

Aldo Leopold

Quotes

*Land, Nature, Men, Rivers, Animal, Wilderness, Self, People, Country, Art,
Spring, Hunting, Two, Conservation, Environmental, Civilization, Water, World,
Long, Thinking*

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

~Aldo Leopold

Land is not merely soil, it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals.

~Aldo Leopold

Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left.

~Aldo Leopold

There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot.

~Aldo Leopold

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.

~Aldo Leopold

There can be no doubt that a society rooted in the soil is more stable than one rooted in pavements.

~Aldo Leopold

The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: 'What good is it?'

~Aldo Leopold

There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.

~Aldo Leopold

The first law of intelligent tinkering is to save all the parts

~Aldo Leopold

To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.

~Aldo Leopold

The oldest task in human history: to live on a piece of land without spoiling it.

~Aldo Leopold

A river or stream is a cycle of energy from sun to plants to insects to fish. It is a continuum broken only by humans.

~Aldo Leopold

Nonconformity is the highest evolutionary attainment of social animals.

~Aldo Leopold

To those devoid of imagination a blank place on the map is a useless waste; to others, the most valuable part.

~Aldo Leopold

That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics.

~Aldo Leopold

That the situation appears hopeless should not prevent us from doing our best.

~Aldo Leopold

Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.

~Aldo Leopold

We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall

achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve but to strive.

~Aldo Leopold

Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching—even when doing the wrong thing is legal.

~Aldo Leopold

Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them

~Aldo Leopold

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us.

~Aldo Leopold

Once you learn to read the land, I have no fear of what you will do to it, or with it. And I know many pleasant things it will do to you.

~Aldo Leopold

Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language.

~Aldo Leopold

We face the question whether a still higher "standard of living" is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free.

~Aldo Leopold

One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of March thaw, is the Spring.

~Aldo Leopold

Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and aesthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient.

~Aldo Leopold

It is in midwinter that I sometimes glean from my pines... a curious transfusion of courage.

~Aldo Leopold

Wilderness areas are first of all a series of sanctuaries for the primitive arts of wilderness travel, especially canoeing and packing.

~Aldo Leopold

Relegating grizzlies to Alaska is about like relegating happiness heaven; one may never get there.

~Aldo Leopold

Individual thinkers since the days of Ezekiel and Isaiah have asserted that the despoliation of land is not only inexpedient but wrong. Society, however, has not yet affirmed their belief.

~Aldo Leopold

It must be poor life that achieves freedom from fear.

~Aldo Leopold

No matter how intently one studies the hundred little dramas of the woods and meadows, one can never learn all the salient facts about any one of them.

~Aldo Leopold

On motionless wing they emerge from the lifting mists, sweep a final arc of sky, and settle in clangorous descending spirals to their feeding grounds. A new day has begun on the crane marsh.

~Aldo Leopold

Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest.

~Aldo Leopold

There are two things that interest me: the relation of people to each other, and the relation of people to land.

~Aldo Leopold

Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of the wolf.

~Aldo Leopold

Tell me of what plant-birthday a man takes notice, and I shall tell you a good deal about his vocation, his hobbies, his hay fever, and the general level of his ecological education.

~Aldo Leopold

Wilderness is the raw material out of which man has hammered the artifact called civilization.

~Aldo Leopold

It is, by common consent, a good thing for people to get back to nature.

~Aldo Leopold

Recreational development is a job not of building roads into lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind.

~Aldo Leopold

Is education possibly a process of trading awareness for things of lesser worth? The goose who trades his is soon a pile of feathers.

~Aldo Leopold

In June as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them.

~Aldo Leopold

The road to conservation is paved with good intentions that often prove futile, or even dangerous, due to a lack of understanding of either land or economic land use.

~Aldo Leopold

What more delightful avocation than to take a piece of land and by cautious experimentation to prove how it works. What more substantial service to conservation than to practice it on one's own land?

~Aldo Leopold

We can be ethical only in relation to something we can see, feel, understand, love, or otherwise have faith in.

~Aldo Leopold

I am glad I will not be young in a future without wilderness.

~Aldo Leopold

A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct

~Aldo Leopold

For us in the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television.

~Aldo Leopold

Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal.

~Aldo Leopold

Wildflower corners are easy to maintain, but once gone, they are hard to rebuild.

~Aldo Leopold

Whoever invented the word 'grace' must have seen the wing-folding of the plover.

~Aldo Leopold

In wildness is the salvation of the world.

~Aldo Leopold

...to any one for whom wild things are something more than a pleasant diversion, (conservation) constitutes one of the milestones in moral evolution.

~Aldo Leopold

An Ecologist lives in a world of wounds.

~Aldo Leopold

All conservation of wildness is self-defeating, for to cherish we must see and fondle, and when enough have seen and fondled, there is no wilderness left to cherish.

