

The Social and Economic Impact of Wildlife and Natural Resource Management

There are many conflicts throughout history. Unfortunately, some of the conflicts lead to wars and deaths. A different form of conflict is conflict between society and wildlife and natural resources. There are many controversial issues between wildlife and society. Some of the conflict has to do with land management and what should be kept in mind is the question of how the land is to be used.

By analyzing controversial issues and debates on wildlife and how it influences society, you will be able to reach decisions based on interviews, data, and analysis.

1. What are some conflicts throughout history?
2. How was this conflict resolved?
3. What are some conflicts between wildlife and natural resources and people?
4. Using the Internet, personal interviews, and library, research examples of conflict between People and Wildlife:

Example:

The Mojave National Preserve, created in 1994, encompasses natural and cultural resources. The Preserve is a "hotbed" of diversity and is home to more than 700 plant species, the world's largest Joshua Tree forest, and 200 animal species, including the threatened tortoise and bighorn sheep. It also houses prehistoric petroglyphs and dinosaur tracks and provides outstanding recreational opportunities.

Federal legislation was recently introduced that could irreversibly harm the fragile desert landscape. Senators Reid and Bryan and Congressman Gibbons of Nevada have introduced bills (S. 930 and H.R. 1695, respectively) to authorize the sale of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management to Clark County, Nevada. The land would become the site of a large cargo airport that would be converted to a passenger airport serving Las Vegas. The proposed facility would be located in the Llanphala Valley, only 10 miles from the Mojave National Preserve. Construction of the airport facility, airplane traffic, and supporting infrastructure will have a large impact on the Mojave Preserve.

Questions to address:

What would the airport mean for wildlife and habitat?

What would the airport mean for unemployed workers?

How might the standard of living in the area be improved?

Is this Progress?

Is this Development?

What are the long term effects of the airport?

Who are the people involved in the controversy?

Should the airport be built?

Are people dealing with facts or emotions?

Further Questions:

What are the Procedural Issues to be addressed?

What are the Economic Issues to be addressed?

What are the Environmental Concerns?

Higher Level Questions:

Wildlife Management: How much should be biologically oriented, and how much should be people oriented?

Should habitat be modified for people or biology?

Sources:

Brittingham, Margaret: Professor, Penn State University, State College Pennsylvania.

Environment and Nature News:

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/Science/Environment_and_Nature_News/

Finley, James: Professor, Penn State University, State College, Pennsylvania.