Like the air we breathe and the water we drink, forests are a critical resource for the world. We, as a species, are reliant on forests for the shelter they provide, water they filter, fuel they offer, habitat they create for other wildlife, and their aid in carbon sequestration and erosion protection.\(^1\) Ably illustrated by Shel Silverstein in *The Giving Tree*, written in 1964, this natural resource is a vital part of life, and the sustainability and management of forests need to be carefully organized.\(^2\) By examining the influence of institutional structures of Germany and the United States (U.S.) in relation to nature-protection policies, we can observe how national differences have shaped domestic forest management and enable us to predict the future of forestry management in each country. Differences in the distribution of power, pressure from social movements, and participation in global environmental politics will have profound effects within each country’s policies. The long-term goal of environmental protection and sustainable development is dependent on the diverse actions of all levels of society, ranging from institutions to individuals; from the private sector to the public.\(^3\) Looking at such a broad topic, forestry management, requires narrowing the scope of discussion. Any two countries’ forestry policies can be looked at; choosing two big movers of environmental policies will allow other nations to use the actions of Germany and the United States as models. With Germany and the United States as our prototypes, other countries may graft these two countries’ forestry and environmental actions into their own policies, if forestry policies from Germany and the United States are initially successful.

Forestry policy is developed on a federal level in both the United States and Germany, but eventually branches down to the States (or Germany’s equivalent of States, Länder, singular Land) who execute their own strategy concerning each region’s natural resources. According to

---


Walter Rosenbaum, author of *Environmental Policy and Politics*, “Federalism in environmental regulation guarantees voice and influence to the multitude of states involved.”

Using Germany’s *Land*, Baden-Württemberg, and the State of California will help illustrate the United States’ and Germany’s transformation of forestry policy from the federal level to the State. Rosenbaum continues to define federalism as, “providing essential representation for various geographical interests affected politically and economically by federal environmental laws.”

This voice and influence, attainable through the combination of federalism and proportional representation, has contributed to the growth of issue-based parties in the electoral system of Germany at both the federal and the State level. Germany’s system contrasts with the U.S. system, which is not only Presidential, but also engages in a first-past-the-post electoral system that flows into a two-party dominant system.

The existence of institutionalized structures—such as the governments of the United States and Germany—make it possible to deeply root an authorized presence in ecological concerns due to the environment’s overlap with economic, social, and international sectors. With these institutionalized structures, both countries have the ability to conserve existing policies, envision a healthier future, and convey the policies needed for change; they can maintain an invisible-hand approach, or they can consciously protect natural resources to create a healthy environment and vibrant economy.

Miranda Schreurs, in her book, *Environmental Politics in Japan, Germany, and the United States*, argues Germany is a “green social welfare state,” whose approach to environmental policy is solving high unemployment rates with the simultaneous need to increase forest protection; by contrast, the United States leans toward neoliberal tactics, tending to rely on cost-benefit techniques and market-based solutions (e.g. tax incentives for private forest owners who maintain proper forest management).

Programs such as the Federal Forest Stewardship and California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) provide such techniques by focusing on “improving forest management and enhancing or restoring wildlife

---

5 Ibid.
habitats,”

Overall, there seems to be an extreme sense of determination to try and solve environmental issues because of the impending fear we experience for our future generations. Our current course of action is irreparably degrading the state of the environment. As a safeguard, we use policy to help carry out solutions to further prevent the already existing maltreatment to the environment. Historically, environmental policy has evolved throughout the 20th century. Environmental policy originally involved the conservation of natural resources to include, “public lands and waters, wilderness, and wildlife, and thus recreational opportunities and aesthetic values in addition to ecological preservation.”

Currently, environmental policy is used to “include what governments choose to do to protect environmental quality and natural resources as well as what they choose not to do, thereby allowing other influences, such as private decision making, to determine environmental outcomes.” This change from what was and what is has resulted in a tremendous change in how both governments address environmental issues and implement change.

