Currently, the United States has created over one hundred and fifty-two national parks or memorials by using the Antiquities Act. There were not many created before. However, not
many were made before the expansion towards the West coast. The Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt led to the Antiquities Act and other forms of law that allowed for the creation of national parks, memorials, and monuments that are meant to educate the general public on certain subjects while preserving certain areas of the nation. Most of the national parks have been created towards the West coast. There are many memorials and monuments located throughout the nation.

The first national memorial was set up by congress in 1776. The memorial was created for General Richard Montgomery, a Revolutionary war hero, who died during leading his portion of the invasion of Canada\(^1\). Not very many had been made between then and 1906. Preservation of the land and educating the public on national historic events was not really a concern in the beginning of our nation.

When the first colonies started to form on the East coast they had to build their homes, churches and various other buildings. They had the resources to do so, being that there were several large forests around them. Eventually, almost all of the forests were cut down. Not being aware, or maybe not caring, about the soil erosion that could occur to the former forest ground being that there are no trees to collect the water run off with their roots. The animals that once lived in that forest will have to search for a new niche. On top of the trees being cut down, roads were also being built that would cause the vegetation from the forest to grow away from them, causing further damage. The forests did not have a chance to regenerate, before settlers claimed the land and continued cutting.

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It was not until one hundred and twenty five years later, when president Theodore Roosevelt was elected that there began the preservation of beautiful landmarks within the nation. Never before had a president win by such a popular vote, It was his romanticized beliefs that made him more relatable to the general public. Roosevelt envisioned that the West coast was not destined to be like the East. It was meant to have a more scenic view of the untouched wilderness.

The Antiquities Act is used to authorize the president and or congress to set structures as national monuments as long as they are on federal land and contain the smallest area that is proportional to the necessary care of that structure. All structures that are saved must have some form of historical or scientific significance.

The first national monument to be created by the Antiquities Act was the Devil’s tower in Wyoming. It was noticed for being a solitary, natural structure. The “tower” was created by natural wind erosion that may contain scientific interest. The Devil’s Tower is also a well known landmark for multiple native American tribes. It is possible to find relics or items that relate to those times. Giving back to the significance of the indigenous people. The Devil’s Tower was followed by seventeen other national monuments and five national parks created

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under Theodore Roosevelt including the Grand Canyon, Tonto, Yosemite, Sullys Hill, and the Mesa Verde national park\textsuperscript{6}.

Not long after that, formed different reasons to preserve and or create symbolic figures and parks that represent the United States\textsuperscript{7}. The the use of natural resources for the benefit of industry or the populous is more of conservationist view. It is the use of the land and natural resources in a non exploitive way. The lumber companies, for example, were no longer allowed to cut down all the trees in one area. Instead, they had to get approval for their projects through the government\textsuperscript{8}. The preservation idealism is based on the idea of keeping the natural resources untouched. It is set by God and meant for spiritual recreation. The geysers at the Yellowstone national park is the world’s largest gathering of geysers\textsuperscript{9}. It is also one of the main attractions, because of easy accessibility and the show that they perform when they erupt\textsuperscript{10}.

One of the most famous controversies between the two ideals is the creation of the Hetch Hetchy dam\textsuperscript{11}. The city of San Francisco needed a new supply of water, which could be satisfied if the Hetch Hetchy dam was created. In creating this damn, it would slow down the amount of water that reaches the Yosemite national park. Also by creating the damn, it could lead to a renewable energy source. Gifford Pinchot was the head of the U.S. Forest Service, he pushed the


\textsuperscript{9}\textit{“Integrating Preservation and Development at Yellowstone’s Upper Geyser Basin, 1915-1940” Historical Geography, June 2007. (accessed November 21, 2016.)}


city of San Francisco to move forward with the plans for the dam. More locals disagreed, siding with the writings from John Muir. John Muir was a preservationist and the president of the Sierra Club. He wrote of preserving the valley in order to keep the land as purely recreational and spiritual. Muir was able to keep the Hetch Hetchy dam from being built during the Teddy Roosevelt Presidency. However, not long after Woodrow Wilson became President the project plan passed. It is not uncommon for the two ideals to blend and work together on projects.

In 1988, Yellowstone national park suffered from a major forest fire. When a logger was not using a guard on the chainsaw. Causing a spark that flew into Yellowstone and started a fire. Another area of the park was struck by lightning and both fires eventually combined. The park service thought that letting it burn for a while would help with cleaning, but it stormed out of control. Now, after a few decades, the trees are naturally coming back. With less invasive species, it creates a much easier place for trees that are in their niches at Yellowstone to reproduce and prosper. As a result, loggers are now required to always have guards on their chainsaws, in order to prevent fires.

