



Udall, Morris King (1922–98)

BORN IN ST. Johns, Arizona, on June 15, 1922, Morris K. Udall would go on to be one of the foremost political leaders in environmental protection over a long and illustrious career. At an early age, he showed great leadership potential; he was not only the student body president of his high school, but also the school's valedictorian and basketball team co-captain. Udall graduated high school in 1940 and attended the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, where he studied law. He left college two years later to serve in World War II from 1942 to 1945 in the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he was honorably discharged as a captain. After graduating college in 1949, he played professional basketball for the Denver Nuggets and also achieved the highest score on the state bar exam. He practiced private law with his brother Stewart and eventually worked as the county attorney in Pima County, Arizona, from 1953 to 1954.

Udall was elected as a Democrat to the 87th Congress and was subsequently reelected to the 15 succeeding Congresses until he retired in 1991. In 1976 he vied for the Democratic Party presidential nomination, only to lose to Jimmy Carter. From 1977 to 1991, he served as the Chairman of the Committee

on Interior and Insular Affairs (95th through 102nd Congresses), where he worked on many issues related to the environment and public land policy. The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is now referred to as the Committee on Resources, and works on a diversity of environmental issues that include but are not limited to energy, forests, public lands, fish and wildlife, Native Americans, and water and power. Significant legislation passed with the help of Morris Udall includes:

- The Strip Mining Reclamation Act: requires coal companies to reclaim their strip-mined land;
- Archaeological Research Protection Act: secures protection of archeological resources on public lands;
- Southern Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act: outlines Indian water rights claims;
- Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984: designates 1.5 million acres of wilderness lands in Arizona;
- Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990: designates 2.4 million acres of wilderness land in Arizona;
- Tongass Timber Reform Act: revokes the artificially high timber targets and protects over one million acres of watersheds.



Both Morris and Stewart Udall had a great appreciation for the natural environment that shone through in their political careers. Morris Udall, John Seiberling (D-Ohio), and 75 cosponsors successfully introduced the Alaska Lands Act of 1980 into Congress. The bill was heavily fought by mining, timber, and oil interests as it ultimately designated 55 million acres of new protected wilderness, expanded the national park system in Alaska by about 43 million acres (22.3 million hectares), creating 10 new national parks, and greatly expanded and created National Wildlife Refuge lands, Wild and Scenic River designations, and National Forest System lands.

Morris Udall spent much of his career promoting the environmentally detrimental \$4.4 billion Central Arizona Project (CAP), the most expensive water project in U.S. history. Originally supporting the damming of two areas of the Colorado River for the project, Udall eventually sided with environmentalists after a massive public outcry; the dams were not built.

Later in his career (after the CAP was constructed) Udall made statements of regret over the water project and worried that he wrongly supported it: "Now we have cotton farms selling out and taking their money to enjoy in La Jolla [California]—and cities building lakes so people will have lakefront homes in the desert ... If I had to do it over, I think I'd say, 'Leave the water in the river.'" Udall died December 12, 1998, due to complications from Parkinson's disease.

SEE ALSO: Dams; Forest Service; National Parks; National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; Native Americans; Public Land Management; United States, Alaska; Water Law.

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Uganda

A DECADE AFTER achieving independence from Britain in 1962, the Republic of Uganda began a 14-year period marked by dictatorial governance, civil war, mass murders, atrocities, and extensive human rights abuses that sapped the country of both human and physical resources. By the end of that period, some 400,000 Ugandans had lost their lives. In 1987, many young Ugandans came under the influence of Joseph Kony, who further drained the country of its resources by recruiting soldiers for what he called The Lord's Resistance Army. Kony's tactics involved kidnapping children between the ages of eight and 12 and coercing them to be soldiers by threatening their lives and the lives of their families. Even after Kony was expelled, he continued to reinforce this children's army from neighboring Sudan. International organizations are currently involved in a massive effort to rescue and rehabilitate these children and bring an end to Kony's influence in Uganda. By the 1990s Ugandans had begun to recover politically and economically, dispensing with political parties to elect a new president and legislature.

Uganda's abundant natural resources include sizable deposits of copper and cobalt, hydropower, limestone, and salt. Nearly 26 percent of Uganda's land area is arable, and 82 percent of the work force is engaged in some form of agriculture. The abundant rainfall and fertile soils make it easy to grow a variety of products. Coffee is the major export crop, accounting for the lion's share of export revenue. Since 1986, international agencies have been assisting the Ugandan government in economic reform. In 2000, Uganda qualified for debt relief through funding from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative and the Paris Club. The return of exiled Indian-Ugandan entrepreneurs has also had a positive affect on the Ugandan economy.

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