soundness of the decision. You want a well-reasoned, defensible outcome.

• **Perspective:** Focused on the President's overall agenda, public image, and the legal

Primary Duty: Facilitate the discussion. Ensure all voices are heard, manage time, and guide
the group towards a collective recommendation for the President. Summarize key points.

Leader of the Cabinet Meeting

fold here

CHIEF OF STAFF

cut here

 Perspective: You represent the long-term ecological and public benefit. You might emphasize biodiversity, recreational opportunities, and the intrinsic value of wilderness.

generations

 Primary Duty: Advocate for environmental protection, conservation of natural resources, and the preservation of significant natural and cultural sites for public use and future

fold here

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

 Perspective: You prioritize economic development, resource extraction for national needs, and potential commercial ventures that could benefit the region and the country. You might raise concerns about costs or lost opportunities.

industry, job creation, tax revenue, and national economic growth.

• Primary Duty: Analyze the economic implications of the decision. Consider the impact on

fold here

SECRETARY OF TREASURY/COMMERCE

cut here

complexities of local sentiment.

control, highlight the economic needs of the community, or emphasize the cultural/ancestral significance of the land to specific local groups. You must reflect the

• Perspective: Your stance is nuanced. You might articulate local opposition to federal

residents, or indigenous communities with historical ties.

Primary Duty: Present the on-the-ground impacts and local/state perspectives, which may be divided. You could represent a pro-development state government, concerned local

fold here

IOCAL/STATE USING



Mini Lesson: Activating the Reserve

Presidential Briefing File #1:

The Whispering Peaks
Dilemma





Mini Lesson: Activating the Reserve

Presidential Briefing File #1:

The Whispering Peaks Dilemma



Primary Source: Excerpt from the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. Read this excerpt carefully. This is the core legislation granting presidential authority for this decision.

"The President of the United States may, from time to time, set apart and reserve, in any State or Territory having public land bearing forests, any part of the public lands wholly or in part covered with timber or undergrowth, whether of commercial value or not, as public reservations."

Location: "Whispering Peaks" (An unincorporated territory in the Pacific Northwest, currently under federal control, located next to a recently admitted state).

Situation Brief: This vast mountainous region boasts some of the last remaining tracts of old-growth Douglas fir forests in the nation, providing critical habitat for numerous species, including the endangered Spotted Owl. Its pristine rivers are vital birthing grounds for salmon. The adjacent "Timber Creek" community, originally a logging town, faces severe economic hardship with 15% unemployment since its last major mill closed. The newly admitted state government views this territory as crucial for its economic development. They have proposed building State Highway 17 directly through a significant portion of the old-growth forest, connecting it to a new, large-scale lumber mill complex to revitalize the region. They argue that the economic benefits (jobs, tax revenue, affordable housing materials) far outweigh the environmental impact on a portion of the territory. Environmental groups are fiercely advocating for its full protection, citing its irreplaceable ecological value and potential for eco-tourism.

Challenges/Considerations for the Cabinet:

- Balancing immediate economic relief for a struggling community against long-term ecological preservation.
- The political pressure from a neighboring state government seeking economic growth.
- The definition of "public lands bearing forests" and whether commercial logging aligns with "public use" in a reserve.



Mini Lesson: Activating the Reserve

Presidential Briefing File #2:

The Sunstone Desert
Quandary

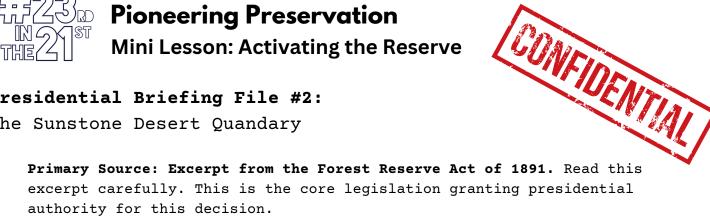




Mini Lesson: Activating the Reserve

Presidential Briefing File #2:

The Sunstone Desert Quandary



"The President of the United States may, from time to time, set apart and reserve, in any State or Territory having public land bearing forests, any part of the public lands wholly or in part covered with timber or undergrowth, whether of commercial value or not, as public reservations."

Location: "Sunstone Desert" (A large, remote territory in the Southwest, culturally rich but economically depressed).

