

Conservation Conferences

1901 – 1909 : Theodore Roosevelt's Presidency

1903 : The Public Lands Commission

Appointed by the President: October 22, 1903

Purpose: The study of public land policy and laws regarding the use of open range and federal lands.

1907 : Inland Waterways Commission

Appointed by the President: March 14, 1907

Purpose: The study of U.S. river systems, water power development potential, land reclamation, and flood control.

1908 : Conference of Governors

Meeting convened at The White House: May 13 – 15, 1908.

This was the first meeting of governors that is now convened annually at The White House.

Participants: Governors of the States and territories, Supreme Court Justices, Cabinet Secretaries, and other various national conservation leaders and scientists met and adopted a declaration in support of conservation and the creation of 38 state conservation commissions.

1908 : National Conservation Commission

Appointed by the President: June 10, 1908

Purpose: Presided by Gifford Pinchot, the commission published the first inventory of the nation's natural resources into four main sections: lands, forests, minerals, and water.

1908 : Country Life Commission

Appointed by the President: August 1908

Purpose: Presided by Liberty Hyde Bailey of Cornell University's College of Agriculture, the commission published a study funded by the Chamber of Commerce of Spokane, Washington, detailing the status of the rural population's lifestyle.

1908 : Joint Conservation Congress

Appointed by the President: December 1908

Purpose: Attended by 20 governors, 22 state conservation commission members, and other dignitaries, it reviewed the recently published reports of the National Conservation Commission.

1908 : North American Conservation Conference

Convened by the President: February 18 – 22, 1909

Purpose: Called for the creation of an international conference to advance the principles of conservation.