

# LECTURE 6 PROGRESSIVES & CONSERVATION

Terms:

Theodore Roosevelt

Conservation Movement

sustained yield

Gifford Pinchot

Hetch Hetchy

John Muir

Concepts:

Progressives applied  
scientific management to  
the public lands.

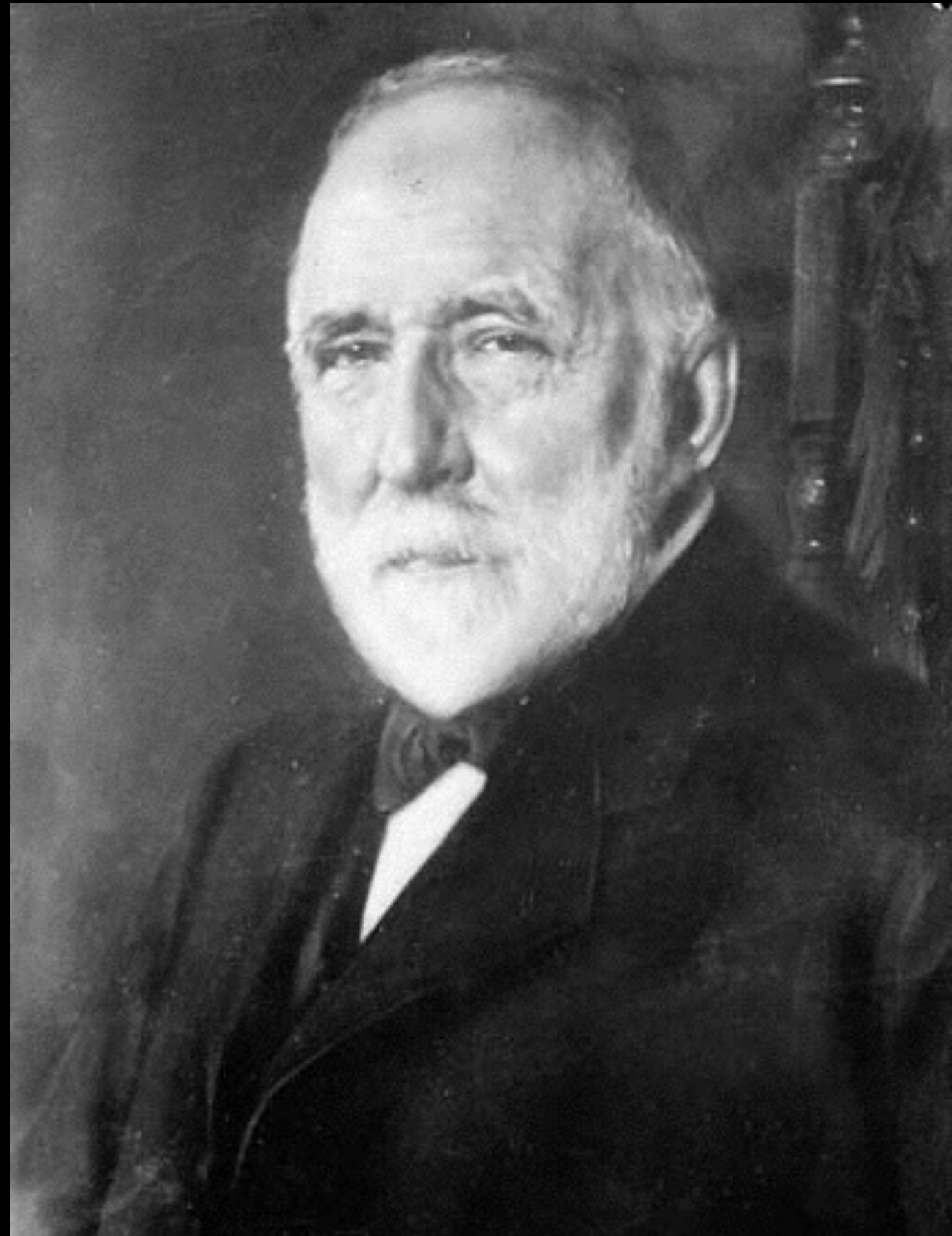
# WEYERHAEUSER & THE N.P.R.R.





