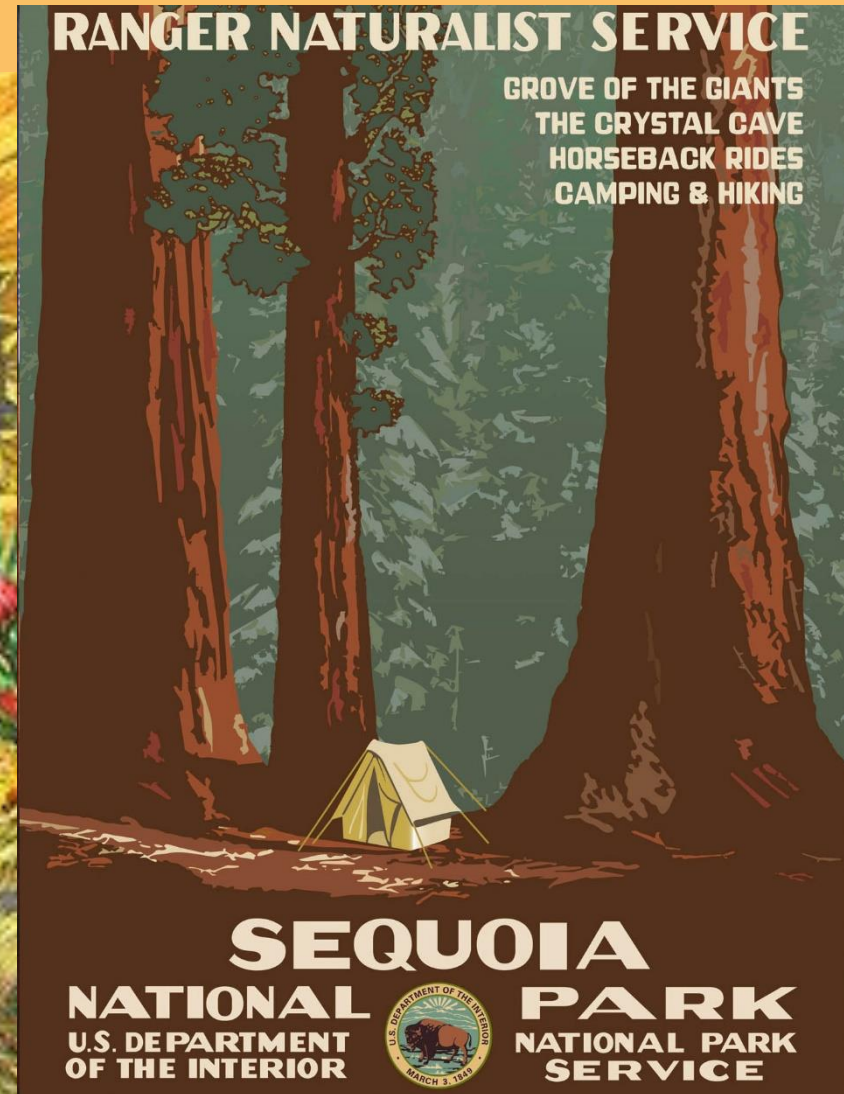
Joni Mitchell – Big Yellow Taxi Lyrics

They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot
With a pink hotel, a boutique
And a swinging hot spot
Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
Till it's gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot



Joni Mitchell – Big Yellow Taxi Lyrics

They took all the trees
And put them in a tree museum
And they charged all the people
A dollar and a half to see 'em
Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
Till it's gone
They paved paradise
And they put up a parking lot



Joni Mitchell – Big Yellow Taxi Lyrics

Hey farmer farmer
Put away that D.D.T. now
Give me spots on my apples
But leave me the birds and the bees
Please
Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
Till it's gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot



Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

The Lorax was Dr. Seuss' personal favorite of his books. He was able to create a story addressing economic and environmental issues without it being dull. "*The Lorax*," he once explained, "came out of me being angry. In *The Lorax* I was out to attack what I think are evil things and let the chips fall where they might."

Lisa Lebduska. "Rethinking Human Need: Seuss's *The Lorax*." *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 19.4 (1994): 170-176. Project MUSE. Web. 20 Oct. 2014. <<http://muse.jhu.edu/>>.



Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

“I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees for the trees have no tongues.”

