

This Land Is My Land. This Land Is Your Land???

Part I of the environmental justice and racism class will focus on the narrative and topic of land, water and wildlife in America. Together we will explore how various ethics rooted in colonialism, rugged individualism, urbanism, gender roles and utilitarianism shaped much of the dominant culture's policies and behaviors toward our nation's land, water, and wildlife. We will compare and contrast this against early Native American perspectives as well as communal approaches to land use that existed in the early American west. We will explore how all of this shaped the early American environmental movement as well as how early wars over land, water and wildlife are now being repeated today in different forms and iterations. Finally, we will conclude with a discussion about what does all this mean for us as Christians and Presbyterians to be good stewards of God's creation and to act as EarthKeepers.

Goal

To better understand the various perspectives that have shaped our land use policies and the early environmental movement.

Resources

Framing Perspectives on America's Land, Water and Wildlife

- **Indigenous perspectives:** N. Scott Momaday, "A First American Views His Land," 1976 essay. *American Earth*, Bill McKibben (Ed.), Literary Classics of the US, 2008. <http://www.earth-keepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/American-Earth-Momaday.pdf>
- **Bison decimation:** George Catlin, from "Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs, and Condition of the North American Indians," 1841. *American Earth*, Bill McKibben (Ed.), Literary Classics of the US, 2008. <http://www.earth-keepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/American-Earth-Catlin.pdf>
- **Bison restoration:** Jason Baldes, "The Descendants," by Carol Schmidt, Montana State University. December 9, 2019. <http://www.montana.edu/news/mountainsandminds/19345/the-descendants>
- **Early perspectives shaping American environmentalism:** Dorceta Taylor, "Key Concepts Informing Early Conservation Thought," *The Rise of American Conservation Movement: Power, Privilege, and Environmental Protection*, Duke University Press, 2016. <http://www.earth-keepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Chapter-1-American-Conservation-Movement.pdf>

- **Indigenous perspectives on land, water, and climate justice:** New Mexican's Dr. Cecilia Martinez, speech given at IATP climate justice event, October 2010.
<https://www.iatp.org/video/cecilia-martinez-climate-justice-iatp>

Modern Land Wars

- **Western Caucus Video.** "This Land Is Your Land," May 9, 2016. 1 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKm9vAEBYbo&feature=youtu.be>
- **NWF Your Land Video.** "Your Land," 2016. 6 min. <https://vimeo.com/172923180>
- **Conflict at Malheur Wildlife Refuge**
 - **Militia Occupation.** "The Oregon Standoff: A Community Divided," January 11, 2016. 14 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NeHPgF_9E0
 - **Public Land Advocate Response to Bundy Occupation.** "Point of Friction: Garrett Vene Klasen, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, talks occupation," Jan 14, 2016. 1 min.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXlgHDJjisc>
- **More Dangerous Wars to Come—Ammon's Army.** "Ammon Bundy Has Raised a Far-Right 'Army' to 'Protect the Righteous' Against 'Wicked' Liberals: Report," *Law and Crime*, October 15, 2020.
<https://lawandcrime.com/high-profile/report-ammon-bundy-has-raised-a-far-right-army-to-protect-the-righteous-against-wicked-liberals/>