

Questions to consider while doing Conservation Ethics readings:

- (1) Does Myers write from the A or B perspective of Leopold?
- (2) Why does Myers think that an utilitarian argument for conservation is the only one that will work?
- (3) What are the possible roles of wild species in: agriculture? Medicine? Industry?
- (4) According to Myers, why should species exist?
- (5) How do you think Leopold would respond to this argument?
- (6) How do strictly utilitarian arguments for species conservation fail?
- (7) What are the major Divine Command rationales for biodiversity protection?
- (8) How can the implied dominion of humans over the rest of “creation” in the Book of Genesis be rejected as invalid?
- (9) How would you generalize the reasons for biodiversity protection from the perspective of the Pueblo cultures in the SW USA?
- (10) What is Leopold’s definition of “ethics”? Does this make sense to you?
- (11) According to Leopold, what should human’s relationship be to the land?
- (12) How successful is “social machinery” in undertaking conservation? What are their shortcomings?
- (13) Within the concept of the land ethic, how important is human benefit in determining whether a particular place is protected?
- (14) How would you try and initiate development of a land ethic in the general population?
- (15) What are Brower’s and Fraser’s differing positions on the role of humans in the environment?
- (16) On page 138, McPhee writes: “Why [Brower] did not raise up and clout Fraser, verbally, seemed a little odd to me...” Can you think of words Brower could have used to argue against Fraser’s plans? And can you think of reasons why Brower may have stayed quiet?