

Balancing Sustainability with Remediation Goals – A Challenge

ASTSWMO
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Some Background

- 19th Century - Emerson, Thoreau, Sierra Club, Audubon Society vs. miners, industry, growth
 - T. Roosevelt – Conservationist
 - G. Pinchot – Utilitarianism
 - J. Muir – Preservationist
- Congress – Development
 - Manifest Destiny
- Set up adversity on land use vs land protection

Some Background

20th Century I – War, Roaring 20s, Depression, War

- 1936 – National Wildlife Federation
- 1949 – “Sand County Almanac” (Leopold)
- 1962 – “Silent Spring” (Carson)
 - Pesticide danger (DDT)
 - Pres Kennedy’s Science Advisory committee Report – 1963
 - Debunking by industry & scientists
 - Carson Congressional testimony
- 1960s - Inability of citizens to sue for environmental issues
 - Congress deluged with complaints
 - Conservation Law Foundation, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resource Defense Council, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace

- Carrying Capacity – tried to look holistically, debunked by many

Management by Significant Emotional Events

20th Century II – Prosperity, Civil Action, “all things possible”

- 1969 – NEPA passed by Congress
 - Signed by Pres Nixon 1 Jan 1970
 - CEQ, EPA, etc.
 - “Toothless Wonder”
 - Enter the lawyers
- 1970 – First Earth Day (Sen Nelson)
 - 20 million people demonstrated
 - Spirit of “Sand County Almanac” and sense of righteousness
- 1970 – Today – One law after another.....each based on single event and singularly focused

A Little History

– set up

Stovepipe

Programs to deal

with each issue.



- 1986 DERP led to Four Pillars – we still manage that way

Compliance

Conservation

Pollution Prevention Natural Resources

A Little Future – Moving to Sustainability



- MMR brought test and training ranges into “program” – didn’t fit any of the four pillars
- Each military service has taken an individual approach to sustainability
- OSD has “partnership” program within DoD and with outside partners – **realization we cannot act alone**
- Regional issues have become important – breaking down our traditional approaches

Sustainability?

- Climate Change could just become the new “pillar”
- Challenge – break down the stovepipes, look holistically at the earth
 - Understand “carrying capacity” on an ecosystem level
 - Economics are critical to success
 - Get over “management by significant emotional event”

DoD as a whole truly wants to be part of the solution – even the “warfighter” community – and that is critical to success.