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Reading Activity 8: Cubbage et al. Chapter 12, Adams Chapter 3

1. Four largest federal land management agencies:
   1. The Forest Service (USDA) is tasked with managing federally owned forest lands as well as conducting research to provide assistance to state and private forest owners. The Multiple-Use-Sustained-Yield Act (MUSYA) of 1960 originated when the public began to demand resources other than timber from NFS lands, and recreation, livestock grazing, and conservation of fish and wildlife habitat were added to purposes of NFS lands.
   2. The National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for managing national park lands, national monuments, and national historic sites. In a way, each time a new National Park System unit is created by congress it establishes a legislative mandate for the NPS to manage the land by preserving unique resources and provide for their enjoyment by the public.
   3. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is both a land management and regulatory agency, including 443 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Often the charges of the FWS include protecting and restoring migratory species and administering the Endangered Species Act. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 and the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997 are examples of how legislation has forced FWS to conserve plants and animals first, only allowing other uses of the land if they are compatible with species’ needs.
   4. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oversees more terrestrial federal areas than any other agency. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 changed policy so that the remaining federal lands would stay under federal ownership. This legislation also mandates that BLM activities sustain multiple uses of federal land, including recreation, grazing, timber, watershed conservation, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation. The BLM also oversees federal energy and mineral resources.
2. Two Important Things:
   1. The history of landownership from colonial times to present was quite interesting. It makes sense that natural resources appeared to be unlimited in colonial times, and that “wild” lands should be “tamed” and converted to useful purposes, thus spurring the homesteading legislation of the 19th century.
   2. The global perspective on public lands was also interesting. All land in China belongs to the government and is leased out to citizens and corporations. Many other countries follow suit and claim ownership of vast areas of land within their borders.
3. Did John Muir really die from losing his struggle against the construction of the Hetch Hetchy dam?