

# “We Are In Between Stories”

## Teaching Conservation Within Its Deep Cultural Contexts



Slides: [bit.ly/eveskew-ICC-2018](http://bit.ly/eveskew-ICC-2018)

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**EcoHealth** Alliance  
Local conservation.  
Global health.

# Conservation: A Value-Laden Discipline

## What is Conservation Biology?

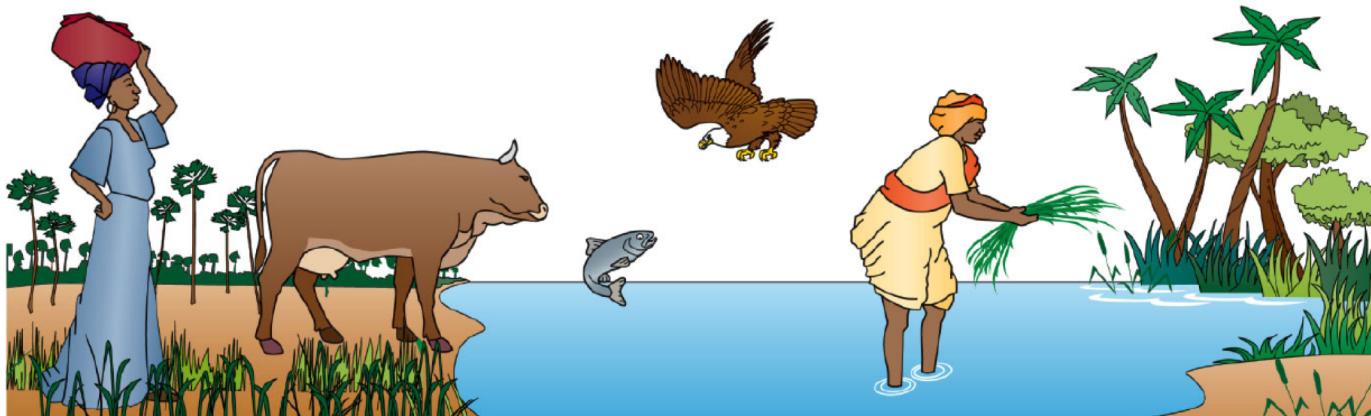
*A new synthetic discipline addresses the dynamics and problems of perturbed species, communities, and ecosystems*

Michael E. Soulé

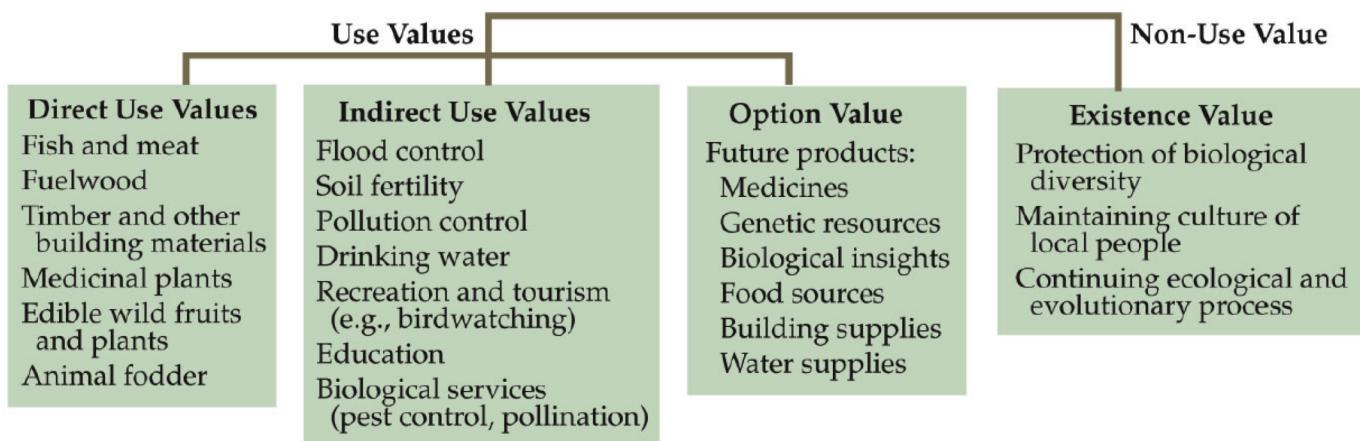
**“...ethical norms are a genuine part of conservation biology, as they are in all mission- or crisis-oriented disciplines.”**



