

David R. Brower

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Environmental, Rivers, Men, Energy, Earth, World, Years,
Technology, Nature, Needs, Wilderness, Garbage, Agriculture, Impossible,
Goes On, Matter, Wild Places, Growth*

The more we pour the big machines, the fuel, the pesticides, the herbicides, the fertilizer and chemicals into farming, the more we knock out the mechanism that made it all work in the first place.

~David R. Brower

All technology should be assumed guilty until proven innocent

~David R. Brower

We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations.

~David R. Brower

Overpopulation is perhaps the biggest problem facing us, and immigration is part of that problem. It has to be addressed.

~David R. Brower

The wild places are where we began. When they end, so do we.

~David R. Brower

Sometimes luck is with you, and sometimes not, but the important thing is to take the dare. Those who climb mountains or raft rivers understand this.

~David R. Brower

Understanding how DNA transmits all it knows about cancer, physics, dreaming and love will keep man searching for some time.

~David R. Brower

Truth and beauty can still win battles. We need more art, more passion, more wit in defense of the Earth.

~David R. Brower

We are no longer inheriting the Earth from our parents, we are stealing it from our children.

~David R. Brower

Without wilderness, the world's a cage.

~David R. Brower

Apollo 13, as you may remember, gave us a reactor that is bubbling away right now somewhere in the Pacific. It's supposed to be bubbling away on the moon, but it's in the Pacific Ocean instead.

~David R. Brower

Let the mountains talk, let the river run. Once more, and forever.

~David R. Brower

Bring diversity back to agriculture. That's what made it work in the first place.

~David R. Brower

It is absolutely imperative that we protect, preserve and pass on this genetic heritage for man and every other living thing in as good a condition as we received it.

~David R. Brower

We still need conservationists who will attempt the impossible, achieving it because they aren't aware how impossible it is.

~David R. Brower

There are many ways to salvation, and one of them is to follow a river.

~David R. Brower

I was actually telling people that - by harnessing the atom - we could enter a new era of unlimited power that would do away with the need to dam our beautiful streams.

~David R. Brower

There is no place where we can safely store worn-out reactors or their garbage. No place!

~David R. Brower

I'm always impressed with what young people can do before older people tell them it's impossible

~David R. Brower

To me, a wilderness is where the flow of wildness is essentially uninterrupted by technology; without wilderness the world is a cage.

~David R. Brower

It seems that every time mankind is given a lot of energy, we go out and wreck something with it.

~David R. Brower

Politicians are like weather vanes. Our job is to make the wind blow.

~David R. Brower

If you want to get people off drugs, improve reality.

~David R. Brower

Politics is democracy's way of handling public business. We won't get the type of country in the kind of world we want unless people take part in the public's business.

~David R. Brower

Polite conservationists leave no mark save the scars upon the Earth that could have been prevented had they stood their ground.

~David R. Brower

We need the sea. We need a place to stand and touch and listen - to feel the pulse of the world as the surf rolls in.

~David R. Brower

There is more inside you than you dare think.

~David R. Brower

True wilderness is where you keep it, and real wilderness experience cannot be a sedentary one; you have to seek it out not seated, but afoot.

~David R. Brower

I sort of kept my hand in writing and went to work for the Sierra Club in '52, walked the plank there in '69, founded Friends of the Earth and the League of Conservation Voters after that.

~David R. Brower

When people say, 'You're not being realistic,' they're just trying to tag some thoughts that they can't otherwise handle.

~David R. Brower

It's like turning the space program over to the Long Island Railroad.

~David R. Brower

We cannot go on fiddling while the earth's wild places burn.

~David R. Brower

Yet another proposal would have us rocket the waste into the sun, but, as you're probably aware, about one in ten of our space shots doesn't quite make it out of the earth's gravitational field.

~David R. Brower

Until four years ago, in fact, I was absolutely in love with the atom.

~David R. Brower

A great deal of pressure was then built up to remove me from the club and my resignation was, finally, a forced one.

~David R. Brower

Perhaps we'll realize that each of us has not one vote but ten thousand or a million.

~David R. Brower

For how many people do you think might yet stand on this planet before the sun grows cold? That's the responsibility we hold in our hands.

~David R. Brower

Once we open the door to the plutonium economy, we expose ourselves to absolutely terrible, horrifying risks from these people.

~David R. Brower

Let man heal the hurt places and revere whatever is still miraculously pristine.

~David R. Brower

I began working with the John Muir Institute and then started helping found Friends of the Earth organizations here and there in other countries. That pretty well brings us up to the present.

~David R. Brower

Even if you build the perfect reactor, you're still saddled with a people problem and an equipment problem.

~David R. Brower

'Realistic' is a loaded word for me. Anyone who uses the word 'realistic' is all bad.

~David R. Brower

If something's going wrong with this planet we'd better fix it here and not look for some sort of escape.

~David R. Brower

I believe in the rights of creatures other than man.

~David R. Brower

The goal now is a socialist, redistributionist society, which is nature's proper steward and society's only hope.

~David R. Brower

There is no business on a dead planet

~David R. Brower

We may learn anew what compassion and beauty are, and pause to listen to the Earth's music.

~David R. Brower

Have fun saving the world, or you are just going to depress yourself.

~David R. Brower

People have alleged that I have inspired many young people over the years, but I say, it was just the opposite.

~David R. Brower

I don't think we have very good records about what they were thinking except, as I pointed out earlier today, that they did invent our political system.

~David R. Brower

While the death of young men in war is unfortunate, it is no more serious than the touching of mountains and wilderness areas by humankind.

~David R. Brower

What we are finding out now is that there are not only limits to growth but also to technology and that we cannot allow technology to go on without public consent.

~David R. Brower

You don't have a conservation policy unless you have a population policy.

~David R. Brower

The Peninsula is what we have and there is no more where it came from.

~David R. Brower

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