

# Conservation, Environment, and Anti-littering

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U.S. National Park Grand Canyon – North Rim

## **PRELIMINARY RESEARCH:**

Conservation is an important topic and issue that has been around for a long time. With the creation of National Parks across the United States, land has been used as a bargaining chip for the government. For many, the creation, conservation, and preservation of land, has been a contested issue. The local, state, and federal governments have each contributed to the conservation of National Parks at various times and levels. Twentieth century environmental movements might have been different without the early efforts of conservation and preservation, however this is speculative history and cannot be answered. Why is conservation such an issue and topic in the National Parks Service throughout the United States? If the area is not preserved, conserved, or cared for then future generations will not have access. Conservationists in the late-nineteenth century were concerned with the loss of natural spaces to encroaching industrialization and expansion. Reserving “unpopulated” areas as federal land was a way for conservationists to halt some of that progression and movement in the United States. However, this affected the people living within these newly designated federal lands. Those affected the most by the laws and legislations passed by urbanites were the indigenous and rural inhabitants living within the borders of the National Parks. Conservation may have preserved land, but it displaced people.



U.S. National Park Bryce Canyon – Thor's Hammer

## **POSSIBLE CASE STUDIES:**

UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Skellig Michael

US National Forests – Uintah National Forest

US National Parks – Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Arches, Bryce Canyon, Capital Reef, Canyonlands, Zion

Early conservation movements in the United States led to the development and creation of National Forests and Parks. This idea gave rise to a pristine untouched wilderness that should be set aside for all domestic and international tourists to enjoy. Setting this land aside for public access contributed to environmental movements designed to share the beauty of nature, show the fragile ecosystems, and educate on the destruction of waste when it is improperly disposed. Anti-litter campaigns for Utah showcased the natural beauty of the state while sharing the message “Don't Waste Utah” in commercials. Propaganda, full of political undertones, popularized the growing concern for nature. However, propaganda does not always possess or promote negative images. Instead, it can be used to educate. Propaganda takes shape in many forms with the intent to spread particular viewpoints of an individual or group. The Utah Department of Transportation utilized television commercial as space to promote their anti-littering campaigns. Keeping America Beautiful, and educational advertisement campaign, promoted the evolving goals of the National Forests and Parks over the years. Focus on the reduction of waste or litter, reinforced through the use of educational pamphlets, impacted the future enjoyment of the National Forests and Parks.



UNESCO World Heritage Site – Skellig Michael