

IMPORTANT COMMENTS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT THAT EVERY PERSON OUGHT TO THINK ABOUT

“When the well’s dry, we know the worth of water.” *Benjamin Franklin*

“There is not a spring of grass that shoots up uninteresting to me. . . .The greatest service which can be rendered in any country is to add a useful plant to its culture.” Also, “We must use a great deal of economy in our wood, never cutting down new, where we can make the old do.” *Thomas Jefferson*

“What’s the use of a fine house if you haven’t got a tolerable planet to put it on?” *Henry David Thoreau*

“I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being.” *Abraham Lincoln*

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul. . . . In every walk with nature one receives far more than he [or she] seeks.” *John Muir*

God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools. *John Muir*

“We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible; this is not so. . . There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country. . . Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others.” *Theodore Roosevelt*

“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.” *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

**The oldest task in human history: to live on a piece of land without spoiling it. . . . A land ethic . . . reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity.“
*Forester and ecologist Aldo Leopold***

“The supreme reality of our time is the vulnerability of our planet.” *John F. Kennedy*, whose work to establish a national wilderness preservation

system prepared the way for Lyndon Johnson to sign the bill that actually did so.

“To stand at the edge of the sea, to sense the ebb and flow of the tides, to feel the breath of a mist moving over a great salt marsh, to watch the flight of shore birds that have swept up and down the surf lines of the continents for untold thousands of year, to see the running of the old eels and the young shad to the sea, is to have knowledge of things that are as nearly eternal as any earthly life can be.” *Rachel Carson* “For the first time in the history of the world, every human being is now subjected to contact with dangerous chemicals, from the moment of conception until death.” *Rachel Carson*

“A finite world can support only a finite population; therefore, population growth must eventually equal zero.” Ecologist *Garrett Hardin*

“Inanimate objects are sometimes parties in litigation. A ship has a legal personality, a fiction found useful for maritime purposes. . . . So it should be as respects valleys, alpine meadows, rivers, lakes, estuaries, beaches, ridges, groves of trees, swampland, or even air that feels the destructive pressures of modern technology and modern life. The river, for example, is the living symbol of all the life it sustains or nourishes — fish, aquatic insects, water ouzels, otter, fisher, deer, elk, bear, and all other animals, including man, who are dependent on it or who enjoy it for its sight, its sound, or its life. The river as plaintiff speaks for the ecological unit of life that is part of it.” Supreme Court Justice *William O. Douglas*.

"Bring diversity back to agriculture. That's what made it work in the first place." *David Brower*

“Everyone except the far right wing of the Republican Party realizes that oil, gas and coal burning are the main activities that have sent the climate into bigger floods, droughts, hurricanes, and El Ninos.” Environmental scientist *Donella Meadows*

Singer and songwriter *Willie Nelson*, and *Anna Lappe* of the Rainforest Action Network, write “Our food is under threat. It is felt by every family farmer who has lost their land and livelihood, every parent who can't find affordable or healthy ingredients in their neighborhood, every person worried about foodborne illnesses thanks to lobbyist-weakened food safety laws, every farmworker who faces toxic pesticides in the fields as part of a day's work. . . . When our food is at risk we are all at risk.

All quotations above except those by John Muir and David Brower are from *The Radical Wrong* (see below):

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Victor Daniels, Ph.D.

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