



NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES

THE  
*Jimmy Carter*  
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

# Presidential Power & Precedents: Jimmy Carter, Alaska and The Antiquities Act



*Presented by Joshua Montanari, Education Specialist*



# Supporting the National Archives



## Mission

We drive openness, cultivate public participation, and strengthen our nation's democracy through public access to high-value government records.

## Vision

Cutting-edge access to extraordinary volumes of government information and unprecedented engagement to bring greater meaning to the American experience.

## Values

Collaborate. Innovate. Learn

**Left:** Transfer of “Charters of Freedom” to the National Archives, 12/13/1952 (National Archives Identifier: [5928179](#))



# National Archives History

**1934:** Established to preserve and care for records of the U.S. Government

**1949:** Incorporated with General Services Administration

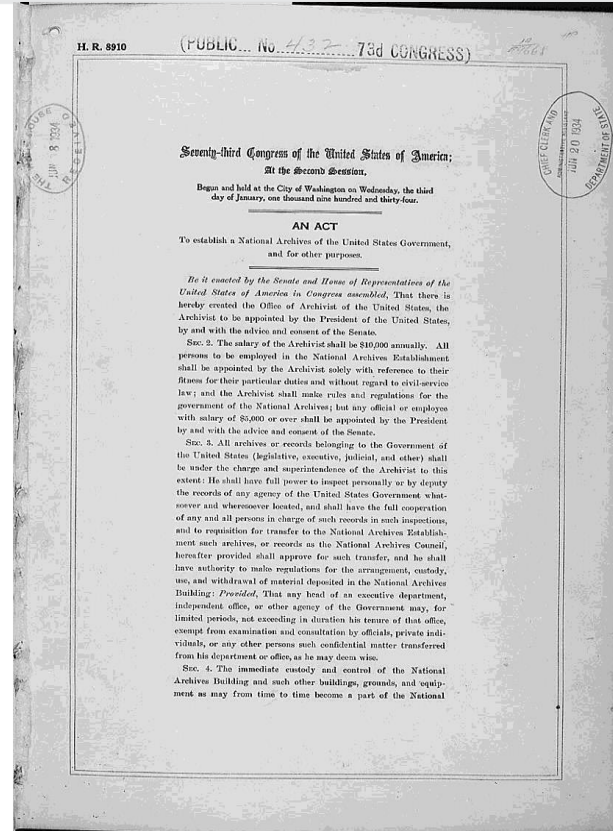
**1985:** Made independent agency

**40 facilities across the country**

- [Federal Records Centers](#)
- [Presidential Libraries](#)
- [Office of the Federal Register](#)
- [National Historical Publications and Records Commission.](#)



**Right:** MO 1947.93.74; Wheelchair Used by Franklin Roosevelt; ca. 1941-1945; Personal Possessions of the Roosevelt Family, 1941 – 2020 (FDR Library) **Far Right:** An Act of June 19, 1934 ("National Archives Act"), Public Law 73-432, 48 STAT 1122, to Create a National Archives of the United States Government, and for Other Purposes (National Archives Identifier: [299840](#))



# Presidential Libraries



- Not mandatory, choice of outgoing Presidents; collections preserved regardless
- Embraced from Herbert Hoover, through Barack Obama (14 currently existing)
- Construction paid for with private and non-federal funds raised by respective presidents
- Collections, museums overseen and maintained by National Archives
- Many libraries supported in part by non-profit foundations

# Carter Presidential Library

- Opened October 1, 1986
- 40 million pages of written materials
- 40,000 museum objects/artifacts
- 500,000 photographs
- 2,500 hours of film, audio and video tape

**Right:** A portion of the Carter Library archival collections as seen from the museum floor (Carter Library)



# Teaching with Primary Sources

- They make us question where information comes from; encourages **consideration of original intent and context**
- Images, Film and Audio sources **reveal the intangible**
- Analyzing multiple documents related to a similar topic allows researchers to **consider multiple perspectives**
- No single primary source will contain all desired information, **prompting further inquiry**

