Powell proposed that much of the lands of the western United States be held in public trust by the Federal Government. Ultimately, over 50% of the area of the contiguous 11 western states remained in the Federal domain, and is today managed by several Federal agencies, including the US Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. In this writing assignment, you will compare and contrast the land management by the Forest Service and Park Service with Powell’s recommendations. You should specifically address these questions:

Look at a map of the western US Forest Service and Park Service lands. In general, why are they located where they are? What category(ies) of lands identified by Powell do they mostly comprise? (Note that the Bureau of Land Management, which is the largest land holder at lower elevations in the deserts and basins of the western US, is not included in this assignment because it is not covered by the course readings. We briefly discuss it in class.)

What do you think the primary resources are that are conserved by the Forest and Park Services? How do these compare or contrast with the resources that Powell identified as being crucial to the success of sustaining civilization in the western U.S.? If they are at all different from what Powell enumerated, explain why you think those differences arose. Use examples from at least three course readings on the following list:

- *A World Transformed: Firsthand Accounts of California Before the Gold Rush*, Edited by Joshua Paddison
- *Early American Naturalists: Exploring the American West, 1804-1900*, John Moring
- *Discovery of the Yosemite in 1851*, Lafayette Houghton Bunnell
- *The Discovery of Yellowstone National Park*, Nathaniel Pit Langford
How does the management of lands held by the Federal government compare or contrast with Powell’s recommendation? Address who is managing the lands, the resources they have available, and who has benefited from the way they have been managed.

What are some of the long term consequences, good and bad, of the ownership and management of western lands by the Forest Service and Park Service? How might this have played out if Powell’s recommendations had been followed? What outcomes would you expect to have been different? The same? Why?