The process of creating environmental policy is difficult, let alone being able to produce results. Policy-makers can have a vision that leads to environmental improvement. However, there are numerous circumstances that can prevent a policy’s effective implementation, such circumstances and overall bureaucracy can prevent a policy’s completion: “changes in political parties, shifts of community opinion, [and] economic changes.” Thus, we seem to lean toward the government for policy action. The government can also afford to initiate action because “costs may simply be too great for private initiatives and certain activities may require the legal authority or political legitimacy that only governments possess.” Examples of environmental policy that have successfully been carried out by governments include: “setting aside large areas of public lands for national parks, wilderness, and wildlife preserves, and establishment of a range of international environmental development, and population assistance programs.”

---

11 Ibid.
14 Ibid, 9.
United States and Germany have both successfully implemented these programs, though their processes and circumstances are significantly different.

The ‘United States of America’ and the ‘Federal Republic of Germany’ nearly define federalism in their name, though the term ‘federalism’ can formally be defined as “[t]he formal procedure by which laws are enacted at the federal level by the states is designed to reflect the most cherished values of democratic society-openness, equity, inclusiveness, and stability.”¹⁵ The United States is composed of fifty States and numerous local governments with representation in the Legislature under the Commander in Chief. However, the balance of power between the bi-cameral legislation and legislation and executive branches dramatically shapes the prospects for environmental policy making.¹⁶ The two-party dominant system can disturb the policy-making process by having different interests breach the procedure and stall or change amendments.

33% of the total land mass of the United States consists of forested land and approximately 30% of the largest tracts of forest are under some sort of institutionalized protection.¹⁷ Under the Department of Agriculture, the United States Forest Service manages the entirety of the National Forest System, ranging from 155 national forests to twenty national grasslands. This organization also provides a network of financial assistance for state agencies, tribes, and private landowners to maintain a basic conservation function.¹⁸ An example of an agency on a State level would be the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the lead agency for private and state owned forest lands in California. Agencies within the State, like the CAL FIRE or California’s Department of Fish and Wildlife, initiate their own strategic planning documents, programs and initiatives to demonstrate sustainable forest management.¹⁹²⁰ For example, the California Wildlife Action Program is a strategic plan

---

to recommend actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat throughout the state.\(^{21}\)

The zeal behind forming successful forest management policy can be found on every federal level of governance. The Federal parliamentary state structure of Germany distributes the power to three different levels consisting of: municipalities, sixteen Länder and the Federal Parliament (*Bundestag*).\(^{22}\) In the case of Germany’s forestry management policies, parliament initiates the framework; leaving the Länder with the responsibility to meet Bundestag forest policy targets and independently fills in the federal outline to fit their particular needs.\(^{23}\) The framework of forest policy was defined in the Federal Forest Law to include,

> “forest conservation and proper forest management to ensure the sustainability of multiple forest functions, including, if appropriate, the increase of forest areas, the promotion of forestry as well as the conciliation of the general public’s and forest owners’ interests… Another task of the forest policy is to raise the awareness of the population with regard to the importance and the interest of ‘their’ forest.”\(^{24}\)

In 1972, an addition was made to the Basic Law (Germany’s “Constitution”) which granted the federal government authority concerning environmental issues, although implementation continued to be the obligation of the Länder.\(^{25}\) Environmental protection was written as a national objective through the Basic Law in Article 20a, which reads:

> *Der Staat schützt auch in Verantwortung für die künftigen Generationen die natürlichen Lebensgrundlagen und die Tiere im Rahmen der verfassungsmäßigen Ordnung durch die Gesetzgebung und nach Maßgabe von Gesetz und Recht durch die vollziehende Gewalt und die Rechtsprechung.*\(^{26}\)

---


which translates to, “Acknowledging its responsibility to future generations, the state provides protection for natural resources and animals within the constitution through legislation and in accordance with law in the form of executive authority and the administration of justice.”

Arguably, in comparison to the United States, more authority is distributed to Länder regions of Germany. Within each Länder the local government usually has about two to three levels of forest management, including local authorities that have environmental duties. For example, Baden-Württemberg’s three levels begin with (1) the State Forest Administration that functions within the Ministry for Food and Rural Areas, followed by (2) the Forest Directorates who initiate regional area tasks within the State, and finally (3) the 163 district levels that cover the entirety of Baden-Württemberg. The Constitution of Baden-Württemberg refers to the subsidiary principle, which has also been emphasized since the creation of the European Union (EU). Created to promote the allocation of decision-making to the lowest viable level of administration, the subsidiary principle expands local government’s responsibilities regarding forestry and other natural resources.

