

A Century of American

# SUSTAINABILITY

U.S. farmers, fishermen and foresters are deeply invested in the stewardship of our land and water. For more than 100 years, we've proven our continuous commitment by supporting laws and participating in conservation programs to help protect our natural resources. Sustainability is — and always will be — a part of our environmental legacy.

The **Lacey Act** becomes the first federal law protecting wildlife by prohibiting trade in wildlife, fish and plants that have been illegally taken, possessed, transported or sold.



The **Pure Food and Drug Act** bans foreign and interstate traffic in adulterated or mislabeled food and drug products. This act paves the way for the eventual creation of the Food and Drug Administration.



President Theodore Roosevelt creates the **U.S. Forest Service** and establishes 51 federal bird reservations, four national game preserves, 150 national forests and five national parks.



1900s

The **Federal Meat Inspection Act** is enacted to ensure healthy livestock is slaughtered and meat is processed under sanitary conditions.



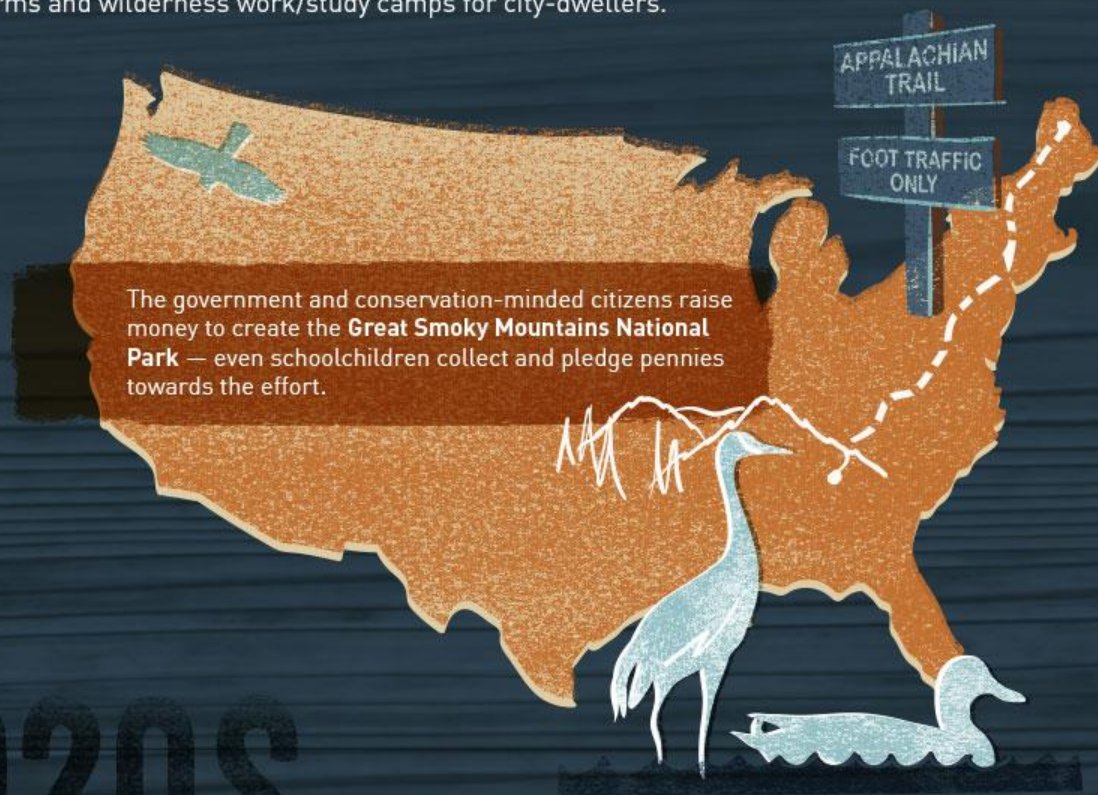
# THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS CREATED



1910s



The **Appalachian Trail** is conceived as a grand trail that will connect a series of farms and wilderness work/study camps for city-dwellers.



The government and conservation-minded citizens raise money to create the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** — even schoolchildren collect and pledge pennies towards the effort.

# 1920S

The **Migratory Bird Conservation Commission** fosters the creation of federally protected waterfowl refuges.





The Soil Conservation Service is created

# TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT SOIL THROUGH FARMER EDUCATION AND SUPPORT.

Extended drought, dry winds and topsoil erosion turns  
the once fertile Great Plains into the Dust Bowl.

350 million tonnes of airborne soil forms  
a 305-metre-high "black blizzard."

