TRANSFORMATIVE HISTORICAL INFRASTRUCTURES:
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

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Overview

- The National Park Service
  - “Quick Facts”
  - Economic Impact
  - Social Impact
  - Environmental Impact

- The United States Forest Service
  - “Quick Facts”
  - Economic Impact
  - Social Impact
  - Environmental Impact
National Park Service (NPS): “Quick” Facts

- “The best idea we ever had.” --Wallace Stegner
- Inception: 1872 with the creation of the Yellowstone National Park
- Focus: Preservation of natural resources
- Establishment: Executive Order or Act of Congress
- Organization: Department of Interior
- Potential park criteria
  - outstanding unspoiled example of a resource
  - exceptional quality in illustrating America’s heritage
  - Superlative opportunity for recreational and scientific activities

SOURCE: National Park Service
Employment

1933-1942:

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

- A New Deal program employed more than a total of 3 million men as construction and maintenance workers
- Focus: employment relief
- Workload: flood control, forest protection, road building
- Investment over project lifetime:
  - $47.5 billion (2008 USD)

NPS Economic Impacts (2)

- **Employment**
  - **Present**
    - 16,000 permanent employees
    - 10,000 temporary & seasonal employees
    - 125,000 volunteers
  
- **Budget**
  - $2.92 billion (FY09)

NPS Social Impacts (1)

- **Social Organizations**
  - NPS sparks a conservation movement, leading to the development of several social organizations

- **Tourism**
  - Approximately 270,000,000 guests visit the over 390 units annually.

*SOURCE: National Park Service, Burnham (2000)*
NPS Social Impacts (2)

- **Tribal Displacement**
  - Park creation often included the displacement of undocumented Native Americans

- **Racial Segregation**
  - African Americans, although allowed the CCC, they often faced racial injustice

Below: Office Pool, Black American CCC

SOURCE: National Park Service, Burnham (2000), New Deal Network
NPS Environmental Impacts

- **Resource Management**
  - Natural resources as energy and water sources

- **Land Conservation versus Recreational Use**
  - Total acreage: 84.4 million (3.5 percent of total United States land area)
  - Park system includes parks, monuments, historical sites, shores, scenic highways, and trails.

*Source: Mappes (2007), National Parks Conservation Association*
United States Forest Service (USFS): “Quick” Facts

- Inception:
  - 1876: the Appropriations Act
  - 1891: Forest Reserve Act

- Focus: Preservation and utilization of natural resources

- Establishment: Executive order or purchase

- Organization: Department of Agriculture

SOURCE: United States Forest Service
USFS Economic Impacts

- **Employment**
  - Present
    - 28,000 permanent employees
    - 4,500 temporary & seasonal employees

- **Budget**
  - $5.52 billion (FY09)

SOURCE: United States Forest Service
USFS Social Impacts

- **Tourism**
  - Approximately one billion visit to the forest annually

- Similar tribal displacement and social club development as discussed with the National Park Service

SOURCE: United States Forest Service
USFS Environmental Impacts (1)

- **Fire**
  - Estimated 40% of FY09 budget is for fire fighting

- **Illegal Use**
  - Preferred route of illegal entry
  - Illegal cannabis ad methamphetamine production

Left: Locations that experienced wildfires greater than 250 acres (1980 to 2003)

Right: Ranger burning seized marijuana grown on national property

Logging

- Total acreage: 191 million (8.5 percent of total land area)
- 1979: Peak sales of timber harvested
  - $1.96 billion (2008USD) at net profit of $80 /thousand board feet
- 1997: USFS logging efforts cost a revenue loss of $15 million
- 2008: Recession hit timber industry
  - $156 million (2008USD) at net loss of $1.52/thousand board feet

SOURCE: United States Forest Service
Road building

- 1999: Clinton Administration placed a temporary moratorium on new construction
- 2004: Bush Administration allowed states to petition for new road development
- 2009: Obama Administration provides for new road construction contingent on Secretary of Agriculture discretion

SOURCE: United States Forest Service
References