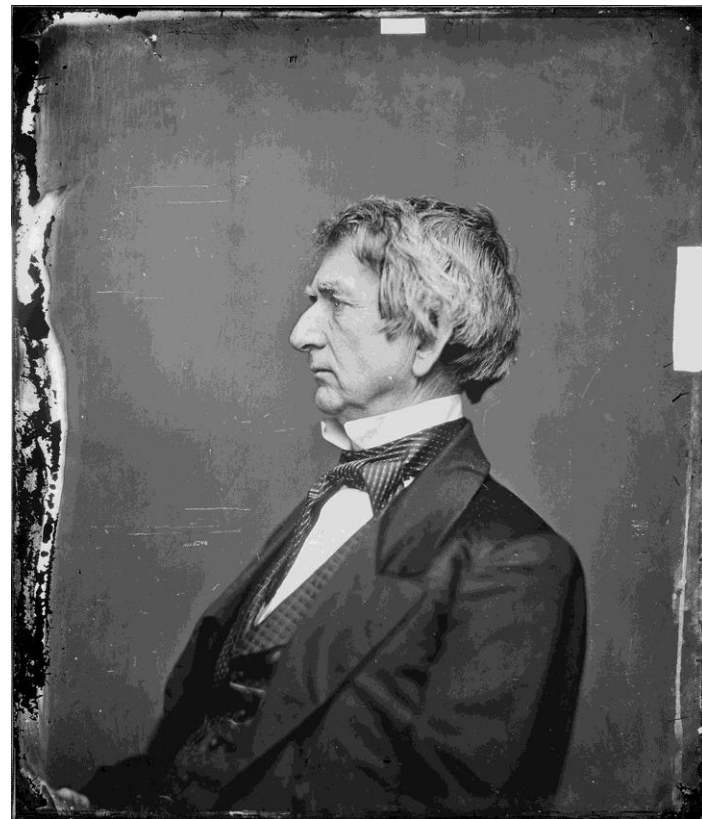
# Program Overview



- Alaska & the U.S.
- Carter's Conservation
- Antiquities Act of 1906
- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)
- Constitutional Checks and Balances

**Left:** Proposals authorized by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (National Archives Identifier: [42203688](#))

# Alaska Purchase: Folly to Fortune



- **Arranged by Secretary of State William Seward in 1868 for \$7.2 million (less than 2 cents/acre)**
- **Ridiculed as “Seward’s Folly”, U.S. clears \$3+ trillion in revenue**

**Above:** Treasury Warrant in the Amount of \$7.2 Million for the Purchase of Alaska (National Archives Identifier: [301667](#))  
**Right:** Secretary of State William Seward (National Archives Identifier: [528347](#))



# A New Star and Promises Made

## 1959: [Alaskan Statehood proclaimed by President Eisenhower](#)

- Includes mandate for 104 million acres to be transferred to state control

## 1971: [Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act](#)

- Provided 44 million acres of land and \$962.5 million to Alaska Native Regional/Village Corporations
- Authorized Secretary of Interior to withdraw 80 million acres for conservation purposes
- **Deadline to implement: 12/18/1978**

**Right:** President Eisenhower celebrates after signing the official proclamation admitting Alaska at the 49<sup>th</sup> State, 1/3/1959  
([Eisenhower Library](#))



# Jimmy Carter: Rooted in Conservation

- Land ethic gained during childhood, farming in Depression-era
- Faith-inspired environmentalism

**Right:** Young Jimmy Carter and pony on family farm in Archer, GA (Carter Library)

**Far Right:** Left to Right: Ruth Carter, Lillian Carter, Jimmy Carter (Carter Library)



# Protecting Georgia's Natural Resources



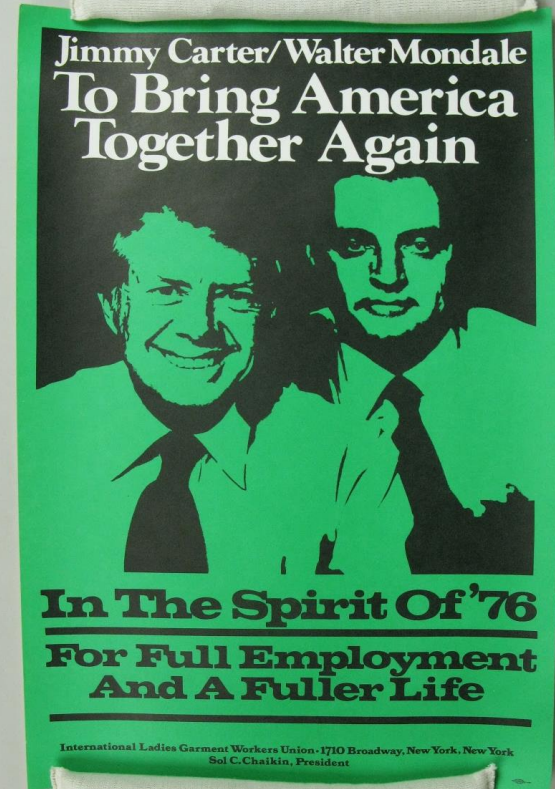
- Establishes Georgia Heritage Trust
- Vetoed more than 600 applications to drain swamplands, protecting vital wetland ecosystems

