



- While it is true that people have shaped our environment, it is also true that the natural environment has shaped people.

This is particularly true in a “young” country like the United States.

- Our history of interacting with the environment in the past shapes and constrains how we utilize and protect natural resources today.

- **Conservation is a social endeavor:**
  - initiated by people,
  - designed by people, and
  - intended to influence human behavior to achieve a broad array of
  - environmental, social and natural resource management goals.
  
- **These oft times are conflicting!**

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- **We rely on the earth's resources for our lives and our livelihoods, depending on the earth's natural capital to provide sustenance, shelter, wealth, work and meaning to our lives.**
  
- **We are therefore caught in a natural dilemma: How do we use these resources and still protect their integrity and the ecological processes that are critical to the proper functioning of the world's ecosystems?**
  
- **With over 7 billion people on earth, and counting, the challenge of striking the right balance between use and protection is daunting. The balancing act will require not only understanding the ecosystems themselves and how they function, but also managing our resources sustainably.**


 U.S. Population

3 1 6 , 5 4 1 , 0 4 2


 World Population

7 , 1 0 7 , 2 8 6 , 2 1 7

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- **To manage sustainably will require us to consider social and economic causes and effects, and the ways in which our values, our worldviews, and our policies and laws either promote or hinder our ability to manage resources for long-term benefits. All of these components are inextricably linked to each other.**
- **We will explore how natural resources and environments affect us economically, socially, and politically, and conversely--**
- **how our economic, social and political decisions have environmental consequences and affect the availability and integrity of our natural resources**

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- **In this course, we will examine our own core values and how they shape our relationships to natural resources, both individually and as a society, and how they influence the ways in which we allocate, use, and/or conserve resources.**
- **Our first goal is to develop a broad understanding of how the combined effects of ecological, socio-economic, and political/legal forces operate together to alter ecosystems, affect people's sense of well-being, and influence the sustainability of the life-support systems on earth.**
- **Our second goal is to explore, understand and perhaps invent ways in which people and institutions can act more responsibly to protect the long-term value of our resources.**

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**Shipping executive explains the reason for the disastrous oil spill**



On August 19th 2007, an oil tanker off the coast of Australia split in two, dumping 20,000 tons of crude oil.

Senator Collins, a member of the Australian Parliament, appeared on a TV news program to reassure the Australian public.