rch showed that sulphur dioxide, hydroxide, nitrogen oxide, particulate metals, as "pea soup" fog, all played major roles. So did the interaction of these. Smoke played a relatively minor role. Again was air pollution to be viewed as, or even simple.

Pete A. Y. Gunter

Further Readings


Air Pollution: Impacts; London; Smog

Further Readings


See also Everglades of South Florida; Florida Panther; Freshwater Wetlands; Reptiles: Conservation and Habitat; Shorebirds

Douglas, William O.

William O. Douglas (1898–1980) served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1939 to 1975, during which time he became perhaps the foremost conservation advocate in public life. Infused with a passion for the outdoors and a devotion to conservation that dated from his boyhood in the state of Washington, Douglas brought to the bench an unusually well-informed understanding of resource issues. Increasingly influenced by the writings of John Muir, Aldo Leopold, and other American conservationists, as well as his reading of non-Western philosophy, Douglas became a leading voice for stronger legal protections for natural objects and places. In a famous dissent in the case of Sierra Club v. Morton (1972), Douglas cited "contemporary public concern for protecting nature's ecological equilibrium" and suggested the need for a "federal rule that allowed environmental issues to be litigated . . . in the name of the inanimate object about to be despoiled, defaced, or invaded." His opinion became an important starting point for further developments in environmental law, ethics, and philosophy.

Douglas's involvement was not confined to his judicial activities. Even in the midst of his demanding schedule, Douglas maintained an active outdoor life and participated in numerous local conservation battles. His advocacy led to the protection of the C & O Canal, a 190-mile long semi-natural corridor that stretched from Washington, D.C., into the adjacent countryside. An indefatigable hiker, Douglas continued to hike the entire length of the canal trail every year into his seventies. Douglas died in 1980. His thirty-six years on the Supreme Court was the longest term of service in the history of the court up to that time.

Curt Meine

Further Readings


See also Conservation Movement; Environmental Case Law: United States; Leopold, Aldo; Mineral King Canyon; Muir, John; Wilderness

Drift Nets

See Dolphins and Porpoises; Fisheries Conservation

Ducks Unlimited

The Ducks Unlimited Program began in the United States, growing out of the More Game Birds in America Foundation, which was formed in the 1930s because of a long time concern that North American populations of migratory game birds—waterfowl—were diminishing. A 1935 census confirmed that the vast majority (almost 75 percent) of almost 43 million ducks were bred in Canada, that populations were declining due to habitat deterioration, and that the most valuable conservation initiatives lay in preserving breeding grounds located in Canada.

A conservation program called Ducks Unlimited was first suggested in 1935 by the Foundation. On January 29, 1937, Ducks Unlimited