~Aldo Leopold

The life of every river sings its own song, but in most the song is long marred by the discords of misuse.

~Aldo Leopold

Conservation is a positive exercise of skill and insight, not merely a negative exercise of abstinence and caution.

~Aldo Leopold

Only the most uncritical minds are free from doubt.

~Aldo Leopold

Conservation viewed in its entirety, is the slow and laborious unfolding of a new relationship between people and land.

~Aldo Leopold

Land health is the capacity for self-renewal in the soils, waters, plants, and animals that collectively comprise the land.

~Aldo Leopold

There are degrees and kinds of solitude. I know of no solitude so secure as one guarded by a spring flood; nor do the geese, who have seen more kinds and degrees of aloneness than I have.

~Aldo Leopold

An oak is no respecter of persons.

~Aldo Leopold

The modern dogma is comfort at any cost.

~Aldo Leopold

Too much safety seems to yield only danger in the long run.

~Aldo Leopold

The rich diversity of the world's cultures reflects a corresponding diversity in the wilds that gave them birth.

~Aldo Leopold

If the land mechanism as a whole is good then every part is good, whether we understand it or not.

~Aldo Leopold

I do not imply that this philosophy of land was always clear to me. It is rather the end result of a life journey.

~Aldo Leopold

I have purposely presented the land ethic as a product of social evolution because nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written'â€¦ It evolves in the minds of a thinking community.

~Aldo Leopold

Wilderness is a resource which can shrink but not grow... the creation of new wilderness in the full sense of the word is impossible.

~Aldo Leopold

The good life of any river may depend on the perception of its music; and the preservation of some music to perceive.

~Aldo Leopold

The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, nor even in the present, but rather in the future.

~Aldo Leopold

The landscape of any farm is the owner's portrait of himself.

~Aldo Leopold

There is value in any experience that exercises those ethical restraints collectively called sportsmanship.

~Aldo Leopold

What avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?

~Aldo Leopold

Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty.

~Aldo Leopold

O, God assist our side: at least, avoid assisting the enemy and leave the rest to me

~Aldo Leopold

Hemispheric solidarity is new among statesmen, but not among the feathered navies of the sky.

~Aldo Leopold

To look into the eyes of a wolf is to see your own soul - hope you like

what you see.

~Aldo Leopold

Education, I fear, is learning to see one thing by going blind to another.

~Aldo Leopold

Wilderness is the very stuff America is made of.

~Aldo Leopold

The outstanding scientific discovery of the twentieth century is not television, or radio, but rather the complexity of the land organism.

~Aldo Leopold

In farm country, the plover has only two real enemies: the gully and the drainage ditch. Perhaps we shall one day find that these are our enemies, too.

~Aldo Leopold

One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds.

~Aldo Leopold

For one species to mourn the death of another is a new thing under the sun.

~Aldo Leopold

That dark laboratory we call the soil.

~Aldo Leopold

Every farm woodland, in addition to yielding lumber, fuel and posts, should provide its owner a liberal education. This crop of wisdom never fails, but it is not always harvested.

~Aldo Leopold

Your woodlot is, in fact, an historical document which faithfully records your personal philosophy.

~Aldo Leopold

Agricultural science is largely a race between the emergence of new pests and the emergence of new techniques for their control.

~Aldo Leopold

No important change in ethics was ever accomplished without an internal change in our intellectual emphasis, loyalties, affections, and convictions.

~Aldo Leopold

The land-relation is still strictly economic, entailing privileges but not obligations

~Aldo Leopold

What a dull world if we knew all about geese!

~Aldo Leopold

The art of land doctoring is being practiced with vigor, but the science of land health is yet to be born.

~Aldo Leopold

We Americans, in most states at least, have not yet experienced a bear-less, eagle-less, cat-less, wolf-less woods. Germany strove for maximum yields of both timber and game and got neither.

~Aldo Leopold

. . . perhaps our grandsons, having never seen a wild river, will never miss the chance to set a canoe in singing waters . . . glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in.

~Aldo Leopold

No farmer-sportsman group is stronger than the ties of mutual confidence and enthusiasm which bind its members.

~Aldo Leopold

Never did we plan the morrow, for we had learned that in the wilderness some new and irresistible distraction is sure to turn up each day before breakfast. Like the river, we were free to wander.

~Aldo Leopold

If we lose our wilderness, we have nothing left, in my opinion, worth fighting for; or to be more exact, a completely industrialized United States is of no consequence to me.

~Aldo Leopold

All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts.

~Aldo Leopold

Mechanized recreation already has seized nine-tenths of the woods and mountains; a decent respect for minorities should dedicate the other tenth to wilderness.

~Aldo Leopold

There is time not only to see who has done what, but to speculate why.

~Aldo Leopold

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