

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

A PORTFOLIO



The United States has a record of land stewardship that stretches back more than 130 years to the creation of the first national parks. In the past 50 years, increased understanding of the human potential to harm the environment and its diverse web of life has heightened our vigilance and led us to take corrective measures. The pictures in this gallery reflect the progress that has been made in the United States and continuing efforts to improve the environment.

Photo © Glenn Randall

AP/WWP Photo by Luis M. Alvarez

Above: Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado offers sweeping views like this one of Longs Peak, Glacier Gorge, and Bear Lake. Scientists closely monitor air and water quality, giving park managers the information necessary to make responsible decisions.

Right: A flock of ibis fly near the Kissimmee River in the Florida Everglades. Over the past 20 years, federal, state, and local partners have joined forces to counteract the effects of overdevelopment and ecosystem degradation. Everglades National Park is designated a World Heritage Site, an International Biosphere Reserve, and a Wetland of International Importance.

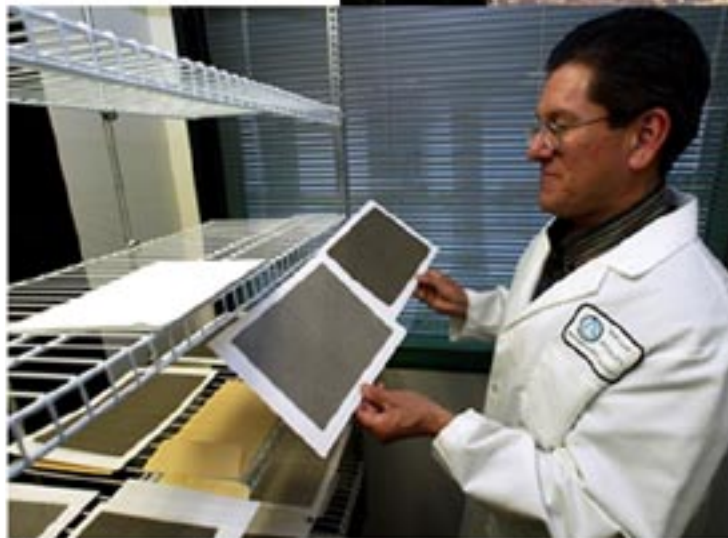




AP/WWP Photo by Mark J. Terrill;



AP/WWP Photo by Ric Francis



AP/WWP Photo by Damian Dovarganes

Top: The air is clear in this January 2005 view of downtown Los Angeles, yet smoggy days (above) remain a fact of life in the southern California city. Left: A chemist compares filters used to collect fine air particulate pollution in Los Angeles and nearby Lynnwood; monitoring is part of the state's effort to achieve clean-air standards in southern California by the end of the decade.



Photo courtesy of the Cleveland Public Library

Left: A fire started in an oil slick blazes on the Cuyahoga river in 1952. Such fires, caused by the dumping of chemical wastes, occurred several times during the 1950s and 1960s. The sight of a river on fire did much to spark the U.S. environmental movement.

Below: The Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio, is today a picture of health.



AP/WWP Photo by Mark Duncan

Below: Water contaminated with creosote from a wood-treating plant near Seattle, Washington, is cleaned with a naturally occurring, oil-eating microbe. The jars contain water from the same source, before and after treatment.



AP/WWP Photo by Ted S. Warren

Below: Green sea turtles, protected by the federal Endangered Species Act, were raised to maturity at a zoo then released into their natural habitat in the Pacific Ocean.



AP/WWP Photo by Brookfield Zoo, Jim Schultz



AP/WWP Photo by Richard Drew



AP Photo/FILE-Lincoln Kanim

Left: Its numbers restored to sustainable levels, the gray wolf was removed from the endangered species list for the eastern United States in 2004. Wolf populations will continue to be monitored closely.



AP/WWP Photo by Dawn Vilella

Above: Schoolchildren in New York City anxiously watch a family of red-tailed hawks that nested on the ledge of a luxury apartment building (above right). Many New Yorkers were outraged when apartment owners decided to have the nest, the birds, and the grate that held the nest removed so the birds could not return. Citizens groups protested vigorously until the building management relented and replaced the grate; the birds quickly returned and rebuilt their nest.