

PHIL 224
Environmental Ethics, Week 9
 Paul Thagard

- Use of laptops (tablets, etc.) is discouraged, and limited to the last two rows.



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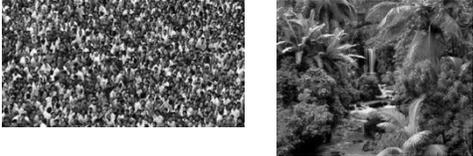
Announcements

1. Assignment 2.
2. Guest lecture Nov. 22.
3. Assignment 3 due Nov. 24: fracking, wind farms.
4. Exam 3, Dec. 1.

2

Ethical Questions

How many people should there be in the world?
 Why do forests matter?



3

Pine Beetles

- Forest depletion result of management and climate warming.
- Feedback loop:
 Warming ->
 beetles ->
 carbon ->
 warming



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Forest Values (Drengson)

Issues: logging, clear cutting.

Reject jobs vs. environment conflict: sustainable communities are parts of healthy biophysical systems.

Instrumentalists vs. intrinsic value view of nature.

Natural entities have rights to evolve.

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Deep Ecology

1. Nonhuman life has value in itself.
2. Richness of diversity of life forms.
3. Humans have no right to reduce richness and diversity.
4. Decrease of human population is desirable.
5. Humans interfere too much with nature.
6. Policies must change.
7. Quality of life matters more than standard of living.
8. Obligation to implement changes.

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Ecoforestry

- Retention of trees, riparian (water-related) zones.
- No clear cutting.
- Allow the forest to regenerate.
- Prohibit pesticides.
- Local control, e.g. aboriginal peoples.
- Maintain beauty.

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Forest Policy (Miller)

- Rejects view of forests as industrial resource (John Locke).
- Alternative: love and respect Mother Earth. Gaia hypothesis: earth as a single living entity.
- Evidence-based environmentalism vs. ec mysticism.
- Canada Forest Accord. Forests are part of Canadian identity.
- Connections with wildlife policy.

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Barriere Lake Issues

1. Aboriginal land rights and benefits.
2. Forestry and mining practices.
3. Local management: direct democracy vs. band councils.

9

Algonquin values

- Intrinsic vs. instrumental view of nature.
- Land ethics: promote integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community.
- Human and non-human communities interconnect.
- Need to sustain the environment, using myth, ritual, and social community.
- Conflicts with commercial forestry and mining interests.

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Discussion Question

- Do trees have rights or interests? Should forest policy take intrinsic value into account.
- Please close laptops.

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