**Left:** Jimmy Carter pictured in his office while serving as Governor of Georgia (Carter Library)

# Environmental Momentum in 1976

- [Creation of Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) in 1970](#)
- Notable environmental legislation:
  - [Clean Air Act \(1970\)](#)
  - [Clean Water Act \(1972\)](#)
  - [Endangered Species Act \(1973\)](#)
  - [Federal regulation of pesticides and insecticides](#)

**Right:** Carter-Mondale 1976 Presidential Campaign Poster (Carter Library)



# A President's Environmental Message

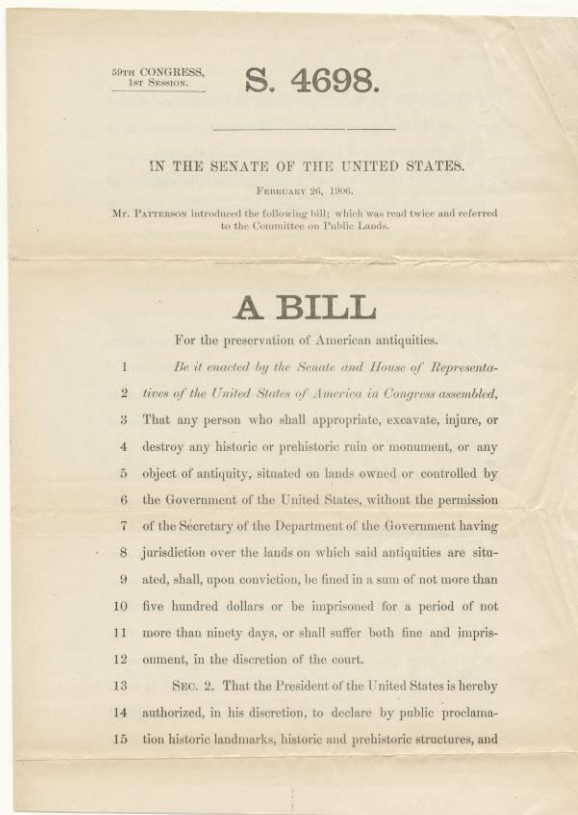


- Pollution and Health
- Energy and Environment
- Urban Environment
- Natural Resources
- National Heritage
- Global Environment
- Improving Government

**Left:** Jimmy Carter giving the Energy Address  
(National Archives Identifier: [6783239](#))



# The Antiquities Act of 1906



*“The President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation **historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest** that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments...”*

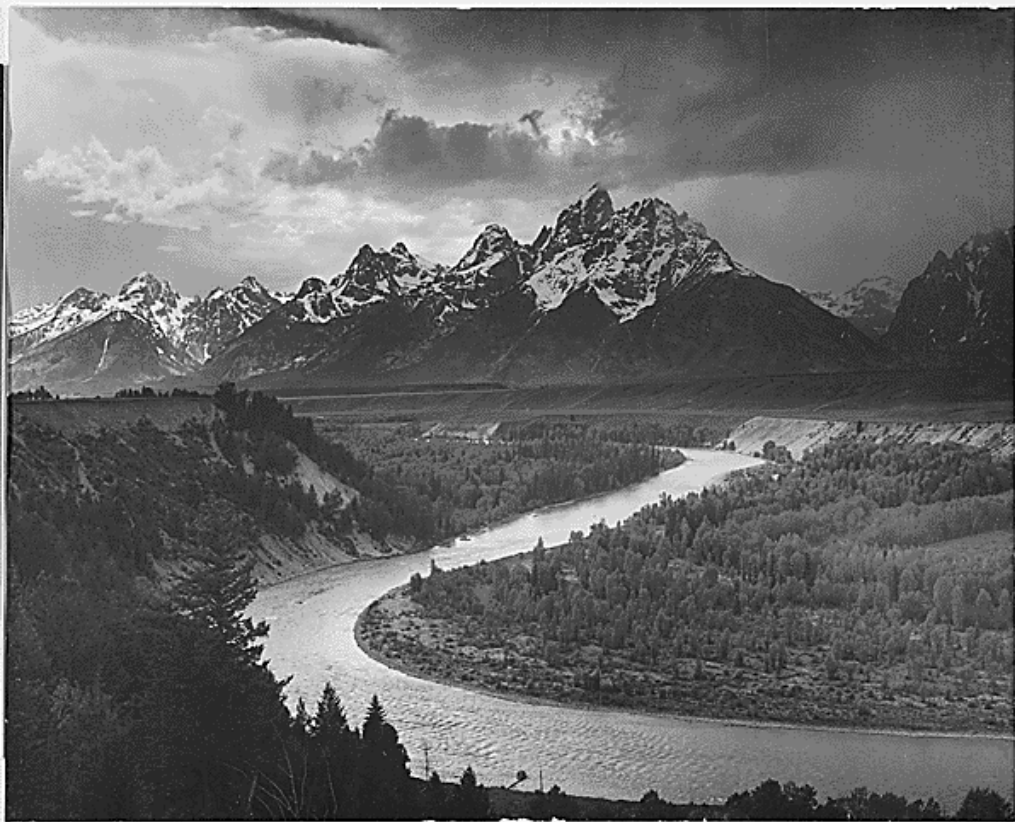
**Far Left:** President Theodore Roosevelt (National Archives Identifier: [166698144](#)) **Left:** S. 4698, A Bill for the Preservation of American Antiquities (National Archives Identifier: [28264995](#))

