



Lyndon B. Johnson and the Environment



Texas White House, LBJ Ranch

We see that there is another course...Down this course lies a natural America restored to her people. The promise is clear rivers, tall forests, and clear air—a sane environment for man.

Lyndon B. Johnson
February 23, 1966
Message to Congress

Lessons from the Land



Growing up in the Scenic Texas Hill Country, Lyndon B. Johnson developed a deep appreciation and respect for nature and the land. This love of the natural land was something that President Johnson shared with his wife, Lady Bird Johnson. Over the years they watched the country change from an agrarian society to an industrialized nation with lasting problems that threatened the health of the environment. As president, Lyndon B. Johnson felt that it was his responsibility to take action not only to clean up the natural environment but to protect the natural heritage of America. During his administration, President Johnson signed over 300 conservation measures into law, forming the legal basis of the modern environmental movement.

Clean Air and Water

There is no excuse for a river flowing red with blood from slaughterhouses. There is no excuse for paper mills pouring sulfuric acid into the lakes and the streams of the people of this country. There is no excuse—and we should call a spade a spade—for chemical companies and oil refineries using our major rivers as pipelines for toxic waste. There is no excuse for communities to use other people's rivers as a dump for their raw sewage.

Lyndon B. Johnson
Water Quality Act of 1965

President Johnson was the first President of the United States to sign acts concerning Clean Air and Water Quality. These acts established government authority and responsibility to act forcefully against air and water pollution. They also provided money for research on pollution, set standards for air and water quality, and vehicle inspections, emissions, pollutants and fuel additives and alternatives. In spite of larger populations, air pollution in the United States has been reduced by 50 million tons since 1970.

Clean Air Act, 1963
Pesticide Control Bill, 1964
Water Quality Act, 1965
Water Resource Planning Act, 1965
Water and Sanitation Systems in Rural Areas Bill, 1965
Solid Waste Disposal Bill 1965
Safe Water Conservation Act, 1965
Air Quality Acts 1966 and 1967
National Water Commission



The Natural Land

To sustain an environment suitable for man, we must fight on a thousand battlegrounds. Despite all of our wealth and knowledge, we cannot create a redwood forest, a wild river, or a gleaming seashore. But we can keep these we have.

Lyndon B. Johnson
February 23, 1966



- Wilderness Act, 1964**
- Central Arizona Project**
- Endangered Species Act, 1966**
- National Park Foundation, 1967**
- Wetlands Preservation Bill, 1967**

The Urban Environment

We live with History. It tells us of a hundred proud civilizations that have decayed through careless neglect of the nature that fed them... We must not only protect the countryside and save it from destruction, we must restore what has been destroyed and salvage the beauty and charm of our cities.

Lyndon B. Johnson
February 8, 1965

- Highway Beautification Act, 1965**
- National Historic Preservation Act, 1966**
- Clean Air Act, 1963**
- Pesticide Control Bill, 1964**
- Water Quality Act, 1965**
- Water Resource Planning Act, 1965**
- Water and Sanitation Systems in Rural Areas Bill, 1965**
- Solid Waste Disposal Bill, 1965**



Colorado River, Austin, Texas

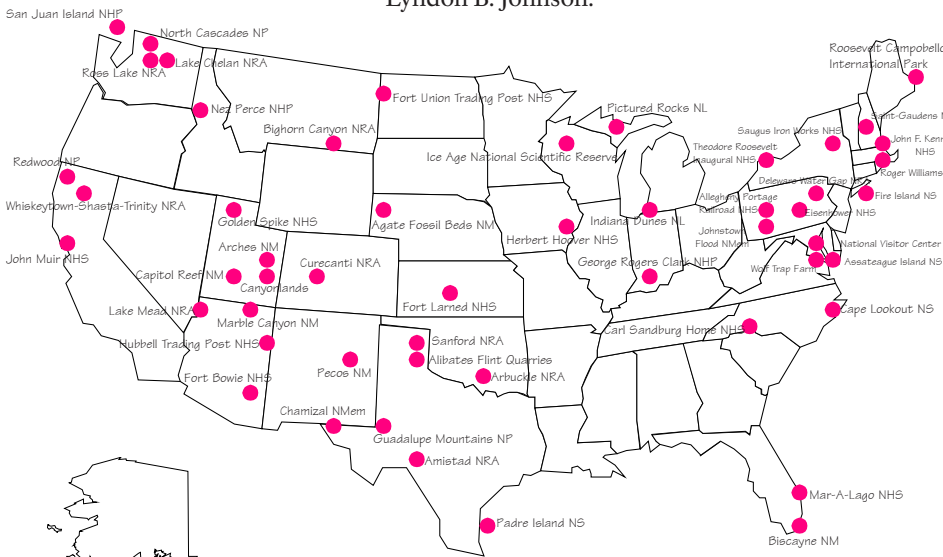
The National Parks

Our national park and forest systems are America's principle trustee in the vital task of conservation... I propose that we plan now to complete our national park system by 1972—the 100th anniversary of Yellowstone, the world's first national park.

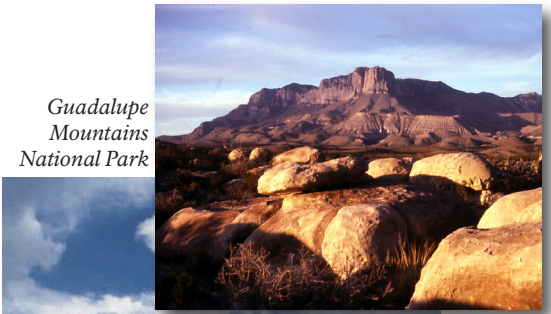
Lyndon B. Johnson
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President Johnson wanted the American people to have the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of our nation. However, he knew it was almost impossible for the majority of the people to travel a great distance to enjoy the parks. During his administration he added 50 new national park units and expanded existing ones. In addition to protecting wilderness and historic sites, the Johnson Administration created national recreation areas and other urban park sites within a short distance of large cities. The United States national park system was permanently improved by the actions of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

- Wilderness Act, 1964**
- National Historic Preservation Act, 1966**
- Endangered Species Act, 1966**
- National Park Foundation, 1967**
- National Trails System, 1967**
- Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1967**
- Wetlands Preservation Bill, 1967**



President Johnson's Park Service Legacy



Guadalupe Mountains National Park



Padre Island National Seashore