

Environmental Journalism

- It's not all about climate change
- It goes back much farther than you might think
- It involves basic elements of human life
- It has involved fundamental changes in living
- It covers a huge range of issues
- It has its own terminology
- It has heroes and villains
- It has **always** been controversial

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Fundamental Topics:

- **Basic human needs**
 - Have to use natural resources to survive
 - Renewability – farming vs. mining, etc.
 - Conflict – harmony with nature vs. progress
- **Waste of all kinds**
 - Sewage – evolution of ways to deal with it
 - Garbage – “Throw it away” – dumping grounds
 - Farming – creates waste, uses lots of water
- **Industrialization (1860s-1900 or so)**
 - “Progress” – manufacturing, transportation, printing, communication, etc.
 - Jobs, consumer goods, travel – but impact often not considered
 - First widespread air pollution – also water and soil
 - Factories would dump waste into bodies of water
- **Technology (20th-21st centuries)**
 - Electrification, cars, telephone, labor-saving devices, food, medicine
 - Choices made in development – fossil fuels, mining, infrastructure
 - Constant push for new solutions, innovations – but some backfired (DDT, etc.)

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Conflicts and effects:

- **Nature lovers vs. business/consumer interests**
 - Long history of depleting resources for financial, consumer benefits
 - Consumers love new products and low prices, but at what cost?
 - Companies need profits and dividends, but at what cost?
- **Rich vs. poor**
 - Mining and drilling for resources – displacing communities
 - Most development in rural areas – jobs vs. befouling land/air/water
 - Numerous examples of exploitation
- **Rational concern vs. unnecessary panic**
 - What's being sought vs. what's being preserved?
 - Costs vs. benefits, not just in financial terms
 - Where do you draw the line?
- **Effects of past unchecked use of resources**
 - Animal endangerment, loss of habitat, extinctions
 - Permanent destruction of natural features
 - Disruption of natural ecosystems

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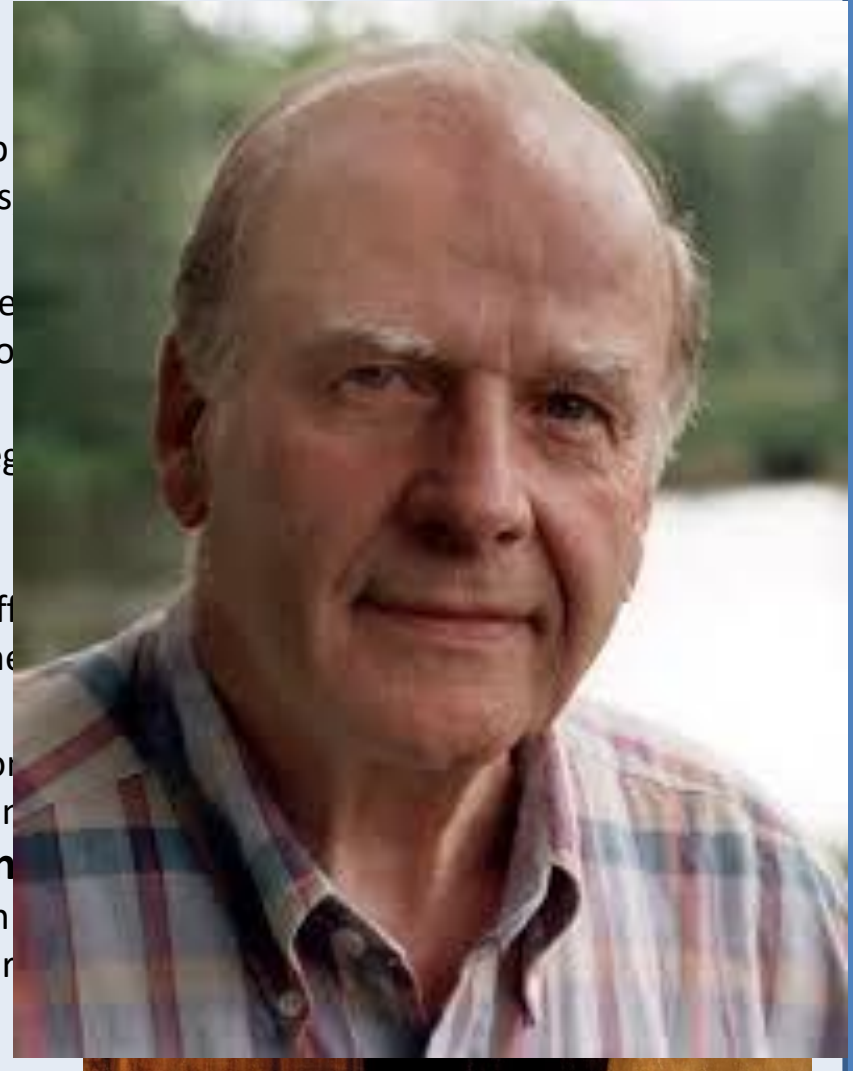
Core concepts and terms:

- **Ecosystem**
 - Interaction between all forms of life and nature
 - Interdependency between one another – cycles of life, death
 - Originated in 1930s – popularized in 1960s
- **Conservation and preservation**
 - Conservation – responsible use of natural resources
 - Preservation – protects environment from harmful human activities
 - At odds with many traditional practices and pursuits
- **Environmental science & ecology**
 - ES includes biology, geology, meteorology, chemistry, physics, and ecology
 - Ecology focuses on relationships between living organisms
 - Gained momentum and attention in 1960s – Earth Day in 1970
- **Climate change**
 - Global warming/greenhouse effect – cited in 1890s, got attention in 1970s
 - Depletion of ozone layer – discovered in 1980s - action taken
 - More study – showed to be accumulation of many causes

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Important people and events:

- **Theodore Roosevelt**
 - Always an outdoorsman, though grew up
 - Created numerous national parks, forests
- **John Muir**
 - Influential scientist, writer; founder of Sie
 - Writings popularized environmentalist po
- **National Park Service created (1916)**
 - Organized national agency to oversee, reg
 - First organization of its type in the world
- **Rachel Carson**
 - Book *Silent Spring* (1962) documented eff
 - Bestseller focused spotlight on environme
- **Earth Day (1970)**
 - Originated by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson
 - Focused attention on health and environr
- **Founding of Environmental Protection**
 - Nixon pursued this and similar legislation
 - Pushed pollution reduction, recycling, car



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Issues in today's environmental news coverage:

- **Politics**
 - Huge partisan divisions extend to these issues
 - Competing factions even within parties
- **Transportation**
 - Move toward electric and fuel cell cars
 - Bullet trains vs. airplanes, etc.
- **Alternative energy**
 - Wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, biomass, hydrogen, tidal, etc.
 - Each source has pluses and minuses, backers and detractors
- **Green technologies**
 - Reduce carbon emissions, reuse garbage & other waste
 - Sustainability at heart of most endeavors
- **Climate change**
 - At heart of everything – scientists united on this
 - Different sides have different proposed solutions