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Comments: Gifford Pinchot, "The father of forestry"

Unlike some other seminal figures of the conservation movement, Pinchot was more interested in the practical elements of conservation and less preoccupied with the spirituality of nature. He saw protecting the parks as a "social good" and recognized that national forests had value not only because of their beauty but also because of the resources they provided to citizens.

Gifford's Multiple Use idea certainly did not value the spirituality of nature, he saw the forest as a business.

I have skied in many National Forests from Alaska to Colorado. The spirituality of nature element usually takes a back seat. While Skiing at Big Meadows this season a friend of mine was nearly hit by a recreational snowmobile on the groomed trail. Besides destroying the groomed trail and the hours that went into the grooming, the skier, will avoid skiing at Big Meadows in the future.

I worked for the USFS in Juneau Alaska in the 70's. We built trails, bridges, cabins, stabilized river banks, put out fires and safety was always number one.

Nordic Trails should be safe. Recreational snowmobiling should be on a different trail system than the groomed nordic trails.

Lindsey Kurt-Mason