



*John Muir*



# WHAT PICTURE DO YOU LIKE?

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## Debating Uses of Land

**Purpose of This Activity:** To understand how past decisions influence today's forest management.

Our state's current land use debate continues a tradition begun in the late 1800s between the two "fathers of conservation," John Muir and Gifford Pinchot. ("Pinchot" rhymes with "although.") By the 1890s, protected forest reserves had been decreed by the President. Already, much Western public land had been claimed by immigrants or granted to the railroads, the states, territories and universities. In addition, timber speculators were abusing the land laws, and excessive logging was occurring. Muir and Pinchot served on a commission to recommend how the reserves should be used.

John Muir founded the Sierra Club and led the effort to preserve Mount Rainier as a national park. He believed wilderness had greatest value to the earth, the human spirit and to other creatures when left in its natural state. Muir worked to establish national parks and to protect them through the National Park Service.

Pinchot saw the value of forest reserves for lumber, forage for grazing animals, recreation and water for cities and farms (through irrigation). As the first chief forester of the U.S. Forest Service, his goal was to ensure an on-going supply of timber for the U.S.

If you compare the beliefs of Muir and Pinchot you can find exactly the same difference that divides people today on how to use our forests.

Discuss what each person in your group likes to do in the forest. Then read the information in *Who Owns Washington's Forests*. Which forest would best suit the activities each of you described? Who would most likely be the manager of that particular type of forest?

Using *Who Owns Washington's Forests*, create a graph or pie chart showing who owns Washington's forests today. The size of each group's bar on your graph or "slice" on your pie chart should reflect the size of their forest holdings. Label these bars or "slices" according to how each group uses the land.

Next, draw three murals showing forests owned or overseen by groups with these different management goals:

- Mural #1 represents a preserved forest that has never been harvested. Show what the plants and animals would look like. Include old-growth trees and fallen logs. Its uses include hiking, picnicking and sight-seeing.
- Mural #2 represents a forest used for long-term production of wood items. When trees are cut, seedlings are planted.
- Mural #3 represents a multiple-use forest. Some timber is harvested, but the land also is used for recreation, wildlife, range and protected wilderness where no logging occurs.

Display the murals along with written answers to the following on each mural:

1. Who would most likely own this forest?
2. Why is it managed the way it is?
3. What would happen if all the forests in Washington were managed in the same way?

## More Ideas

Choose students from your group to play the roles of John Muir and Gifford Pinchot. Have each of them explain and defend their beliefs. Use the booklet *Washington's Magnificent Forests* and library materials to find out more about these two important leaders.

# WHO OWNS WASHINGTON'S FORESTS?

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## Public Ownership:

9% National Parks and Monuments

## Uses of the Forest:

These federal lands, which sometimes include forests, are preserved for their outstanding natural qualities and people's enjoyment and education. They are used for sightseeing, picnicking, and hiking, but no disturbance of the land is allowed.

34% USDA Forest Service  
(USDA is U.S. Dept. of Agriculture)

Forest Service lands are managed under a "multiple use" policy. Part of the forest may be preserved in protected wilderness areas much like a national park. Another part may be used for recreation. Some areas provide cattle range. In other parts trees are sold and cut by timber companies.

9% WA Department of Natural Resources

The main purpose for these state forested lands is to bring revenue to the state for school buildings and other public facilities. However, DNR forests are not exclusively managed for timber harvesting. Wildlife habitat receives careful attention, and recreation is emphasized.

2% State, County & City Parks

These forestlands are primarily managed as watersheds. Watersheds store and provide much of our water supply. These forests also offer recreation and wildlife habitat.

7% Native American Tribes

Tribal forestlands are managed for different purposes by each tribe. Uses include timber harvest and wildlife habitat.

## Private Ownership:

19% Private Forest Industry

These forests are primarily managed for the continuous production of forest products. These lands also provide wildlife habitat and recreational activities.

20% Private Individuals

Many of these lands have been held by families for generations. The goals vary from owner to owner. Some manage for income from harvesting, some manage for recreation and some for wildlife.