There are other acts that allow the preservation of federal land. One of them being the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 declares a safe breeding place for animals that live in the forests and other naturally occurring habitats. These national parks also created recreational time passes for visitors. Whether it would be through driving, hiking, or hunting.

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during the season to control populations of the animals. It also promotes private land owners to go and build their homes within the forest.

In the forests of the west coast, fires are still the main clean up the forests. It help get rid of trees that are dead to make way for new ones to grow. In so doing, makes way for more homes for the wildlife and food for the members that are herbivorous. When the forest has not been cleansed for a while, it could be very dangerous. It would have all this fuel to burn and it may burn out of control.

“Like tourists who avoid the rough side of town, we do not see the complete story of Smokey's community. We never see Smokey clear-cutting forests, drilling for oil, downhill skiing, riding ATVs, snowmobiling, mining, hunting, or herding cattle. To some, such images would seem at odds with Smokey's community. Others, however, would conclude that Smokey was merely making "wise use" of his forest home.”

Cutting forest does happen in national parks, but it is all for the sake of not running the risk of having to much fuel to burn in a potential fire. Hunting is open for season in other places in the United States as a way of keeping population of certain animals down. The use of ATVs would cause too much forest fragmentation. Fragmentation is the splitting of the forest ground. Its causes the surrounding plants to move away from the path and the animals to lose major portions of their homes.

ATV’s and other motorized vehicles have proven to be so harmful for the environment, that Congress passed a specific law that stop the use of them within certain wilderness areas. In these wilderness areas, there may be no logging, no roads, and no

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long-lasting structures. These areas are generally meant for camping and hiking. The Wilderness Act of 1964 was designed to protect 9.1 million acres of wilderness areas from such human caused damage. Through the use of this act, the National Wilderness Preservation System was created. The system oversees the national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and the Bureau of Land Management lands. The preservation of these lands not only protects the land, but also carries historical and scientific interest. The scientific interest would be how these lands were formed naturally and how they will look in the future due to natural events.

One of the first landmarks to be created through the act would be the Bridger wilderness in Wyoming. Containing the Wind River Range that was formed by glaciation and erosion. Based on some of these pictures, it looks like the pictures one would see on a water bottle. The wildlife that populates the area are mostly elk, deer, grizzly bears, moose, ravens, water pipits, rosy finches, and mountain black birds.

Now, forty years later, some legislators would like to return some of the land protected land, because the act may have failed to protect biodiversity within the parks. Within their being concerned, they would like to go over and revise some of the land on preservation. In doing so means that they submit their concerned properties to the court and have the courts decide. It could be very possible that logging companies and other industries would want to invest their time into the situation. In order to see if they may be able to buy out some land.

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It is probably due to the counterculture of the 1960’s that the pendulum swings back from having more materialistic ideals and standpoints, to the love of nature and romanticism. Once again, America felt the need to protect the natural environments. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, which was meant to save organisms that were to be considered endangered and try to get that population up\textsuperscript{18}. In so doing harming the effect of natural selection and stopping the world from moving forward in evolution.

The clean air act of 1970 that has been used to regulate pollutants that have been created through several different systems\textsuperscript{19}. Created under the ideal that the cleaner the air, the healthier the population. It has been used effectively over the years in areas such as companies have to be more careful in the amount of pollutants in their waste. However, it still does very little to help our depleting ozone layer. The clean water act of 1972 is used to regulate the quality of water along with the sources of where the water is coming from\textsuperscript{20}.

President Woodrow Wilson was more than happy to create more national landmarks and memorials for the sake of patriotism\textsuperscript{21}. Wilson established Scott’s Bluff located near the North Platte River\textsuperscript{22}. Scott’s bluff follows the path of the Mormon Trail. The Chimney rock is a tall, narrow, naturally made structure that was mentioned in hundreds of journals as travelers moved to the west coast. As the Mormons saw it on their trail, they thought it was a sign from God saying that it was the right way to go.

The Scott’s bluffs also create a scientific interest from the geological point of view. It is an example of naturally occurring erosion.

There have only been a handful of presidents of our nation so far, each and every one is remembered for different events and decisions that they have made that have shaped the country. As a nation, we have set memorials in order for us to remember the presidents that have changed the nation for the better. Being the only president to serve four terms in the oval office, FDR was successful in leading the nation out of the Great Depression. FDR, has said that the only memorial of him he would want would be to place a memorial the size of his desk outside the national archives. A few years after, congress had decided to construct the other FDR memorial, with different sections of the park resembling the four terms in office. With a waterfall demonstrating the crash of the economy, and a still reflection pool resembling his death. Congress found a need to put the memorial in place, because it would instruct or remind the general public in some historical sense.