# 1930s



# 800 NEW PARKS

## 3 BILLION NEW TREES



Young, jobless men participating in the **Civilian Conservation Corps Program** complete their mission to improve the environment by protecting wildlife habitats, building roads and conserving forests.

The **Federal Water Pollution Control Act** is established to conserve and protect interstate waters for human use, fish and aquatic life, recreation, agricultural and industrial uses.

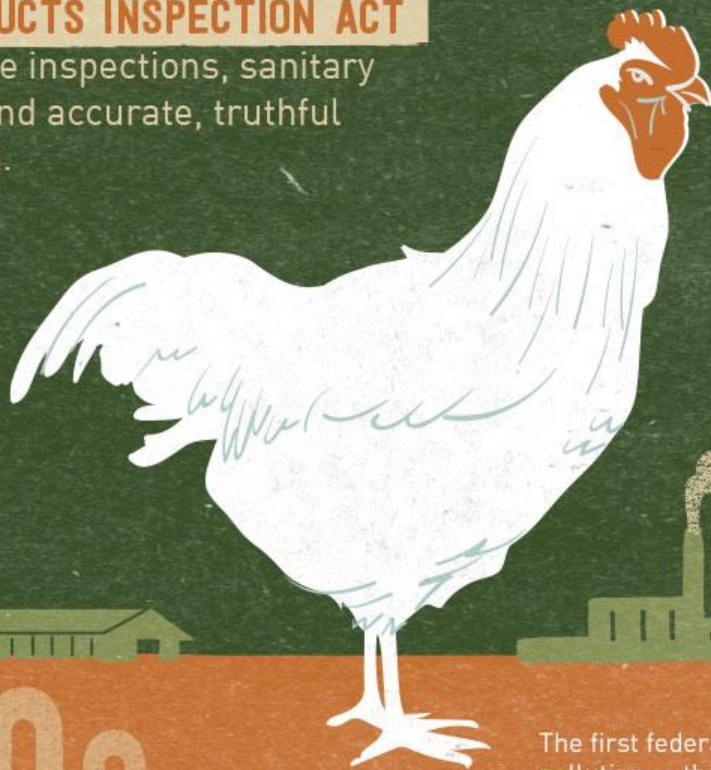
# 1940s



Congress passes the

## **POULTRY PRODUCTS INSPECTION ACT**

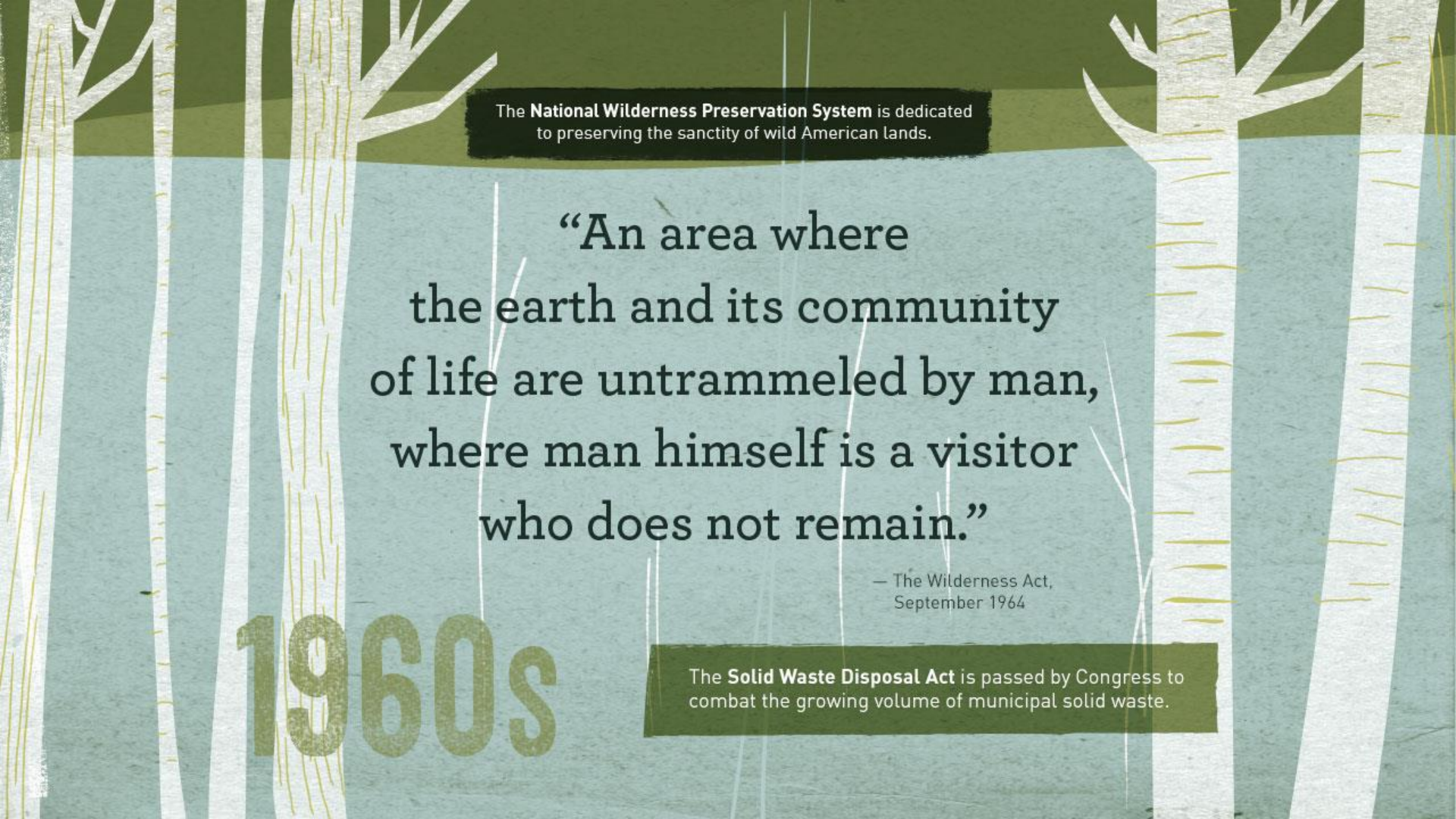
to ensure routine inspections, sanitary plant facilities and accurate, truthful product labeling.



