Martin Simonson

NREM 585

April 1, 2020 (Late Submission)

Reading Activity 10: Adams 1993 Chapters 6 and 8

1. Please describe:
   1. How the National Parks Service and National Parks were created, including the two primary pieces of legislation involved.

President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone Park Act in 1872, creating the first reserved area as a “public park or pleasuring ground for the enjoyment of the people.” However, the Antiquities Act of 1906 was the first legislation to initiate the procedure for the US Government to reserve areas of cultural, historical, or scientific value. The 1916 National Park Service Organic Act created the NPS and designated how the NPS should be structured as well as what types of activities the NPS could regulate.

* 1. The Wilderness Act of 1964 and the National Wilderness Preservation System that the act created. Be sure to mention the characteristics of lands included in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Many people perceived that the National Park System was subject to the pressures of mass public use, and subsequent development. Therefore, after nine years of debate, the Wilderness Act of 1964 clearly stated that some federally-owned lands would be preserved in their natural state. The public are allowed to use the lands so long as the integrity of the area is preserved. As of 1990 the US Forest Service manages the greatest number of preserves, while the NPS has the largest area of preserves. The USFWS and BLM round out the preserve system, with a total of 111.3 million acres of land in 803 areas designated as wilderness in 2019.

1. Two Important Things:
   1. While Niagara Falls State Park was the first state park, Mackinac Island was the first area designated as a “National public park.”
   2. I appreciate that before the NPS and any wilderness areas, people were acknowledging that even “wild” or pristine areas were impacted by human development and that unregulated population growth and consumption of resources would lead to the degradation or elimination of natural areas. Wise folks.
2. One Question:

Why did Adams feel compelled to write biographies about people?