

Public Lands

U.S. Forest Service



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National Forest lands are the largest source of water in the continental U.S.



The National Forests & Water

**The most valuable
and the least
appreciated resource
the National Forests
provide is water.**



Due to topography, location, vegetation and geology of the National Forest System, these lands have more influence on national water supplies.



The roots of the Forest Service are in watershed

Gifford Pinchot, **manager**

believed that we ought to value forests for their *“effects on the climate and floods, rainfall and runoff, springs and erosion.”*



Watershed management is a critical part of the Organic Act of 1897, which stated the purpose of federal forest reserves:

“To improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber.”



Condition of Forests in 1900

Massive clearing of forest land in the East for agriculture.

America's settlers cleared forests at the rate of 13.3 square miles per day.



RESTORING THE LAND



Forest Management





Today, these thriving forests that support abundant fish and wildlife represent one of our nation's greatest conservation and restoration success stories.



Condition of Forests in 1900

Between 1911 - 1945 about 24 million acres of depleted farmsteads and burned woodlands in the East were added to the National Forest System through the Weeks Act.



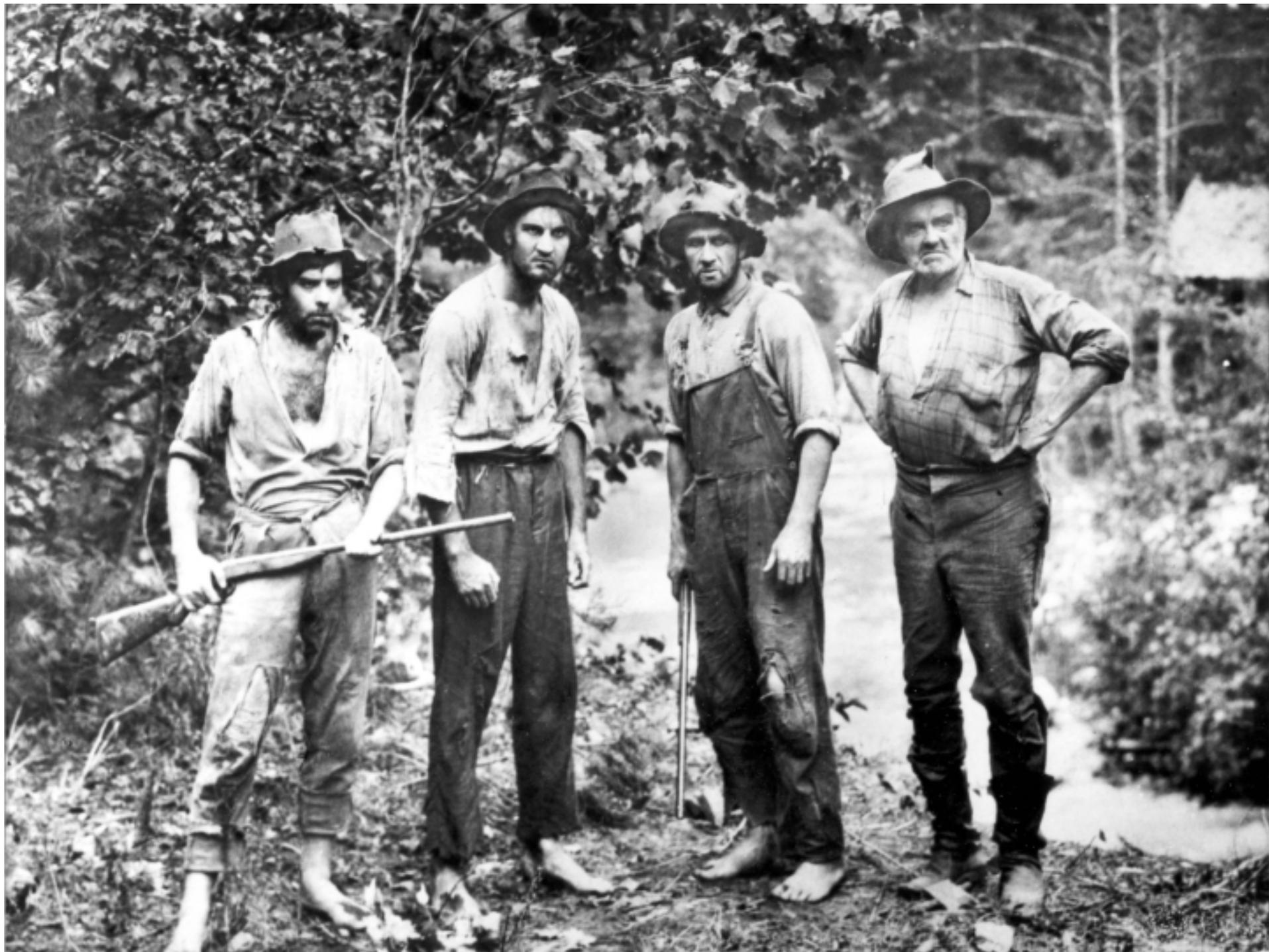


Forest Fires

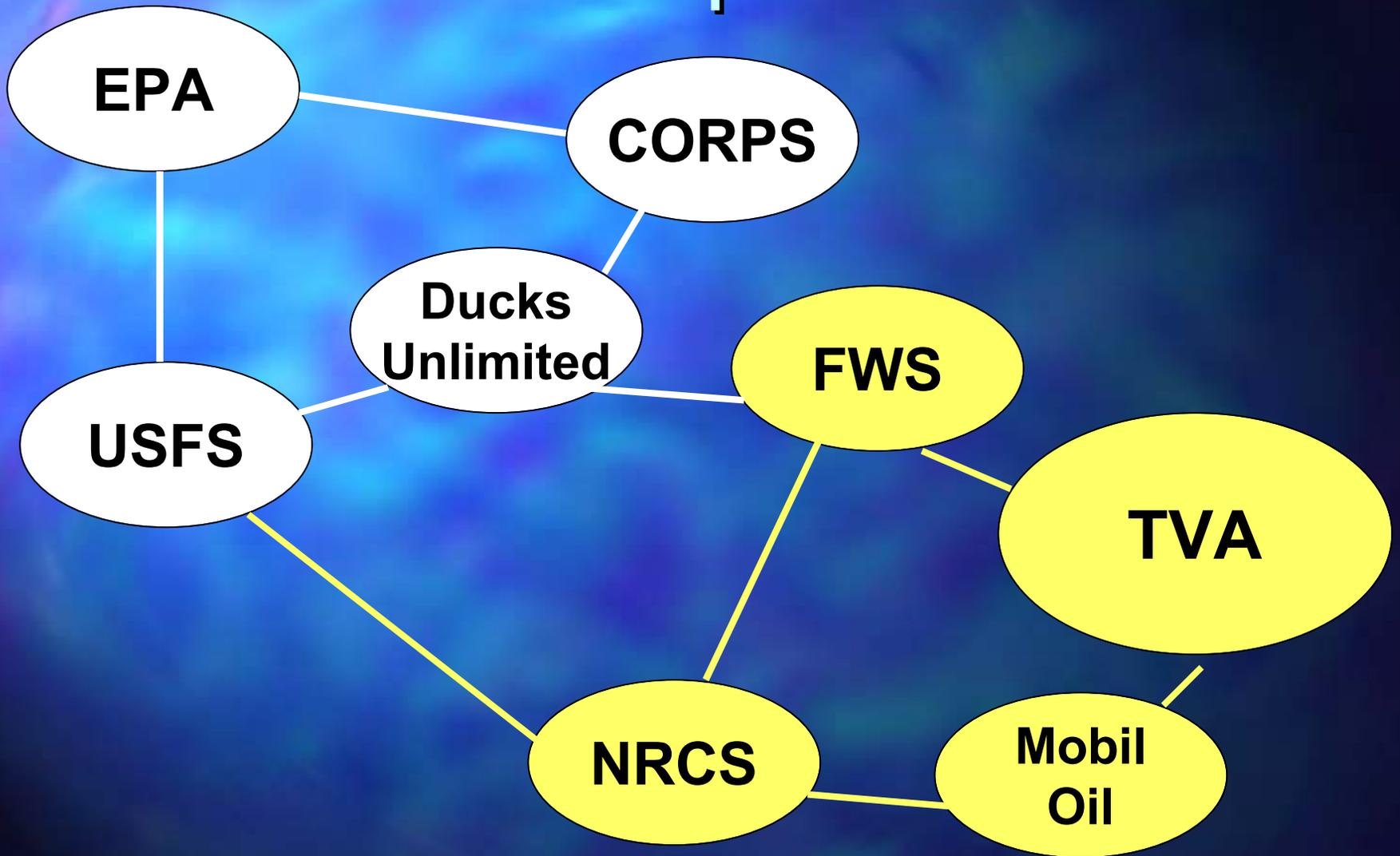


Management Model

- National Forest Systems
- State and Private Forestry
- Research



Partnership Model



Roosevelt Connection



Land Management

- Land management for the long term
- Land owner
- Land owner objectives change
- Public agencies have a difficult time responding to land owner changes
- TVA– ROS study
- Cooperation– TVA and USFS

**“We can leave
no greater gift
for our children
than to leave
the watersheds
entrusted to our
care healthier,
more diverse,
and more
productive.”**