# 1950s

The first federal legislation addressing air pollution — the **Air Pollution Control Act** — is passed by Congress to fund federal research in air quality.



The background of the entire page features a stylized illustration of a forest. Several birch trees with white bark and thin, vertical yellow lines representing lenticels are scattered across the frame. The trees are set against a background of two horizontal bands: a dark olive green band at the top and a light teal band below it. The overall style is minimalist and graphic.

The **National Wilderness Preservation System** is dedicated to preserving the sanctity of wild American lands.

“An area where  
the earth and its community  
of life are untrammelled by man,  
where man himself is a visitor  
who does not remain.”

— The Wilderness Act,  
September 1964

1960s

The **Solid Waste Disposal Act** is passed by Congress to combat the growing volume of municipal solid waste.



The **U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY** consolidates a variety of federal research, monitoring, standard-setting and enforcement activities. The **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT** conserves endangered, threatened, and at-risk animal and plant species. The **CLEAN WATER ACT** and the **CLEAN AIR ACT** continue to set rigid standards and pollutant regulations.

**"NO-TILL" AGRICULTURE** becomes a popular method to reduce soil erosion. **OSHA** occupational safety laws are established. **MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION**

**AND MANAGEMENT ACT** protects resources and prevents overfishing in federal waters. On April 22, 1970, the first **EARTH DAY** is celebrated by 20 million people in the U.S.



1970s





In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers voluntarily enroll in the **Conservation Reserve Program**, agreeing to convert highly erodible cropland into vegetative cover, native grasses, wildlife shelter plantings and trees to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

# 1980s



The **Endangered Species Act** expands to protect plants and prohibits the collection of endangered plant species on federal lands.



# 405,000 HECTARES OF WETLANDS

and uplands are restored and protected thanks to the **Wetlands Reserve Program**, which is driven by a national goal for “no net loss” of wetlands.



The **Sustainable Fisheries Act** amends previous law to add the promotion of catch-and-release programs and essential fish habitat protection.


# 1990s





# 23.5 MILLION HECTARES

of wilderness is set aside by the U.S. Forest Service to remain undeveloped for future generations. There are now more living trees in the U.S. than there were **100 YEARS AGO.**



The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** establishes standards for the use of renewable biofuels to promote and regulate energy efficiency.

# 2000s



# USDA



Established in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln, the **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** celebrates 150 years inspecting food, helping farmers and overseeing the farming industry to ensure quality, safety and sustainability.

Supported by more than a century of environmental regulation, the United States continues to share the world's values through innovation, improvement and a legacy of commitment to global sustainability.

## 2010s





For more information about U.S. sustainability,  
please visit **[thesustainabilityalliance.us](https://thesustainabilityalliance.us)**.