The development of environmental movements in the United States were initially influenced by how the state responded to social movements. Sidney Tarrow, author of, *Power in Movement: Social Movements, Collective Action, and Mass Politics in the Modern State* defines ‘social movements’ as, “collective challenges, based on common purposes and social solidarities, in sustained interaction with elites, opponents, and authorities.” Political scientist, George Hoberg, describes forestry policy in the United States prior to the 1970s as, “the forest policy regime was characterized by a dominant administrative agency, a strong orientation toward the development of timber resources, and little input from the

---

public.”

The public’s lack concern for their environment and the actions of their government is further emphasized by Norman Miller, who provides an interesting critique in his work, *Environmental Politics: Interest Groups, the Media, and the Making of Policy*. Miller states “[t]he post-World War II economic boom, in the absence of any significant governmental restraints or oversight, imposed an increasing burden on the nation’s resources” which permitted the United States to freely extract forest and mineral reserves; furthermore, the country’s rapid development destroyed habitats of present day endangered species.

The populization of environmental awareness eventually took place after the 1970’s Earth Day extravaganza and the publication of environmental books fell into the scope of the media, and were given very high coverage. For example, Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, “ushered in the modern environmental movement and, in so doing, gave birth to contemporary environmental politics” and environmental policy was now in the majority of the public’s consciousness. National organizations were in the limelight of an enormous and emotional audience to “set an aggressive agenda and begin to shape federal action to address public concerns”. It is not common for a novel to provide enough driving force and influence legislation to completely ban a pesticide. However, Carson raised a prominent question: why would the government introduce a chemical, that little is known about, into the environment and leave it to fate to determine whether the ecosystem is at risk?

The momentum of a social movement encouraged environmental groups to begin implementing their right to a fair trial as a political weapon. An outcome was an increasing amount of self-reliance from the public sector to conduct their own research. Eventually this independence pushed the US court system and congress to provide, “[n]ew statutory and administrative provisions for public involvement in the implementation of forest policy,” and

---

38 Ibid.
due to the public’s growing concern of the Forest Service’s actions, “greater congressional oversight of Forest Service policies expanded environmental influence in day-to-day forest management.”\textsuperscript{40} The signing of The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on January 1, 1970, was a start of a new era. NEPA directly targets federal projects to practice transparency and ensure that the environmental impacts are comprehensively analyzed within any federal project. An important aspect of the act ensured that agencies would seek public participation on projects, “from the planning stage to the review-of-documents stage.”\textsuperscript{41} Shortly following NEPA was the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), which forced the Forest Service to include environmentalist involvement in the earliest stages of forest management development and “set new standards for multiple-use decisions in which ecological values had to be given major consideration.”\textsuperscript{42,43} Both NEPA and NFMA have influenced federal land management agencies, like the Forest Service, to better incorporate environmental values while creating nature-protection policies. Public pressure has significantly altered how forest management currently emphasizes retaining wildlife, their habitats, healthy soils, and natural disasters.\textsuperscript{44}

Today, the involvement of the government, business, and environmental nongovernmental organizations (ENGOs/NGOs) in environmental policy is relentlessly challenging and quarrelsome. The interminable negotiations, decision-making, and conferences often eventually lead to confrontation, unless these actions are conducted through the use of litigation.\textsuperscript{45} The United States consists of countless ENGOs that compete amongst themselves and with “well-financed environmental research institutions” in order to gain the attention of governmental policy-makers.\textsuperscript{46} As a result of the campaign finance system ability to accept donations, some voices are heard more clearly than others and can have a great impact on

\textsuperscript{42} Colin Riordan, author of \textit{Green Thought and German Culture}, states environmentalism exists “where there is evidence of active protestor campaign against damage to the natural environment which rests on the knowledge of the ecological effects of human action” (Riordan, 4).
\textsuperscript{45} T.M. Koontz and C. W. Thomas, “What Do We Know and Need to Know About the Environmental Outcomes of Collaborative Management?” (Public Administration Review 66:111-121, 2006), 3.
congress’ decision-making. Big kids still only want to play with other big kids, it is often professional groups who chose to focus on modeling and affecting polices, while voluntary groups are often found dealing with emerging environmental issues.