## 1950: Compromise to establish Grand Teton National Park

*“...no further extension or establishment of national parks or monuments in Wyoming may be undertaken except by express authorization of the Congress.”*

\*Note the revision to the Antiquities Act by U.S. House of Representatives

**Right:** “The Tetons – Snake River”, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, by Ansel Adams (National Archives Identifier: [519904](#))







# A President Gets Their Answer

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
November 28, 1978

*July*

MEMORANDUM FOR

ELIOT CUTLER  
BOB THOMSON  
MARGARET MCKENNA ✓  
PHIL SPECTOR  
LARRY GILSON

FROM: KATHY FLETCHER *KF*  
SUBJECT: Alaska Lands Memo

Attached for your review is a rough draft of a decision memo, following this morning's briefing. You will note that options are not presented, in that there appears to be an emerging consensus. However, I'm willing to add any variation about which you feel strongly. I need two things (OSAP): comments and (if possible) the vote of your office or principal. If the final memo can reflect positions, the senior staffing process will be vastly expedited.

Thanks.

Attachment

*11/28/78  
6:00 P.M. - JZ told Kathy  
that J concurs. She will  
so reflect in memo to the  
President.*  
*JZ*

DRAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM

STU EIZENSTAT  
CECIL ANDRUS  
BOB BERGLAND

SUBJECT:

Alaska Lands

Secretaries Andrus and Bergland have completed the work you requested concerning administrative actions to protect Alaska lands until Congress enacts legislation. Each Secretary has already taken actions under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to withdraw temporarily all of the areas of concern from mineral entry and from selection of lands by the State (although the protection against State selections is uncertain under this statute). In addition, they propose that you take actions under the Antiquities Act to create National Monuments to provide strong and certain protection to the most critical areas.

Following are the recommendations:

1. Interior Department lands (proposed National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges):

**11/28/1978:** President Carter is advised by Interior, and Agriculture Secretaries to take action under the Antiquities Act **“...to provide strong and certain protection to the most critical areas.”**

**Left:** Excerpt from Alaska Lands Memo, 11/28/1978 (National Archives Identifier: [140572](#))

# Carter Acts...Alaska Reacts



- **12/01/1978:** President Carter invokes Antiquities Act to preserve 56 million acres of Alaskan lands
- Secretary of Interior Andrus withdraws additional 40 million acres for 20-year period
- Unrest and acts of civil disobedience break out in Alaska at sites of proposed public land designations

**Left:** President Carter burned in effigy following use of Antiquities Act in Alaska (University of Alaska Fairbanks Archive)

# Effective in Defeat



- **12/02/1980:** Despite losing 1980 election, Carter successfully leverages the Antiquities Act to press Congress to pass Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act ([full transcript](#))
- Federal public land designations in Alaska greater than 5,000 acres require Congressional approval going forward

**Left:** President Jimmy Carter signing ANILCA, 12/2/1980 (National Archives Identifier: [166691808](#))

# Clear Direction, Promises Fulfilled

## Comprehensive Guidance for all Federal Public Lands in Alaska:

- Wilderness
- Subsistence
- Transportation and Utility Corridors
- Oil and Gas Leasing
- Mining
- Public Access
- Hunting, trapping and fishing

**Right:** Two subsistence hunters pull a recently harvested seal from icy waters in Alaska (Department of Interior Photo)





