

March 15, 1887: MI—one of the first states to hire and pay a game and fish warden, William Alden Smith—although they'd been writing game laws for 50 years by then—county sheriffs were the enforcers of those laws.

1900 Lacey Act: Originally enacted in 1900, this is usually considered America's first wildlife protection law. One primary focus of the Lacey Act is prohibiting interstate trafficking in wildlife (including live or dead specimens or parts or products of all wildlife and fish and protected domestic plants) that have been taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of a wildlife-related state, federal, foreign or tribal law or regulation.

1905 The Game and Bird Preserves Act: and since its passage numerous refuges and preserves have been set aside. National parks, monuments and reservations, which coincidentally provide habitat for wildlife, have also been established under the National Park Service Act of 1916. [x]

1907-Michigan Wardens made responsible for forestry and fire protection too—became Game, Fish and Forestry Wardens.

1918 The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA): represented one of the first major federal legislative attempts to protect a particular type of wildlife. The first of four treaties for the protection of migratory birds was signed with Great Britain (for Canada) in 1916, [xv] and the MBTA was the national enabling legislation for the treaty. It prohibited the taking of migratory birds except under federal guidelines and provided strict civil and criminal penalties. [xvi]

1930 The Tariff Act: subsequently enhanced the Lacey Act by prohibiting importation of any bird or mammal illegally taken in or exported from a foreign nation.

1934 The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act: Duck Stamp Act, is an early example of a federal wildlife habitat protection law. Enacted in 1934, it is the first major federal legislation to provide a fund specifically for wildlife conservation purposes. [xxix] Sport enthusiasts provide the monies through the purchase of duck stamps which must be affixed to waterfowl hunting licenses, and the funds raised from the sale of these stamps are used to acquire refuge habitat.

1934 The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act: to promote federal research on and programs to maintain wildlife on federal lands. The Act called for state and federal cooperation in developing a nationwide program of wildlife conservation and rehabilitation. Amendments to the Act in 1946 deleted these program goals but substituted consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service and state wildlife agencies whenever a federal agency dammed or diverted water or permitted such action, and required that adequate provision be made for conservation, maintenance and management of wildlife when such federal projects were undertaken. This law was a precedent-setting example of legislation requiring federal agency consideration of the impact of activities on wildlife.

1937 The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, or Pittman-Robertson Act: imposed a federal excise tax on hunting equipment and firearms and apportioned the funds to the states for state management and restoration of fish and wildlife resources and habitats.

1972 The Federal Water Pollution Control Act: originally was passed in 1948 and was amended repeatedly until it was eventually overhauled in 1972. The 1956 version provided the original grants for sewage treatment plants. ^[xlii] Like the Clean Air Act, federal water pollution laws help protect wildlife by cleaning up the waters on which it relies for food and habitat. Federal involvement in environmental protection had begun to take off.

1950 by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (or Dingell-Johnson Act): ^[xliv] This companion to the Pittman-Robertson Act provides funds to states for fish management programs through federal excise taxes on fishing equipment. The Fish and Wildlife Service now oversaw a Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife and a Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. The Secretary of the Interior was directed to investigate and report on the status and availability of fish and wildlife resources, especially commercial fisheries resources.

1955 Clean Air Act: passed as the Air Pollution Control Act, and thus began the arduous and complicated process of cleaning up America 's air. Although the Clean Air Act's goal was to improve air quality for human health reasons, the current statutory definition of public "welfare" includes wildlife. ^[xli]

1962 *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson is published: classic work on pesticide contamination and its systemic environmental consequences, and the public took her message to heart. Federal legislation during this period for the first time began to reflect the new ethic of environmental protection. Private nuisance pollution lawsuits grew in number, and citizen activism increased. The Sierra Club, for example, made major efforts to protect the West from dams that would flood areas such as the Dinosaur National Monument and the Colorado River Basin. ^[lvi]

1963 The Clean Air Act Amendments: began the process of establishing national standards for air pollution control. **Clean Air Act—1970, amended 1977, 1990** The CAA regulates air emissions from a number of sources in an attempt to ensure that people in the United States breathe air that is not harmful to their health. Under the CAA, the EPA has established "national ambient air quality standards," or NAAQS, for several atmospheric pollutants known to be potential health hazards.

1964 The Wilderness Act: setting aside specific areas for preservation in their natural state. Four years later, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act ^[lxv] and the National Trails System Act ^[lxvi] provided a basis for setting aside additional public land for scenic and recreational uses, and simultaneously protecting wildlife habitat. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act ^[lxvii] established a special fund for earmarked revenues to allow acquisition of outdoor recreation and wildlife natural areas.

1966 The Endangered Species Preservation Act : represented the first federal attempt to preserve endangered species. Weak provisions in the first Act, however, led to the passage of the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969. ^[lxxvii] This law strengthened protection of endangered species by authorizing development of a worldwide list of species and outlawing commerce in these species.

1969 The National Environmental Policy Act: (NEPA) requires that all Federal agencies prepare detailed environmental impact statements for "every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment."

1970 First Earth Day: in April galvanized an already environmentally aware public. Widely publicized pollution nightmares such as the burning of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio and the River Rouge in Dearborn, Michigan caused public uproar. Thick urban smog and the stench of landfills made pollution problems painfully obvious. ^[lxxxv] Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* fired the public's imagination, and Joseph L. Sax's book *Defending the Environment: A Strategy for Citizen Action* inspired activism for the environmental movement.

1972 Clean Water Act, amended 1977,1981, 1987(1965 The Water Quality Act): ^[lviii]required that states set water quality standards, the Motor Vehicle Act ^[lix]required research on automobile exhaust, and the original Solid Waste Disposal Act ^[lx]authorized research and federal grants on waste disposal. The goal of the Clean Water Act was to improve the quality of the nation's rivers, streams, lakes, and bays, making them suitable for swimming and fishing. Two main targets of the CWA were sewage and industrial pollutants.

1973 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) ^[xcvi] replaced previous weaker acts (1969 Endangered Species Conservation Act and 1966 Endangered Species Preservation Act). The ESA has been considered "the most comprehensive legislation for the preservation of endangered species ever enacted by any nation." ^[xcvii] In passing the most powerful wildlife legislation in this country, Congress declared that "species of fish, wildlife and plants are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value"

1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): is an international treaty to prevent species from becoming endangered or extinct because of international trade. Under this treaty, countries work together to regulate the international trade of animal and plant species and ensure that this trade is not detrimental to the survival of wild populations. Any trade in protected plant and animal species should be sustainable, based on sound biological understanding and principles. The United States is a signatory, along with 181 other countries around the world.

1980 The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA, or Superfund): ^[cxxxvii] was enacted in response to concerns about large environmental hazardous waste pollution sites. One aspect of the Act was to allow assessment of damages to natural resources (including fish, wildlife and biota) and to identify and apportion liability to the responsible parties. "Superfund sites" were identified, prioritized and targeted for major clean-up of hazardous substances.

1985 The Food Security Act (Farm Bill): contains "swampbuster" provisions to render farmers growing crops on wetlands ineligible for federal farm programs. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in that Act provides annual rent payments to farmers who remove wetlands and other sensitive lands from production. ^[clii]

2005 Last Child in the Woods: Written/Published by Richard Louv spurring the No Child Left Inside Movement

2007 Bald Eagle de-listed: first listed as Threatened/Endangered in March 1967

2016 MAEOE EE Certification Program is introduced

