

The Conservation of Natural Resources

~ Your Cargo Cult College ~

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Beyond Ecological Overshoot: Conservation as Reciprocity

Overview

Our discussions have emphasized the collective environmental impact of individual human choices. Use this assignment to first; characterize your own demand for eco system services, and second; read and reflect on Leopold's ideas about a conservation esthetic.

Assigned Readings/Resources

- 1.) Mathis Wackernagel et. al., and edited by Edward O. Wilson, 2002: "Tracking the ecological overshoot of the human economy." Available at: www.pnas.org/content/99/14/9266.full.pdf.
- 2.) Figures from your own ecological footprint.
- 3.) Bob Budd's "Where will the moose live?" in Knight and White.
- 4.) Aldo Leopold's "Conservation Esthetic" from Part IV of the Sand County Almanac.

Assignment

Part 1, from Wackernagel et. al.

- 1.) What is a person's *ecological footprint*, and how is it related to human *ecological overshoot*?
- 2.) Log onto www.myfootprint.org and calculate your ecological footprint in terms of acres and planet Earths. Report your results.
- 3.) What do you think is the largest contribution to your overall footprint? What would you have to significantly change to make your footprint very different?

Part 2, from Budd and Leopold.

- 4.) Reflect on your lifestyle's ecological footprint in light of Leopold's approach to science, his vision of ecological ethics, and his concept of reciprocity. As you describe this, it will be helpful for you to reflect on your experience in the class, and in view of Leopold's, and Budd's perspectives on conservation, consider how humans must adapt their ethical framework to change what they consider trophies.

This assignment is due by the end of the semester. Typed responses only.