

Helping Students of Natural Resource Management Develop a Land Ethic¹

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Abstract: A well-developed Land Ethic may be the most important tool, or skill set, or moral code a land manager must possess. In my opinion, just adequately defining the term Land Ethic and all it encompasses is a difficult task. Students in my Land Reclamation Class sure have a hard time explaining this concept. Aldo Leopold introduced his concept of a Land Ethic as values developing naturally from his outdoor experiences throughout his life. Certainly, a large amount of critical thought also went into the development of Leopold's ideas. Can a Land Ethic be taught in the classroom? Or, can this be obtained only through working, playing, spending time, and seriously thinking about the Land and the outdoors? Because all individuals participate in different activities on the Land and have very different kinds of experiences, it seems logical that we develop different Land Ethics. The objective of this talk is to get attendees to think critically about how to help students in the fields of natural resource management better understand what a Land Ethic is and how to develop a strong one.

Additional Key Words: Reclamation, Restoration, Education, Community.

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