

Activity 9.2.1 Perceptions Revisited

Purpose

Sustainable use has been a theme throughout the past units of study. Using natural resources in such a way that allows for the continued use and renewal of resources while still meeting the needs of humans is the goal of sustainable use. Differences in the definition of sustainable exist and determining where your beliefs lie is important. Terms often used in natural resource management include conservation and preservation. Conservation is the use of a natural resource in such a way as to minimize waste and maintain the resource in as good a condition as is practical while preservation is an attempt to prevent the use of some natural resource or the modification of an environment for the sake of keeping it intact.

Throughout this course, you have studied what natural resources are and how they are used. Opinions on natural resource management and use vary based on personal beliefs and interests, and sometimes need. Take some time to reconsider your opinions pertaining to natural resource use.

Materials

Per student:

- Pencil
- *NRE Notebook*

Procedure

In the beginning of this course, you completed a survey based on your perceptions of the ways in which natural resources are used. In this activity, you will review the categories from the initial survey and write a brief statement of your perceptions now. Then you will write a statement of your opinions of natural resource use and management.

Part One – Survey Review

After each picture and description, write two to three sentences describing your beliefs pertaining to the uses pictured.

Forest Management – Logging



Illustrated in this picture is an example of a clear-cut managed stand of mature timber and a replanted area of conifer forest. What is your impression of how the forest is being used by humans?

Clear cuts happen to clear out a stand of trees and then are re-planted. This allows the companies to be the most efficient in their practices.

Agriculture and Land Use



Urban and suburban growth boundaries expand to allow new housing and development of land once used for agriculture. What are your thoughts on urban and suburban growth on farmland?

The growth onto farmland is a shame and should not be happening – we need the land to grow our food on.

Mining Minerals for Human Use



Mega mines excavate large areas to remove rock and other elements that are used by humans. What is your impression of a mining site and the impact on the environment?

The mining sites can be useful to humans if they are able to clean up the sites after the use. The technology is getting better as time goes on.

Oil Production in American Oceans



Mars Tension-leg Platform showing damage from Hurricane Katrina (2005)

Off shore oil production is important to today's economy. This picture shows an oil rig damaged by a storm. What is your impression of the use of off-shore oil production?

Oil production is dangerous and people need to have evacuation procedures in place.

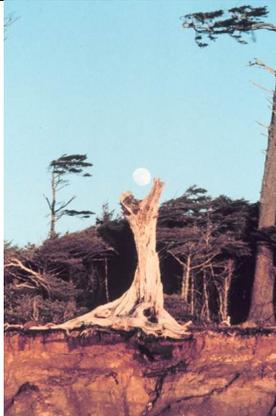
Manufacturing and Refining



The conversion of raw materials into products that human use may cause side effects to air quality. What is your impression of the use of factories and refineries?

The raw materials allow for creating new materials in the human world. Keeping the air clean during the conversion is important.

Forest Management vs. Overgrown Forests and Fire Control



There are many issues and concerns when forests are allowed to be overgrown. Overgrown forests pose a threat for uncontrolled fires and many states allow thinning and other management practices to reduce fuel loads found on forest floors. Research shows that forest management is a good thing for maintaining forests and protecting a forest from fire. What is your opinion?

Controlled burns are an important part of forest management – this will keep forest fires down.

Resources in Abundance or Depletion



Aral Sea in 1989

Aral Sea in 2008

The two pictures show how the building of a dam to use the water reserves for crop production has all but drained the Aral Sea. What is your impression of the large scale conversion of resources from one use (fishing) to another (farming)?

The land was created for fishing and is not used as efficiently for farming.

Reclamation of use of Land and other Natural Resources



View of the same camping area after it was allowed to return to its natural state.

What is your overall opinion of what should be done with reclamation of land use areas:

Reclamation is important, but within reason.

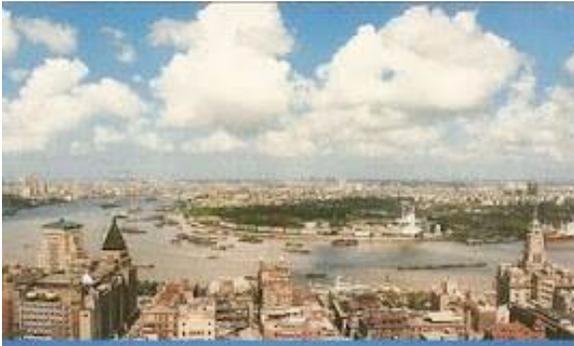
Wilderness Preservation



Land protected in its natural state limits resource development and preserves ecosystems. What is your impression of wilderness areas?

Wilderness areas are important – we need space to be preserved or it will be gone.

Responsibilities to the Future



As the population grows and urban areas develop, land uses shift from agricultural to commercial and residential. What is your opinion of urbanization?

BAH! Urbanization is a bad thing.

Land Use and Me



On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is "not at all important" and 10 is "extremely important," rate the ideas or topics on the following page regarding how the land should be used in each of these different landscapes.

Pond Area	Forest Stream	Topics for Land Use
10	10	Hunting and fishing
10	10	Wildlife management
10	10	Fish habitat management
10	10	Wildlife habitat management
8	8	Outdoor recreation
10	10	Watershed protection
9	9	Renewable energy development, such as wind or solar
8	8	Energy development, such as oil and gas extraction
8	8	Timber cutting
10	10	Livestock range or grazing lands
8	8	Agricultural production, farmland, crop production
3	3	Urban, city development
10	10	Landfill and solid waste management
10	10	Wetlands and other natural occurring areas

Part Two – Land Use Statement

Write a paragraph summarizing your overall beliefs pertaining to natural resource use and management.

Natural areas need to be preserved and use needs to be managed so there is land and resources available for future generations. Just leaving people to be trustworthy with the resources wont and doesn't work.

Part Three – Comparison to Initial Survey

Review the survey you completed at the beginning of the course. Identify how your perceptions have changed.

Conclusion

1. How have your perceptions changed or grown since the start of this course?

I have gained more knowledge in how the natural resources are managed and tested and looked at.

2. Why can natural resource management be a contentious issue?

Because everyone has different values and beliefs in how the resources should be used and managed.

3. Would you classify your beliefs as those of a conservationist, preservationist, or exploiter?

Conservationist, learning to preservationist.