# Conservation: A Value-Laden Discipline



Total Economic Value of a Tropical Wetland Ecosystem



ESSENTIALS OF CONSERVATION BIOLOGY, 5e, Figure 4.3

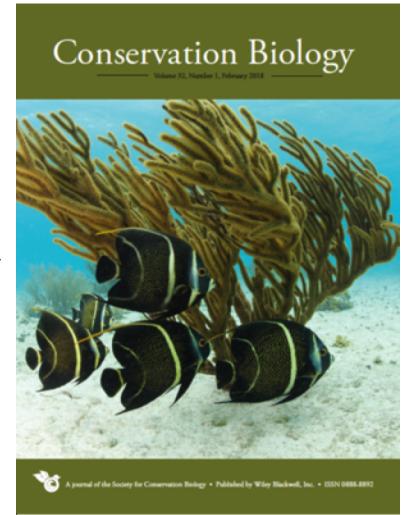
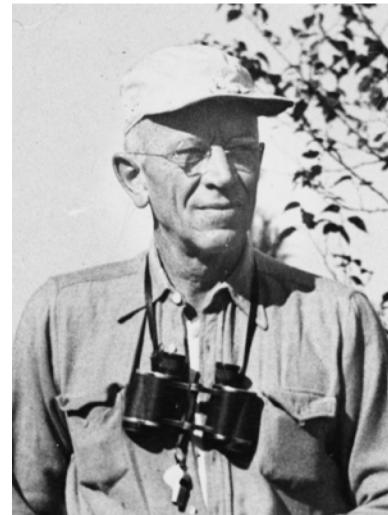
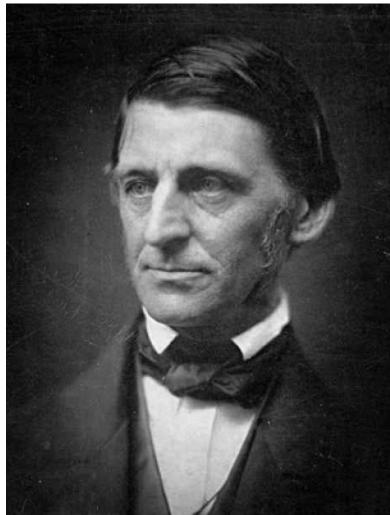
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# An Attempt to Link Nature Values with Conservation

Syllabus: [bit.ly/eveskew-nature-seminar-syllabus](http://bit.ly/eveskew-nature-seminar-syllabus)

Notes on nature: [bit.ly/eveskew-nature-notes](http://bit.ly/eveskew-nature-notes)



**Ralph Waldo  
Emerson**  
(1803-1882)

**John Muir**  
(1838-1914)

**Aldo Leopold**  
(1887-1948)

**Modern  
Conservation  
Practice**



# **Limitations**

## **1) Arbitrary scope**

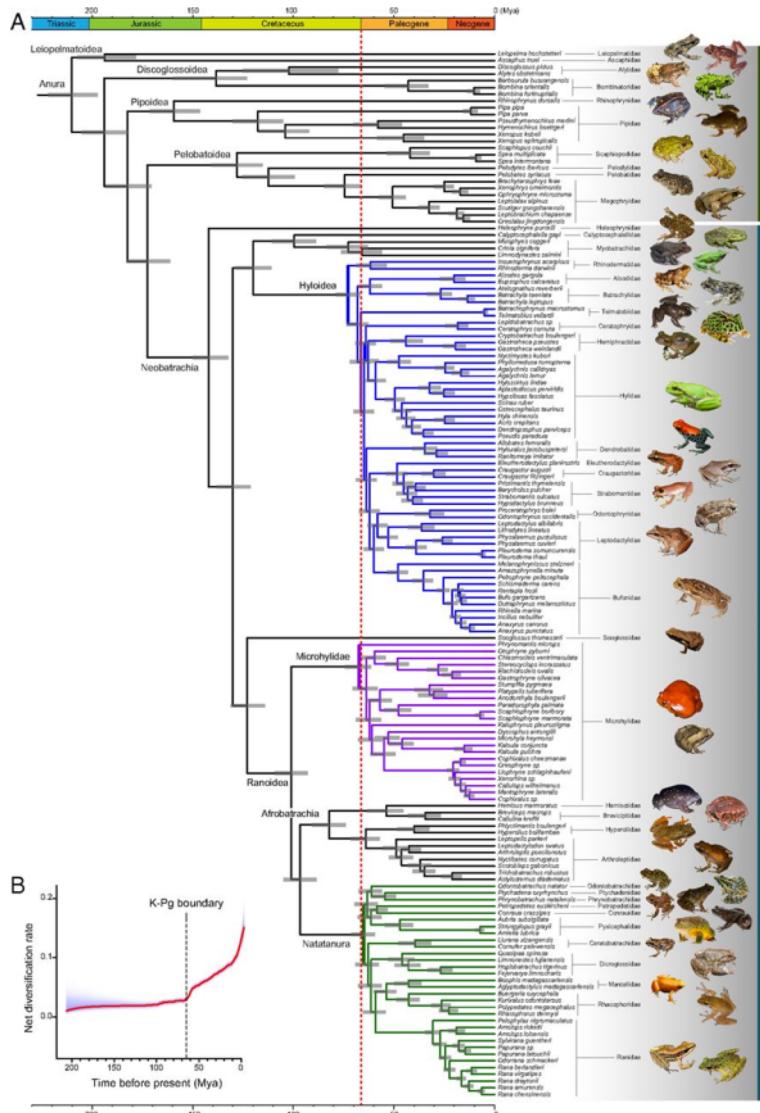
- Arguably narrow geographic (primarily United States) and temporal (post-1800) focus