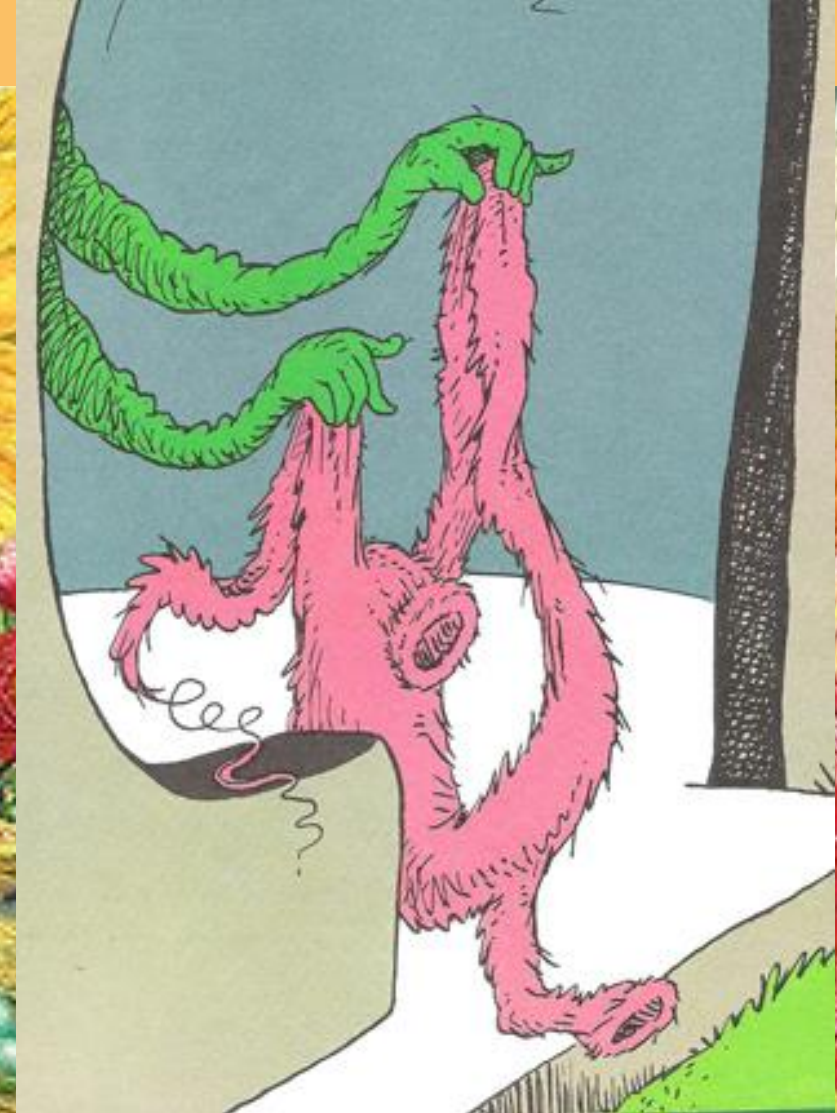
“Unless someone like you cares
a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better.
It's not.”



Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

"It's not about what it is, it's about what it can become."

I'm being quite useful. This thing is a Thneed. A Thneed's a Fine-Something-That-All-People-Need! It's a shirt. It's a sock. It's a glove. It's a hat. But it has OTHER uses. Yes, far beyond that. You can use it for carpets. For pillows! For sheets! Or curtains! Or covers for bicycle seats!"



Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

“I meant no harm I most truly did not, but I had to grow bigger so bigger I got. I biggered my factory, I biggered my roads, I biggered the wagons, I biggered the loads, of the Thneeds I shipped out I was shipping them forth from the South, to the East, to the West. To the North, I went right on biggering selling more thneeds. And I biggered my money which everyone needs.”



Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

“Catch! calls the Once-ler. He lets something fall. It's a Truffula Seed. It's the last one of all! You're in charge of the last of the Truffula Seeds. And Truffula Trees are what everyone needs. Plant a new Truffula. Treat it with care. Give it clean water. And feed it fresh air. Grow a forest. Protect it from axes that hack. Then the Lorax and all of his friends may come back.”



Global Warming

“I actually thought and believed that the story would be compelling enough to cause a real sea change in the way Congress reacted to that issue. I thought they would be startled, too. And they weren't.”

– Al Gore, *An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming: Teen Edition*



Global Warming

“Whenever he reads articles in newspapers or magazines written by politicians using global warming or the destruction of the environment for their electoral campaigns, he thinks:

How can we be so arrogant? The planet is, was and always will be stronger than us. We can't destroy it; if we overstep the mark, the planet will simply erase us from its surface and carry on existing.

Why don't they start talking about not letting the planet destroy us? Because “Saving the planet” gives a sense of power, action and nobility. Whereas “not letting the planet destroy us” might lead us to feelings of despair and impotence, and to a realisation of just how very limited our capabilities are.”

– Paulo Coelho, *The Winner Stands Alone*



Global Warming

“I would remind you to notice where the claim of consensus is invoked. Consensus is invoked only in situations where the science is not solid enough. Nobody says the consensus of scientists agrees that $E=mc^2$. Nobody says the consensus is that the sun is 93 million miles away. It would never occur to anyone to speak that way.”

– Michael Crichton



Massachusetts v. EPA, 127 S. Ct. 1438 - Supreme Court 2007

Calling **global warming** "the most pressing environmental challenge of our time," a group of States, local governments, and private organizations, alleged in a petition for certiorari that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has abdicated its responsibility under the Clean Air Act to regulate the emissions of four greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide. . .

In response, EPA, supported by 10 intervening States and six trade associations, correctly argued that we may not address those two questions unless at least one petitioner has standing to invoke our jurisdiction under Article III of the Constitution. Notwithstanding the serious character of that jurisdictional argument and the absence of any conflicting decisions construing § 202(a)(1), the unusual importance of the underlying issue persuaded us to grant the writ.



How will the arts and advocacy effect the future of the law?



Thank you!