A more recent example of the use of the Antiquities Act would be that from the Obama administration would be the national monument for Harriet Tubman. The monument is over her birth place in Maryland. It covers thousands of acres. The historical significance of course, being her life as a slave and her role in the underground railroad. However, it does not go over her rule, it only focuses on her life in slavery. Organizations have been attempting to create monuments for Harriet Tubman for years before the Obama administration. During the Clinton administration in 1995, two parks would involve the life of Harriet Tubman and the underground

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24 Larson, Kate Clifford. "Afterword." Meridians, Feminism, Race, Transnationalism, September/October 2014. http://go.galegroup.com/ps/retrieve.do?tabId=T002&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchResultsType=SingleTab&searchType=BasicSearchForm#tPosition=1&docId=GALE|A388827963&docType=Article&sort=RELEVANCE&contentSegment=&prodId=AONE&contentSet=GALE|A388827963&searchId=R1&groupName=oran95108&inPS=true. (accessed October 2, 2016.)
railroad. There would also be multiple other parks in various other locations that would be centered around different people, but would have the same historical significance.

Another monument that refers to African Americans and their struggle would be the Stone of Hope in Washington D.C. The Stone of Hope is the memorial for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The memorial features Dr. King as being carved out of the giant mountain of despair. It is well known that he was known as an iconic figure for the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960’s, but was the creation of this monument meant for Americans to be able to look at the past with gratitude that we as a nation has faced and overcame the racial division\textsuperscript{25}. Or could it be a reminder of the challenges that we still face with examples like the Black Lives Matter campaign and the riots that took place in Ferguson or Baltimore?

The Asian population in the United States is less than five percent, according to the 2010 U.S. census. Most of the population increase came from the refugees that came from Vietnam after or during the war. This population would have to face the reality of not being able to go home again and also face the prejudice views of the communities. Many people would blame them for the war or claim that the refugees agree with the political and communistic views from North Vietnam. “Anticommunism as integral to an exilic national identity is an especially powerful discourse for refugees seeking to deflect racist attacks in the predominantly white, suburban communities where they ressettled.”\textsuperscript{26} The Vietnamese war memorials were generally

\textsuperscript{25} Bruyneel, Kevin. "The Kings Body: The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and the Politics of Collective Memory." \textit{History and Memory: Studies in Representation of the Past, May/June 2014.} http://go.galegroup.com/ps/retrieve.do?tabID=T002&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchResultsType=SingleTab&searchType=BasicSearchForm&iPosition=19&docId=GALE|A364199749&docType=Article&sort=RELEVANCE&contentSegment=pro&prodId=AONE&contentSet=GALE|A364199749&searchId=R4&userGroupName=oran95108&inPS=true. (accessed October 2, 2016.)

constructed around the 1980s, because of historical interest. The original memorial in Orange county, California was rejected by the Vietnamese refugee population. The Vietnamese refugees wanted a memorial that would state the more current relationship between the North and South. It is their effort to reconnect with their past and join the American culture.

From the American standpoint of the Vietnam war the veterans came home and were rejected by the general public. Mostly for the military’s use of Agent Orange and the birth defects that it would cause. The media also did not help with the public backing of the war.

"The Veterans Administration all but ignored Vietnam veterans seeking compensation for diseases caused by exposure to Agent Orange and those asking for mental therapy as a result of their traumatic war experiences. Too many in the antiwar movement blamed the warriors for the war. And Congress did nothing at all for Vietnam veterans until the early 1980s".

The memorial for the Vietnam war in Washington D.C. stands as more of an afterthought. It might be seen as offensive to veterans, because all it is is a long list of names of soldiers whom of which were either lost or killed during the war. A veteran would see the name of members that were originally part of their unit and then get survivor's guilt.

Some veterans, members of Congress and others objected to the design, saying it did not properly recognize the sacrifices of those who perished in the war. One veteran called it a "shameful degrading ditch a black gash of sorrow."

The controversy was settled after another statue was made of three soldiers. Followed by a flagpole and a name locator.

Memorials, monuments, and national parks are one of the best ways to keep the general public informed of the more important factors that have shaped our nation. Many presidents since Theodore Roosevelt have opened up many doors to the creation of national parks, memorials, and monuments that are meant to educate the general public on certain subjects and preserve certain areas of the nation. With help of congress and different organizations we can now enjoy these landmarks in our leisure time.


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http://go.galegroup.com/ps/retrieve.do?tabID=T002&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&searchResultsType=SingleTab&searchType=BasicSearchForm#tabPosition=2&docId=GALE%A177953434&docType=Book review&sort=RELEVANCE&contentSegment=&prodId=AONE&contentSet=GALE%A177953434&searchId=R2&userGroupName=oran95108&inPS=true. (accessed October 18, 2016.)


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