

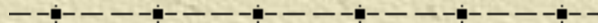
Environmental Activism

✦ “Environmental activism is the combined political (economic, and social) force of people who take action to protect the environment. Unfulfilled by mere complaining about environmental problems, activists follow the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, “be the change you want to see”, and work to bring their vision of a better world into reality, even if their actions sometimes involve personal risks and bring no material rewards.”

- *Oneworld.net*

✦ Why awareness and understanding this is important.

- ◆ People are constantly searching for, defending, and acquiring resources. Environmental activism is a form of resource defense (ecodefense) most often associated with modern socio-political systems, but even w/ remnant hunter-gatherer cultures, ecodefensive actions frequently occur.
- ◆ Resource defense actions span a wide gamut of perceived threat proximity; from defending your home against theft and immediate loss of resources to blocking the path of a bulldozer that threatens a forest thousands of miles from where you actually live.
- ◆ As natural resource professionals or simply ordinary citizens, it is important to understand key philosophical tenants and belief systems of those broadly categorized within the environmental movement as we have largely come to define it during the 20th century. Individuals with these or similar beliefs are important stakeholders and participants in natural resource conservation and management decisions. They are your neighbors and fellow citizens.



Deep Ecology

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- ✦ Philosophy based on a view that to prevent environmental overload, environmental degradation, and resource depletion, there should be a consistent effort to control human population growth, reduce unnecessary use and waste of matter and energy resources, and prevent the premature extinction of any species.
 - ✦ Coined by Arne Naess in 1973 work "The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movements" in his attempt to define the works of Leopold and Carson; *"Living as if nature mattered."*
 - ✦ Essence based on Socratic deep questioning of ourselves, and actions. Seeks to develop an ecological philosophy
 - ✦ Based on a comprehensive religious and philosophical worldview of nature.

Deep Ecology is:

- a philosophy based on our sacred relationship with Earth and all beings
- an international movement for a viable future
- a path for self realization
- a compass for daily action



2 Dominant Themes of Deep Ecology

- ✦ Self Realization – actualization, awareness, and development that incorporates the nonhuman world. Adherents of deep ecology believe that technocratic-industrial consumerism diverts us from connectivity with nature.



2 Dominant Themes of Deep Ecology

- ✦ Biocentric Equality - right of all organisms to achieve self-realization. Rejects factionism (vegetarianism), considers all members of biotic community (Leopold “plain citizens”).



Sources of Deep Ecology

- ✦ Primal Peoples
- ✦ Judeo-Christianity
- ✦ The Perennial Philosophy
- ✦ American Naturalism and Pastoralism
- ✦ Feminism
- ✦ Ecology
- ✦ New Physics

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The Perennial Philosophy

- ✦ Aldous Huxley (1945) -survey of religion and philosophy in search of common themes.
- ✦ Found that most put humans into perspective of wider scheme of reality, actualization and maturity
- ✦ Realization that inner self is illusion and that we are in essence interconnected with all natural processes.
- ✦ Common theme in most Eastern traditions and religions and early Western ones (e.g. Plato)