Redwood forests represent rich biodiversity, spiritual significance, and timeless stability marking itself as a symbol of the State of California. Unfortunately, the Pacific Northwest Redwood Coast has become an issue of concern in the United States as a small (5%) fraction remains of the once tremendous spread of virgin redwood forest. An incredible history of logging in the region’s old-growth forests has become an issue of international concern. According to the United Nations’ Environmental Programme, the timber industry and State government involvement in old-growth forests is gradually becoming more influenced by scientific knowledge, voluntary-group action, public awareness and market pressures over the past thirty years.

Of the 1.6 million acres of redwood forest, about 21% percent is owned either by the California State or Federal government, while industries own 34% and the rest is allocated to private owners. On State and regional levels of government, there are numerous implementations of policies to improve the current status of California’s ecosystem. Approaches to the improvement of California’s ecosystem include, “[a] number of strategic planning documents, programs, and initiatives have been drafted that have bearing on forest and rangelands, such as the California Wildlife Action Plan and California Outdoor Recreation Plan.” According to an interview in National Geographic (2009), Steve Sillett, scientist of Forestry and Wildland Resources at Humboldt State University, stated, "[t]he challenge now is understanding how to improve management on the 95 percent of the redwood landscape that's

---

50 Joe Bourne, “The Super Trees,” National Geographic, 2009, 
52 Ibid, 118.
53 Joe Bourne, “The Super Trees” National Geographic, 2009, 
just starting to grow." The future of California Redwood is heavily dependent on successful forest management policy.

The methodology of forest management in Germany and the United States can be seen as an influence to other countries wanting to sustain their forests. Similar to how Chairman of Transparency International Germany, and a member of a government counseling team, Edda Mueller emphasizes that German environmental policy was highly influenced by 1970’s environmental movement in the United States. This includes the ratification of NEPA and U.S. international involvement during the Stockholm Conference in 1972. Germany contained an inner-strength for an environmental social movement that originated in its post-war generation and comparative to the United States during this time, had more reason to question the values of authority. The increasing number of ENGOs and other organizations shortly followed the introduction and rising of the German Green Party into parliament. There was now an uninterrupted voice in the State and federal governments with a concern for environmental issues. Due to the influence of the Green Party in Parliament, the German government not only began to develop a consultative approach while discussing forest management with scientists and the environmental community, but other political parties such as, the Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democratic Party of Germany, quickly became more aware of environmental issues.

The German federal government’s first environmental programme defines environmental policy as, “the totality of measures necessary to assure an environment for human beings such as the need for their health and human dignity, to protect soil, air and water, plants and animals from long-term effects of human encroachments and to remove the damages or harm of such.”

---

56 Edda Mueller takes part in the Council of Sustainable Development as part of a consulting team for the government’s sustainability policy. (Schreurs, 55).
58 Kelly Kollman, “Green States and Social Movements: Environmentalism in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Norway and Environmental Politics in Japan, Germany and the United States”” (Perspectives on Politics. 2, no. 2, 2004), 399-401.
59 Ibid, 243, 249.
60 Ibid, 243, 249.
The first resourceful policy was *The Federal Forest Act*, which was coordinated by the Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forests in 1975. This policy mostly focuses on the preservation and sustainable management of forests, but also calls to action the needed support for forestry and finding balance between difference societal interests: specifically, German forest owners establishing a common ground with the general public regarding forest management.

Germany, like the United States, also has about one-third of its land covered in forest. A great environmental concern in the 1980s was the damage of this valuable land. An interesting outcome to this concern was a national “save the forest” action program, which resulted in measures such as, “to limit emissions of acidic air pollutants.” By the end of 1984, the *Bundestag* framed a law “to which new cars had to be equipped with catalytic converters in order to neutralize the nitrogen oxides in car exhausts” but whether this improvement in air purity was made, and the direct correlation to the health of the forest is still being looked into. In addition to this policy, another immerged with the purpose to saving forests, which consisted of retaining a halt to the construction of “waste incineration plants” because “they allegedly would release too many air pollutants, and thus accelerate the death of forests.” Even though these policies were originally created to sustain forests, their successful is officially unknown, but these laws have contributed to a better ecosystem.

