

## Aldo Leopold (1887 – 1948)

- *A Sand County Almanac*
- "The Shack"
- Scientist & Writer
- Forester
- Gila Wilderness
- Ecology & Biodiversity
- A Land Ethic
- Restoration




## What is an Ethic?

- A limitation on freedom of action
- A social and/or individual conscience
- "The individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts"


## Fundamental Ethical Questions

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- What makes an action right or wrong?
  - What things are intrinsically valuable? good? bad?
  - What kinds of things do we have obligations to protect?
  - “What and who is valuable, and what and who is worthless”? (Leopold 1949, p. 240)
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## Aldo Leopold and “The Land Ethic”

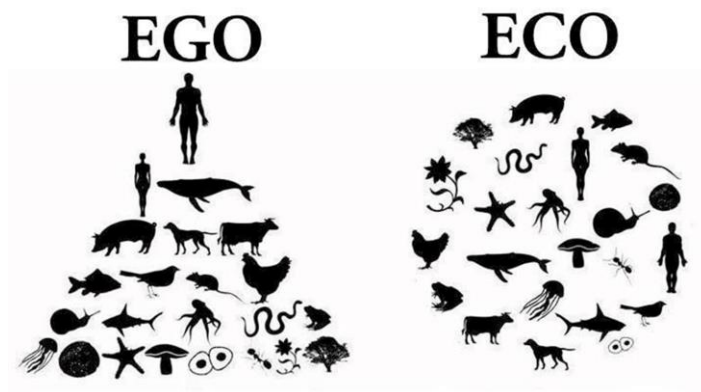
The land ethic is based on:

- the field of **ecology**, the study of the *interactions* between organisms and their environment
  - **Moral extensionism** – the expansion of ethics beyond humans to land, plants, animals, etc.
  - Placing humans as part of the environment, rather than separate from it
  - Ecocentric VS Anthropocentric
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# What does the Land Ethic do?

1. "Enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land" (Leopold 1949, p. 239)
2. Extends social consciousness from people to the land
3. Changes man's role from conqueror to citizen of the ecological community
4. Shifts the basis for our relationship with the land/environment from economic self-interest to ethical obligation

An interaction with nature 'is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community' and 'is wrong when it tends otherwise'





What value does this space have?



What value does this space have?

“We have no land ethic yet, but we have at least drawn nearer the point of admitting that birds [or other parts of the natural world] should continue as a matter of biotic right, regardless of the presence or absence of economic advantage to us.”



## Robinson Jeffers

(1887 – 1962)

- Poet
- Tor House & Hawk Tower
- Carmel By The Sea
- (Anti)Modernist?
- Environmentalist







## Carmel Point

The extraordinary patience of things!  
 This beautiful place defaced with a crop of suburban houses-  
 How beautiful when we first beheld it,  
 Unbroken field of poppy and lupin walled with clean cliffs;  
 No intrusion but two or three horses pasturing,  
 Or a few milch cows rubbing their flanks on the outcrop rockheads-  
 Now the spoiler has come: does it care?  
 Not faintly. It has all time. It knows the people are a tide  
 That swells and in time will ebb, and all  
 Their works dissolve. Meanwhile the image of the pristine beauty  
 Lives in the very grain of the granite,  
 Safe as the endless ocean that climbs our cliff.-As for us:  
 We must uncenter our minds from ourselves;  
 We must unhumanize our views a little, and become confident  
 As the rock and ocean that we were made from.