## **2) “Insider” view of conservation**

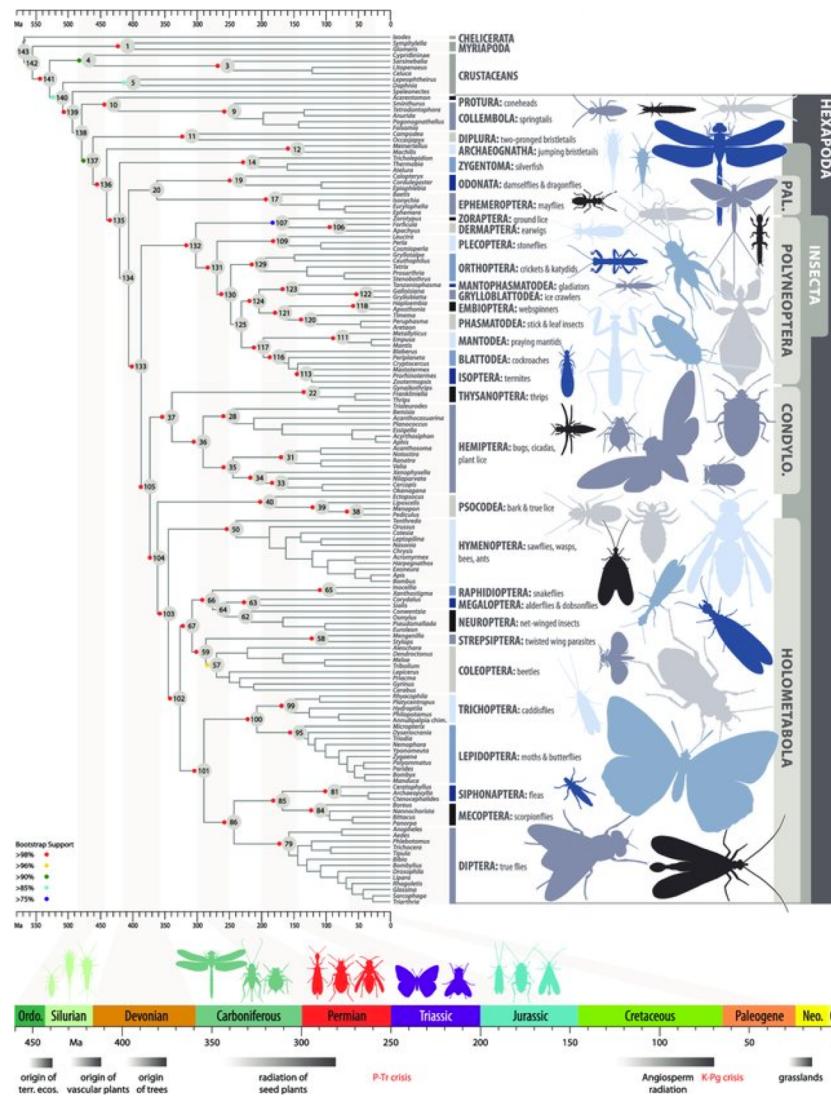
- Nature according to nature lovers



# Teaching Improvement: Highlight Biodiversity Over Deep Time



# Benefit: Emphasizes Value of Ignored or Maligned Species?



# **Benefit:**

## **Emphasizes Ecosystem Processes and Function**



# **Benefit: Emphasizes Ecosystem Processes and Function**

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**Although crisis oriented,  
conservation biology  
is concerned with  
the long-term viability  
of whole systems**