Despite the economic and environmental success of both Germany and the United States, many environmental issues are prevalent and need efficient management. As significant as the California Redwoods are to the United States, the Black Forest (*Der Schwarzwald*) of Baden-Württemberg is to Germany. The Black Forest is a man-made forest range reintroduced after human degradation and is located in Germany’s most Southwestern *Land*, Baden-Württemberg. After tremendous clear-cutting—similar to California’s Redwoods—pressed by both World Wars, Germany’s effort in reforestation has produced “high-yielding and ecological valuable

---


63 Similar to how the President of the United States has a cabinet, the Prime Minister has a series of ministries to collaborate with.


65 Ibid, 23.


Over the past four decades, Germany has increased their forestland by one million hectares, with eighty-year old forest stands increasing from one-fourth to one-third of the forest population. Forestry has been one of the contributing factors in Germany’s ability to strengthen its role in the molding of the European Union. Due to the large amount of public recreation and a forest’s value as a natural resource, Germany’s forestland has a profound importance in the national economy and society.

However, recently there has been controversy in establishing a National Park in the Northern region of the Black Forest this year. Citizens of Baden-Württemberg have been protesting the lack of transparency of governmental decision-making: the government’s thought that allowing “natural processes to unfold with as little human interference was possible” in such a culturally significant region—one that is routinely taken care of by volunteer members of “Murgschifferschaft” and managed properly by small, private forest landowners—had been a primary focus of these protests.

Wolfgang Tschupke, a scientist of the University of Applied Forest Sciences in Baden-Württemberg, fears the influence that pests have on delicate ecosystems. In an interview, he said, “The moment the people stop managing the forest, especially taking measures against bark beetles for instance after a storm when trees are blown down, the beetles will multiple massively and will then have much larger areas of dead trees, like the one behind us,” as he motioned his head to the dead tree.

One of the core principles of the Forest Act of Baden-Württemberg is the concept of “multifunctionality” as a standard to all forest-land owners is similar to the principle of sustainability. By having “The use of natural resources should not bring the total system of the natural environment out of balance, and so ensure its capacity for regeneration and its long-term existence” the forest can have ‘multiple functions’ and still be properly managed, which seems exactly what private landowners were

---

69 Ibid, 25.
72 Ibid.
implementing before the National Black Forest.\textsuperscript{74}

As the environmental policies of the Bundestag and Länder begin to move toward more collaborative approaches to sustainably managing the forests, local NGOs and “grassroots groups of diverse stakeholders” can focus on methods to pursue local ecological issues at risk.\textsuperscript{75} In an interesting case of governmental solidarity, the federal government and States were able to jointly develop a framework plan, called the Gesetz über die Gemeinschaftsaufgabe Verbesserung der Agrarstruktur und des Küstenschutzes (GAK), which translates to “the Improvement of Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection.” This piece of legislation serves as part of the National Strategy Plan, where the federal government subsidizes sixty percent of the core support for forestry, leaving forty percent for the Länder to contribute. This environmental policy is a support strategy for forestry to ensure forests and agriculture remain productive, are able to adapt to future requirements, and maintain a state of competiveness in the European market.\textsuperscript{76} The goal is to strengthen the rural area in Germany through incentives and candidates who can receive these investment grants can be German private forest owners, farms, forestry groupings, and rural communities.

The Federal Republic of Germany is centrally located in Europe. Being a member state of the European Union plays a critical role in environmental policy-making on Germany’s federal level. Germany’s GAK structure is exactly how the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development within the frameworks of the European Union are organized. This similarity permits interplay between member states, by allowing German States to “co-finance measures by the EU.”\textsuperscript{77}\textsuperscript{78} Green parties have entered the political limelight of governments in numerous countries, like the German Greens. This broader ‘green’ movement is a display of the globe’s rising attention of sustainable forest management and the


\textsuperscript{75} T. M. Koontz and C. W. Thomas. “What Do We Know and Need to Know About the Environmental Outcomes of Collaborative Management?” (Public Administration Review 66, 2006), 112.