Situation Brief: The "Sunstone Desert" is an ecologically sensitive area with unique desert plants and animals, alongside stunning geological formations that attract a small but growing number of adventure tourists. Recent geological surveys have confirmed significant untapped oil and natural gas reserves beneath its surface. "Global Energy Corp." has proposed a massive drilling operation, promising thousands of new jobs for the economically depressed "Boomtown" nearby and significant energy independence for the nation. However, a substantial portion of the proposed drilling area overlaps with ancestral lands and sacred sites of the Sunstone Tribe, who have continuously occupied and revered this land for millennia. The tribal council has formally petitioned against any development, citing irreversible cultural destruction and environmental damage to their traditional way of life. The territorial government is torn between respecting indigenous rights and the promise of immense economic prosperity.

Challenges/Considerations for the Cabinet:

- · Direct conflict between resource extraction, indigenous land rights, and environmental protection.
- · The ethical dilemma of prioritizing national energy needs over the cultural heritage of a specific group.
- The broad interpretation of "public lands" when traditional claims exist.
- The potential for long-term legal battles and strained relations with indigenous communities if development proceeds.



Mini Lesson: Activating the Reserve

Presidential Briefing File #3:

The Great Marsh
Conflict





Mini Lesson: Activating the Reserve

Presidential Briefing File #3:

The Great Marsh Conflict



Primary Source: Excerpt from the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. Read this excerpt carefully. This is the core legislation granting presidential authority for this decision.

"The President of the United States may, from time to time, set apart and reserve, in any State or Territory having public land bearing forests, any part of the public lands wholly or in part covered with timber or undergrowth, whether of commercial value or not, as public reservations."

Location: "Great Marsh Territory" (A vital coastal wetland area in the Mid-Atlantic, under federal territorial governance, with direct adjacency to a large, growing coastal city).

Situation Brief: This vast coastal marsh is a vital ecosystem, serving as a critical migratory bird habitat, a natural filter for pollutants, and an essential nursery for numerous fish and shellfish species. It also acts as a natural buffer, protecting the nearby "Coastal City" from storm surges and flooding. The city, however, is experiencing rapid population and economic growth. Its mayor and powerful business interests are pushing for a massive Port Expansion and Industrial Zone project that would require filling in and developing a significant portion of the marsh. They argue this expansion is crucial for national trade, creates thousands of long-term jobs, and would modernize the city's infrastructure. They also propose building stronger artificial dikes for flood protection. Environmental scientists warn that destroying the marsh would lead to irreversible ecological damage, increased flooding risks for the city, and a loss of irreplaceable natural heritage. The territorial governor supports the city's economic development plans.

Challenges/Considerations for the Cabinet:

- Balancing economic growth, infrastructure development, and flood protection with the preservation of a critical, fragile ecosystem.
- The conflict between natural flood barriers (marsh) and engineered solutions (dikes).
- The interpretation of "public use and enjoyment" for a marsh is it only for recreation, or also for ecological services?
- The potential for a "compromise" that would protect some marshland while allowing some development.



Mini Lesson: Activating the Reserve

Cabinet Deliberation Guide





Mini Lesson: Activating the Reserve



Cabinet Deliberation Guide

ure clarity.
ze the key features of ological/cultural value?
rests?
,

Part 2: Analyzing Arguments (Record Key Points)

As each Cabinet member presents their perspective, record their main arguments for and against designating this area as a National Reserve:

Role	Key Arguments FOR creation of reserve	Key Arguments AGAINST creation of reserve
Interior		
Treasury		
Local Liaison		



Mini Lesson: Activating the Reserve



Ca

	Towards a Recommendation (Group Consensus) ify Conflicting Interests: What are the biggest disagreement	c
	offs your Cabinet must consider in this scenario?	ъ
Propo	sed Recommendation (Circle ONE for your group):	
_	clare this area a National Forest Reserve (fully protected).	
• Do	NOT declare this area a National Forest Reserve (allow curr	er
-	ans/uses).	
	commend a Compromise (e.g., partial protection, specific additions).	
• De	lay the decision, pending further study/negotiation.	
	tay the decision, pending further study/negotiation.	
	Fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning,	+1
refer long-		
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	
refer long-	fy Your Recommendation: Explain your group's reasoning, encing the Forest Reserve Act, the competing interests, and term implications. What potential consequences could the Pre	