

Conservation

1) What is meant by IN WILDNESS IS THE PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD?

20 What vitiates this concept? What forces work to make the implimentaion of this concept impossible?

To answer the first question first:

- a) People have realized for a long time that regeneration of the spirit comes with out door experiences, from escaping the pressures of civilization with its masses of people, urban life. Good for the individual
- b) Variety of life has appeal and give gratification not found in settled communities.
- c) The inter-relationship of life with itself and the environment ^{supports} called ecology ~~is/part/of~~ this variety. Upset the ecology and variety lessens.
- d) We now know that variety is the reservior from which life develops. Each form carries its own potential future. Reduce th ^{total} the kinds and the/potential is reduced. Therefore variety must be cherished for the future. We don't know yet what questions to ask, so we had better not destroy what may provide the answers.

Hence answers to the second question must be concerned with anything which tends to simplify the environment and reduce the variety of life.

- a) Decrease in public concern caused by increase in slum populations people who don't care because they are too much concerned with survival in urbanized communities. Wildness means nothing to them
- b) Increasing resource development for food production, for raw materials, for land occupation for habitation and industrial use and transportation.
- c) Underlying these causes is population growth.

Forces acting directly to reduce wildness fall under b) and are mostly technological:

- 1) mining
- 2) logging
- 3) power development - utilities
- 4) industrial farming - marginal lands
desert lands for cotton
- 5) water use projects - river daming
underground water
water export by canals and inter-regional
transportation

Private industry primarily concerned with profits

Forces acting indirectly to reduce wildness are mostly the result of technological advances.

- 1) water pollution - streams, rivers, lakes
- 2) air pollution - increase in CO₂ and decrease in O
- 3) other poisons - pesticides, detergents, radioactive wastes,
fertilizers(nitrogen cpds), lead,
- 4) atmosphere used as a dump for all kinds of waste products

Conservation

Are we asking the right questions about our environment?

1) We look for substitutes and alternatives to engineering projects and industrial developments.

2) we should ask if they are necessary - if we could do without them, and what would happen if they weren't built.

a) predictions of needs are usually self-fulfilling.

b) if facilities are not provided populations will adjust - migrations of people will slow down and stop.

c) industries and utilities create demands for land, power, and water by encouraging people to move into new areas.

- 1) people should be discouraged from moving into Los Angeles area, not encouraged
- 2) filling San Francisco Bay done to provide more room for people not needed or wanted.
- 3) additional jet-ports in New York area merely aggravates the over-crowding

Engineers more blind to ecological principles than most of us. They think in terms only of altering and controlling. Discount what they destroy. Even the most informed students of in this discipling know little enough about relationships to know what questions to ask. Until we know what we are doing we should do nothing

- a. Forest clear cutting with resulting erosion
- b. Strip mining: coal in Apalachia, Four Corners;
Oil shale in Colorado
- c. Highway construction
- d. land drainage, barge canals
- e. Urban spawl
- f. Industrial growth: both manufacturing and utilities
- g. Industrial farming
- h. water use and development projects

Glen Canyon

NAWAPA *Province*

California rivers development

3. Population indifference caused by:

- a. Urbanization of countryside
- b. Increased impoverishment of the poor with ghetto development

4. Uncontrolled population growth basic to all causes

Forces that tend to vitiate concept - Indirectly

1. Water pollution

- a. Rivers and estuaries, Merimac in Massachuseets
Hudson, Illinois, etc. *hepatitis*
- b. Lakes, Lake Erie, Michigan, Tahoe

2. Air pollution- atmosphere used as a vast dump

- a. destroys vegetation - Sudbury Canada
more subtle effect on crops and forests, disappearance
of lichens in English midlands
- b. increases CO_2 and decreases O_2 with long range
effect involving arctic and antarctic ice caps

3. Unnatural poisons - detergents, chlorinated hydrocarbons.
lead from gasoline, radioactive wastes.

In Wildness is The Preservation of the World

What is meant by this? Answers found on two levels

1. The good life

Importance of wildness to psychic~~is~~ health

2. Resource preservation (not for exploitation)

a. Ecological - as a place where the answers to

Man's relation to his environment may be found.

The answers to questions we do not yet know enough to ask.

b. As a genetic reservoir.

Multiplicity of life favors broader spectrum of living forms.

Simplicity may encourage fast evolution but not so varied - Galapagos

Man should not consider that he is end product of biological evolution. As self-assumed temporary custodians we should not want to slow down or stop evolutionary processes.

Self regulation

Forces that tend to vitiate the concept of wildness - Direct

1. Any activities that simplify the environment.

a. Intensive single crop farming

b. Wheat in short grass prairie - marginal farming
cotton in the desert *laterite in tropics*

b. Reforestation with single type trees that grow fast

Douglas firs in place of Redwood

elimination of understory, dead and fallen trees

c. Draining of marshes

2. Destruction of land by resource exploitation

Concepts of Use and Progress should be re-examined.

1. Are we asking the right questions about our environment.

a. Are engineering projects necessary?

B. Is industrial expansion necessary?

1. do we need more gadgets

2. who gains by increasing complexity of society

3. are we happier

c. Is it desirable to encourage population migrations by chambers of commerce and industry.

1. situations develop such as Los Angeles
San Francisco, New York

2. Water shortages and power shortages follow

3. the inhabitants do not receive the promised good life; produce new slums

4. predictions of population and industrial growth are self-fulfilling.

5. profits for the stockholders seem to be only justification. Is this Progress?