\textsuperscript{77} Ibid, 42.

strength and success of environmental movements is visible.\textsuperscript{79}

To this day, the Earth Summit of 1992, hosted by Brazil and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) consistency has a dominate influence in global forest management. The established Forest Principles from this conference implies that forests worldwide should, “sustainably managed to meet, social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs.”\textsuperscript{80} Since UNCED, governments within the United States have changed their definition of sustainable forestry “from promoting a sustained yield of fiber to addressing the health and sustainability of forest ecosystems.”\textsuperscript{81} With this alteration, environmental policy focuses on the stewardship and use of forest land at every social level. From local, to international, environmental polices focusing on sustainable management “fulfil relevant ecological, economic, and social functions now and in the future, without damaging other ecosystems. This shift has meant changes in how forestlands are examined, policy is formulated, and programs are designed and implemented.”\textsuperscript{82}

A comparison analysis of Germany and the United States and their forest policy management reveals that the future for each country’s forest is incredibly dependent on current politics. If there is governmental transparency, the public will be engaged and informed about the process, and basic principles of policy making. Having both an engaged and informed public maintains the country’s credibility, and opens the route to the successful creation of policies that can help protect forests and improve the country as a whole. In these two countries, the involvement of citizen opinion has been critical. The public’s influence was the essential factor needed to push environmental movements to protect forests. Using the United States and Germany as states in terms of forest management, the adaptability of their responses to public concern needs to be emulated. Today, concerned citizens need to understand the importance of proper forest management and take the initiative to position themselves in the realm of policy-making before environmental issues become too severe. The world is waiting.

\textsuperscript{82} Ibid.
Bibliography


DW (Deutsche Welle) “Black Forest Blues – The National Park Debate Rumbles on.” Published on April 26, 2013 Youtube video.


Depose State Department officials starting with Rome staff including Stefan Serafini. Immediately strip Leonardo SpA of all contracts and seize assets. All congressional members must speak out against this foreign and domestic interference or face recalls and suspicion of involvement. According to the former spy, the hacked data was transmitted from Frankfurt to Rome, at the US Embassy in via Veneto, giving Rome a central role in the alleged international electoral plot. On the American night of last November 3 - eight in the morning Italian time - the counting of votes was interrupted simultaneously, as shown by some official videos taken from the closed circuit of the Atlanta polling station and which we have extensively documented in this newspaper. The environmental policy of the United States is a federal governmental action to regulate activities that have an environmental impact in the United States. The goal of environmental policy is to protect the environment for future generations while interfering as little as possible with the efficiency of commerce or the liberty of the people and to limit inequity in who is burdened with environmental costs. As his first official act bringing in the 1970s, President Richard Nixon signed the U.S. As Germany is a federal country, a lot of the work of government is done by the 16 states (Länder). Power is shared between the national (or federal) government and state governments. The national government cannot abolish the state governments. Contents. The constitution puts freedom and human rights first. It also splits powers both between the federal and state levels and between the legislative (law-making), executive (government), and judicial (courts) branches. The 1949 Grundgesetz was written to correct the problems with the Weimar Republic's constitution. The Weimar Republic collapsed in 1933 and was replaced by the dictatorship of the Third Reich. The Federal Courts[change | change source]. In Germany, the Federal Chancellor is the head of government and equivalent to the Prime Minister in many other countries. (b) appoint and dismiss the Federal Chancellor, other Ministers and Federal judges; (c) dissolve the Bundestag upon the request from the Federal Chancellor if the Bundestag are not supportive of the Federal Chancellor's policies through the vote of confidence; (e) represent Germany both at home and abroad, accredit and receive envoys, and conclude treaties with foreign states; and. (f) pardon individual offenders and award honours on behalf of Germany. The President is indirectly elected for a five-year term, renewable once, by the Federal Convention established solely for the presidential election.