# FREDERICK WEYERHAEUSER

- 900,000 acres from NPRR in 1900
  - \$6 per acre
- World's largest sawmill in Everett, WA
- owned 26% of all WA timber, 20% in OR



# LAND USE IN THE GILDED AGE

- Timber and Stone Act, 1878
- How was this different than the Homestead Act?
- What were the implications for the land?







**Wasteful Resource Use**



# SCIENCE & EXPERTISE

Public Lands Commission of 1903 stated:

- Congress was inadequate to deal with public lands
- Experts should be in charge



Property of MSCUA, University of Washington Libraries. Photo Coll 700

UW forestry students, 1910

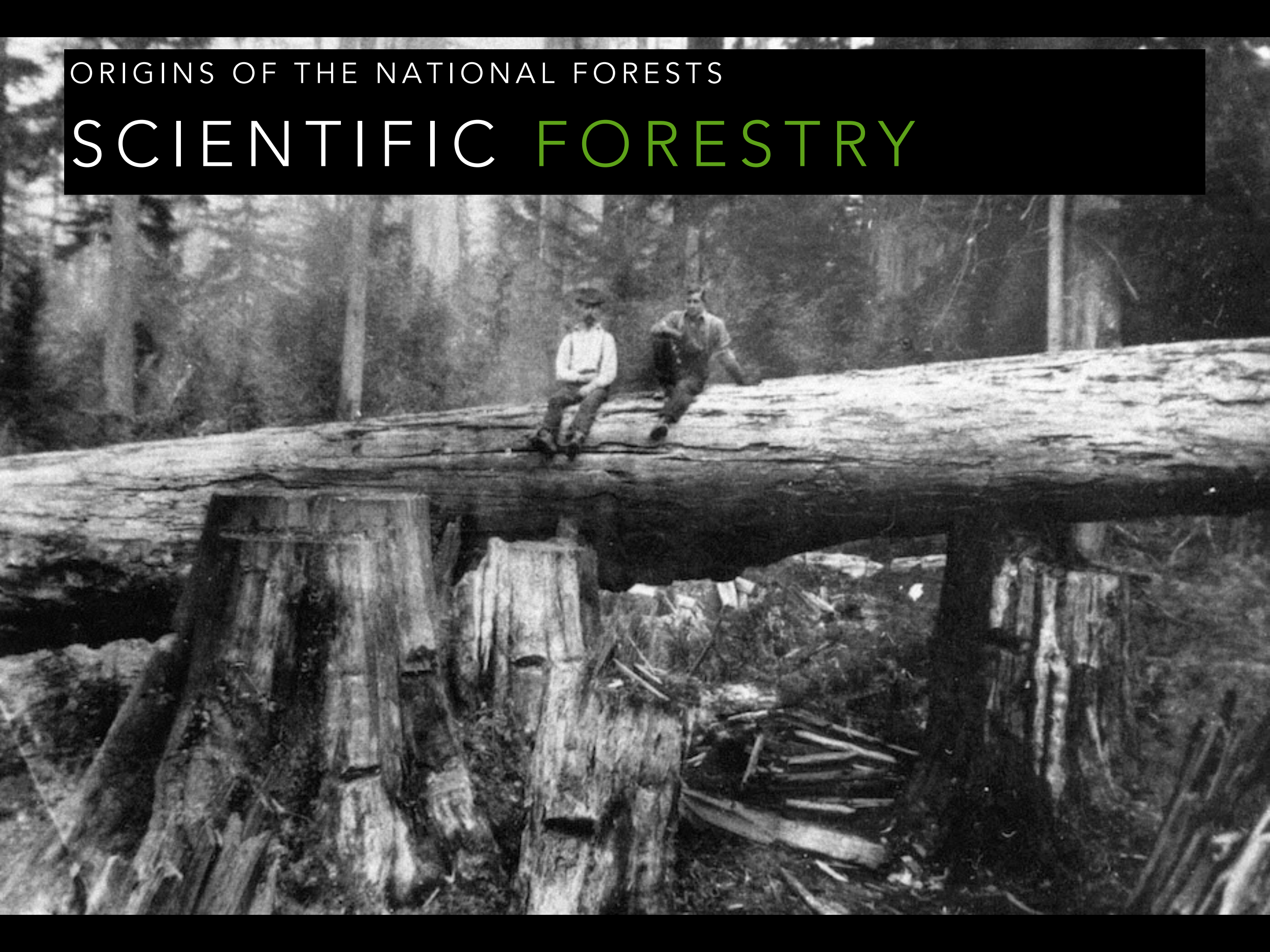