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# Benefit:

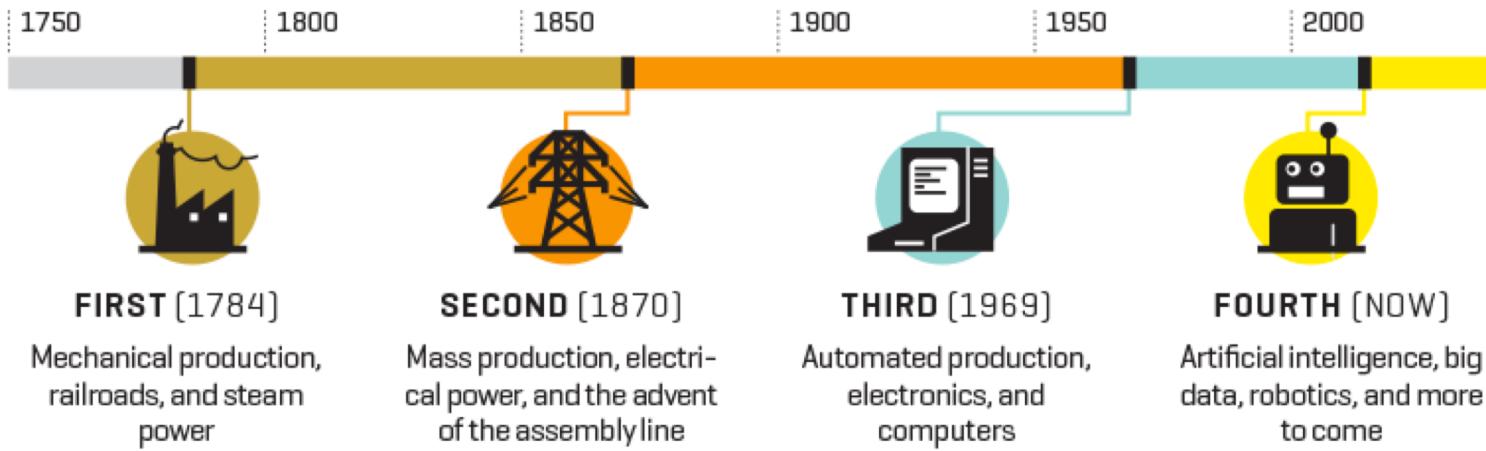
## Emphasizes Human Role in Ecosystems and Extinctions



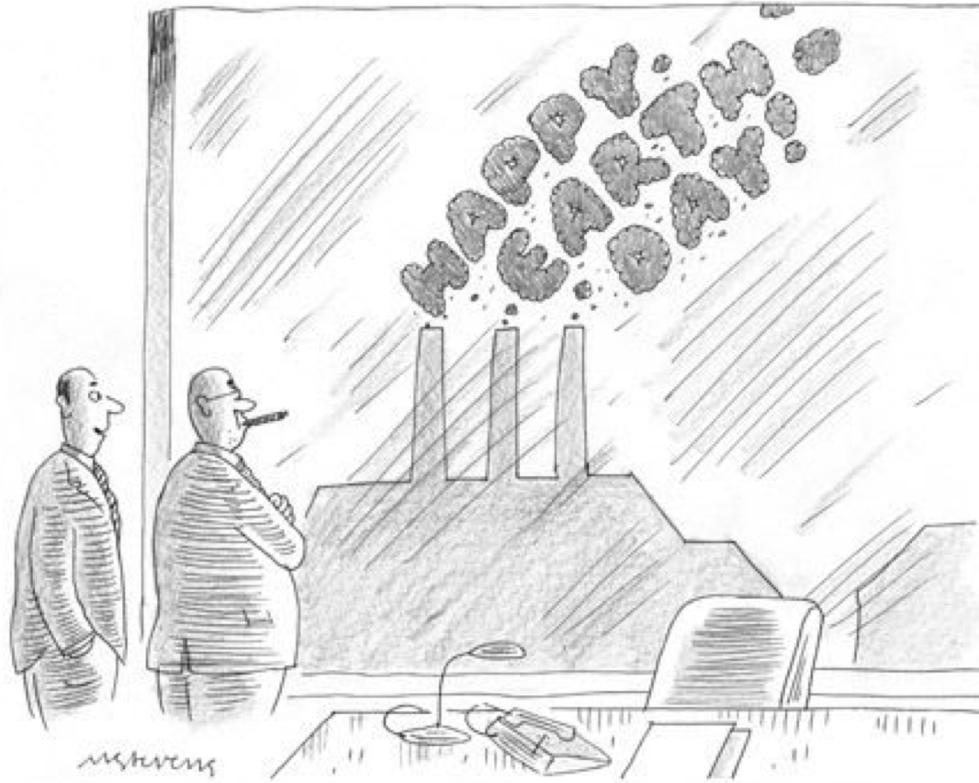
# Teaching Improvement:

## Highlight Dominance of Industrial Worldview

### THE FOUR INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTIONS



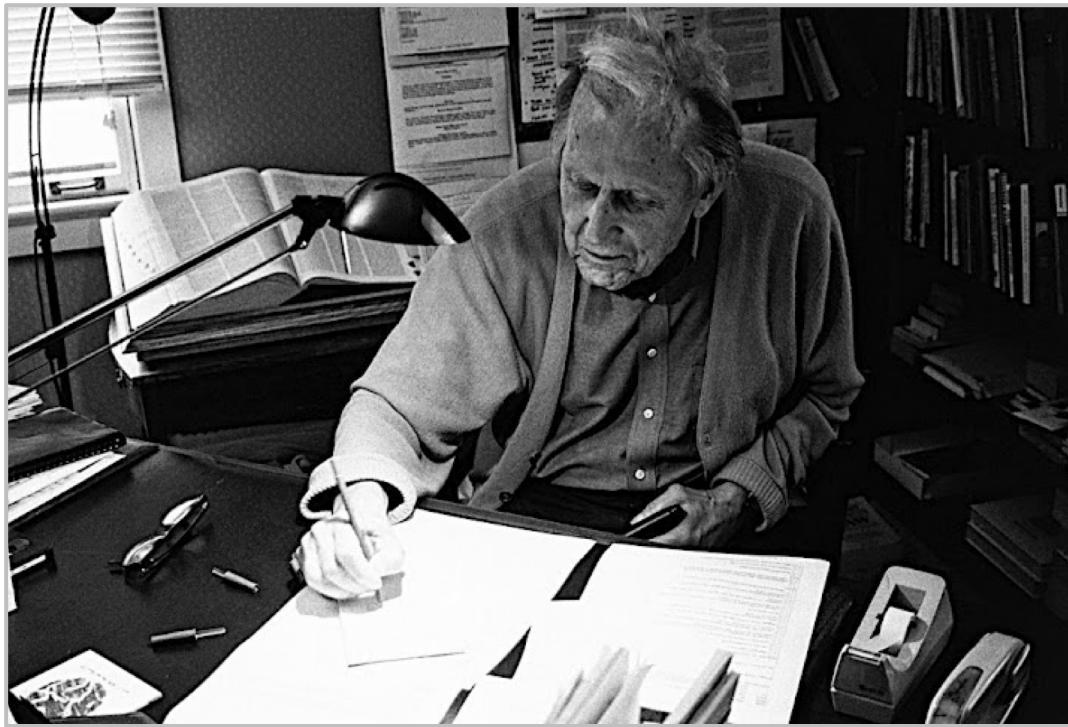
# Benefit: Emphasizes Conservation within Broader Social Context



*"It was the P.R. department's idea."*



# Thomas Berry: Communicating a New Story



**“We are in trouble just now because we do not have a good story. We are in between stories. The old story, the account of how the world came to be and how we fit into it, is no longer effective. Yet we have not learned the new story...”**



# Thanks!

**Slides:**

[bit.ly/eveskew-ICC-2018](https://bit.ly/eveskew-ICC-2018)

***Nature, Wilderness, and Conservation***  
**course syllabus:**

[bit.ly/eveskew-nature-seminar-syllabus](https://bit.ly/eveskew-nature-seminar-syllabus)

**Collection of notes on nature:**  
[bit.ly/eveskew-nature-notes](https://bit.ly/eveskew-nature-notes)



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