Conservation Biology Discussion – SLOSS

The Diversity Ethic (Wilson and Willis)

* Wilson and Willis related some of the principal concepts in the theory of island biogeography to the creation of preserved/protected areas, and contextualize these ideas through discussing situations in which fragmented/isolated protected areas experienced biodiversity losses.
* Given the span of several decades between this paper and our current knowledge, I’d be very curious to hear what Wilson and Willis may change about this paper and the points that they made. I cannot tell how much advancement in science and technology they expected to occur by 2016, but regardless of their expectations, an update on their view of protected areas and the SLOSS debate would be interesting. I suspect they would recognize the potential of value of networked, smaller protected areas.
* Everything I’ve read from Wilson is very well-written and compelling. Even though I did not necessarily agree with a couple of the points they made (which may have changed over the last 40 years, of course), I appreciated the intent behind their reasoning. In my own career, I’d like to work towards advancing our knowledge of biology/ecology such that we can make more informed conservation decisions. In this way, Wilson and Willis’ paper was an interesting read because they directly applied results from their own research to the discussion of important conservation decisions that must be made.

Single large or several small? Applying biogeographic principles to tree-level conservation and biodiversity offsets (Le Roux et al., 2015)

* Le Roux et al. used an interesting and novel (from what I have seen) approach to compare the idea of birds utilizing trees to species in small and large fragments. One of the main takeaways that I got from their paper is that we may need to modify our ideas for