# PUBLIC LANDS COMMISSION, 1903

1. Principle of “public lands”: **radical** new way to deal with lands.
2. Lands can be withdrawn until **experts** decide best use.
3. Selected public lands can be sold, but much tighter **restrictions**
  - oil, coal, timber, minerals, hydropower...



ORIGINS OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS

# SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY





# Appearance of Clearcuts



By E. M. M.



# GIFFORD PINCHOT, CHIEF FORESTER 1898-1910

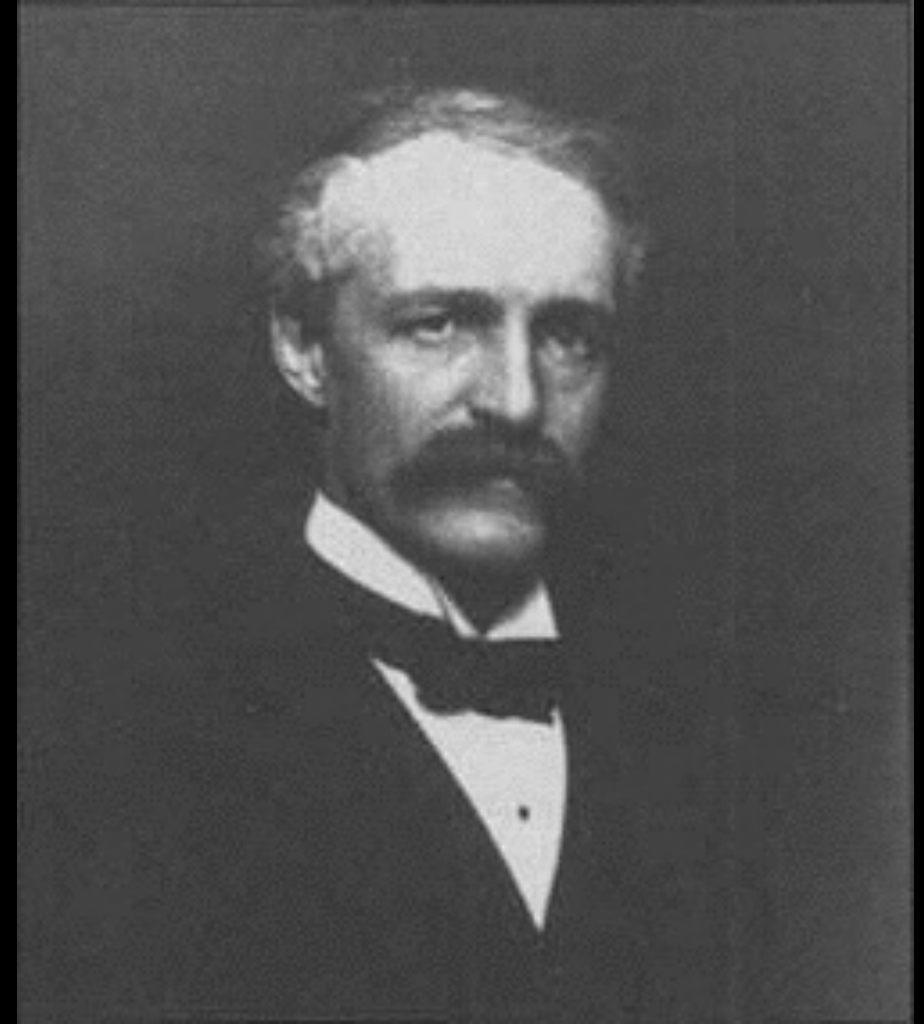
- Charismatic bureaucrat, politician
- "wise use" determined by experts
- wanted federal lands: national forests
- "the greatest good for the greatest number for the longest time"