# Public Lands Created/Altered by ANILCA

<a href="#">Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">Izimbek National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">Steese National Conservation Area</a>	<a href="#">Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge</a>
<a href="#">Arctic National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">Katmai National Park and Preserve</a>	<a href="#">Becharof National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">Tongass National Forest</a>
<a href="#">Admiralty Island National Monument</a>	<a href="#">Kenai Fjords National Park</a>	<a href="#">Innoko National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">White Mountains National Recreation Area</a>
<a href="#">Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve</a>	<a href="#">Kenai National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">Wrangell - St Elias National Park and Preserve</a>
<a href="#">Bering Land Bridge National Preserve</a>	<a href="#">Kobuk Valley National Park</a>	<a href="#">Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve</a>
<a href="#">Cape Krusenstern National Monument</a>	<a href="#">Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge</a>
<a href="#">Denali National Park and Preserve</a>	<a href="#">Lake Clark National Park and Preserve</a>	<a href="#">Selawik National Wildlife Refuge</a>	<a href="#">Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge</a>
<a href="#">Gates Of The Arctic National Park and Preserve</a>	<a href="#">Misty Fjords National Monument</a>	<a href="#">Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge</a>	
<a href="#">Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve</a>	<a href="#">Noatak National Preserve</a>	<a href="#">Togiak National Wildlife Refuge</a>	

# Permanent Pipeline: Ecotourism



## Economic Impact of Alaska's Visitor Industry, 2017:

- **Peak Season Jobs:** 52,000
- **Taxes & Revenues:** \$125.6 M
- **Visitor Spending:** \$2.8 B
- **Economic Impact:** \$4.5 B
- **Labor Income:** \$1.5 B
- **Total Visitors:** 2.24 M

**Left:** Alaska's Marine Highway - Kayaking near Kodiak (National Archives Identifier: [7716889](#))

# Belated Recognition



## Extraordinary Conservation

- Made Honorary National Park Ranger, highest civilian honor of the NPS
- Established total of 39 NPS units during one-term presidency
- Created numerous programs critical to NPS Urban Agenda

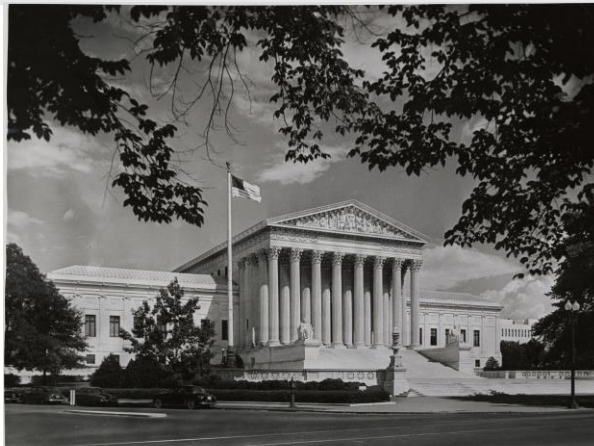
**Read full details of this honor from the [National Park Service](#)**

**Left:** For his contributions to conservation as President, Jimmy Carter is made an honorary National Park Ranger by the National Park Service, April 17, 2016 (NPS Photo)

# Constitutional Checks and Balances

1. Did President Carter's use of the Antiquities Act in Alaska exceed Constitutional powers of the Executive branch?
2. Were there checks or balances applied to his actions by the [Legislative](#) or [Judicial](#) branches, or state governments?
3. How has the Antiquities Act strengthened or weakened democracy? How has it served to stimulate civic engagement?

**Clockwise from top:** Supreme Court Building (National Archives Identifier: [594954](#)) The United States Capitol, 1/15/1977 (National Archives Identifier: [6384310](#)) The White House, 1/15/1977 (National Archives Identifier: [6384319](#))







# Further Inquiry

## Research

[The Record of Jimmy Carter \(National Archives Identifier: 143373\)](#)

[Alaska Land Case, 11/78-12/78 \(Carter Library\)](#)

[Alaska Digitization Project \(National Archives\)](#)

[National Monuments and the Antiquities Act \(Congressional Research Service\)](#)

[The Antiquities Act: History, Current Litigation, and Considerations for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress \(Congressional Research Service\)](#)

[NPS History: The Antiquities Act of 1906 \(National Park Service\)](#)

[The Monumental History of the Antiquities Act \(National Park Service\)](#)

## Teacher Resources

[AP United States History Document-Based Question Exercise: The Antiquities Act](#)

[Document Analysis Worksheets](#)



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(Carter Library)

**“It is good to realize  
that if love and peace  
can prevail on earth,  
and if we can teach  
our children to  
honor nature’s gifts,  
the joys and beauties  
of the outdoors will  
be here forever.”  
—Jimmy Carter—**

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