# U.S. FOREST SERVICE, 1905

- Sustained Yield
  - Harvest = Annual Net Growth
- Forests as tree farming, managed like a crop





# Hetch Hetchy Valley, Yosemite





# HETCH HETCHY

Water for San Francisco:

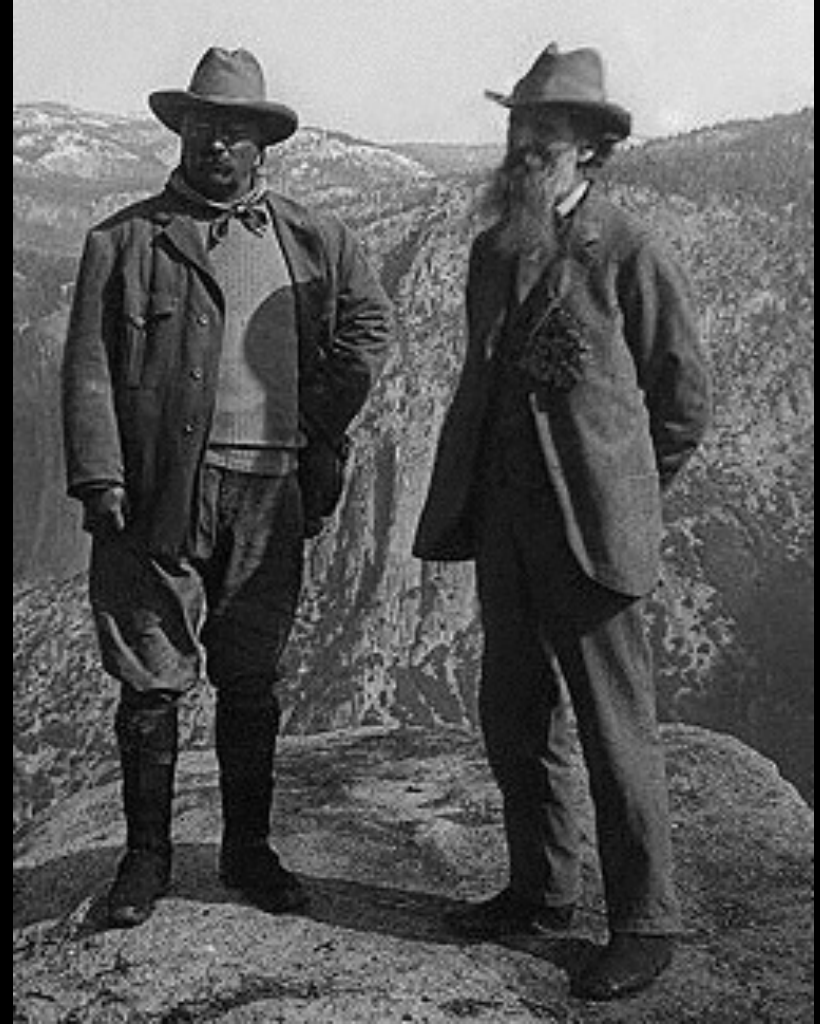
Preservation/Wilderness

Ideal: John Muir

vs.

Conservation/Wise Use

Ideal: T.R./Pinchot





1908, AFTER SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE  
"WISE USE" WINS





# OUTCOMES

- Stopped much hyper-exploitation, but...

...not as good at scientific expertise as they thought -  
FIRES!

- federal rather than local land management
- institutionalization of "expertise"
- Belief that Nature is chaotic and in need of constant human management



# SUM UP

- By the 1920s, a much expanded state.
- Expertise, rationality in government.
- The feds in the West, managing local lands, tension with locals.