

The Original Monterey List

1. There is no such thing as wilderness anymore.
2. Humans remain subject to natural law.
3. Natural law does not change.
4. Humans have simplified natural systems.
5. Life wants to live, but all things die.
6. Populations are healthier when they are being culled.
7. Life is interdependent.
8. There is a maximum carrying capacity for the planet.
9. The natural world does not pay attention to human rules.
10. Natural boundaries are always blurred.
11. Just because we *can* do something doesn't mean we *should* do it.
12. There always has to be a payoff.
13. Things you want add up to things you don't want.
14. We need nature, but...
15. ...Nature doesn't need us.
16. To live is to change.
17. Life lives off other life.
18. Carrying capacity rules.
19. The first rule of intelligent tinkering is to keep all the parts. [Leopold]
20. Stewardship should pay.
21. The future tends to be discounted far below the present.
22. We won't value what we don't know.
23. The concept of wilderness separates us from nature.
24. Supply and demand are natural laws.
25. The journey is as important as the destination.
26. All environmental protection is really human protection.
27. Cooperating with nature takes less time and energy than fighting it does.
28. Jobs as we know them are obsolete. Division of labor is not.

29. Everywhere is your back yard.
30. There is no such thing as a free lunch.
31. Grow things (including food) in cities.
32. Create self-sufficient localities.
33. Maintain old-growth conditions on as much forest land as possible. Also...
34. Harvest as much timber as possible.
35. Sustainability shouldn't hurt.
36. Survival isn't living; you also need hope.
37. Human law is subordinate to natural law.
38. Enablement is better than prohibition.
39. The fewer moving parts, the better the machine.
40. Plan for living things. Machines and concrete don't care.
41. Money isn't value.
42. All solutions are local.
43. Design with nature, not against it.
44. Don't build in rivers.
45. Don't touch the capital; live off the interest.
46. Seek the optimal, not the superlative.
47. Life support takes precedence.
48. Planning should increase cooperation, not separation.
49. More is merrier only up to a point.
50. Elegance consists of using precisely what you need.
51. Eliminating waste should lower costs, not raise them.
52. The lowest practical amount of waste is determined by what can be assimilated, not by what can be eliminated.
53. Nature abhors zero.
54. Nature always has the last word.
55. All value is figured at the margin.
56. User fees are not taxes.

57. When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe [Muir]
58. The tragedy of the commons does not result from common ownership, nor from private greed, but from the conflict between the two.
59. Government's primary purpose is to take care of the commons.
60. If we don't control our numbers, nature will.
61. Life can survive the disruptions caused by humans. Humans may not.
62. Extinction is life's way of adjusting to changing circumstances.
63. We are not the only experiment [Fuller]
64. Like it or not, we are now managing the entire planet.
65. Wilderness is an idea, not a place.
66. Appropriate technology helps us live better within carrying capacity. It does not help us evade it.
67. You cannot evade carrying capacity, only postpone its effects.
68. Change is inevitable in natural systems.
69. Nature is nonlinear.
70. Nature's beneficence toward us is not a given.
71. If faith conflicts with truth, then faith is not true.
72. Science and religion conflict only in the minds of those who understand neither science nor religion.
73. Neither science nor religion can save us; all they can do is help us find the truth.
74. The human race is not nearly as important as it thinks it is.
75. Certify sustainable products.
76. Plan the garden first.
77. Manage for missing parts of the ecosystem.
78. Go with what the land knows.
79. No single set of land-use regulations will ever fit all of the land.
80. Sustainability must be self-sustaining.
81. Our job is neither to preserve nature nor to conquer it, but to reintegrate with it.
82. Marketize, don't privatize.
83. All species are exotic in the beginning.

84. There never was a war against nature. The war was against ourselves.
85. The climate we currently live in is a historical accident.
86. Individual choices to live sustainably are only possible if society provides them.
87. Centralization is not a sustainable choice.
88. Labor saved by machinery should not come in the form of unemployment.
89. Nature is fundamentally fractal.
90. Poverty is unsustainable.
91. When survival conflicts with environmentalism, survival will win.
92. The only guaranteed result of self-sacrifice is to diminish the pool of self-sacrificers.
93. Unplanned effects may be more important than planned ones.
94. Floods are beneficial: buildings in the flood plain are disasters.
95. To control taxes, first control population.
96. Wealth is not past-oriented, but future-oriented.
97. It is never actually cheaper to do things wrong.
98. We view nature in largely mythical terms.
99. Language should classify, not compartmentalize.
100. Work through communities.
101. Don't strive for maximum, or for minimum, but for optimum.
102. All creatures wish to protect their young.
103. Any definition of nature that does not include humans is necessarily false.
104. Extinctions can snowball.
105. The current speed of extinctions is unprecedented.
106. Protect habitat, not species.
107. Protection and preservation are not identical.
108. The last old-growth is valuable, not because it is old-growth, but because it is the last.
109. There will always be a fight over the last remnants of anything we want.
110. There are no ancient forests.
111. Environmental damage is real.

(added a few days later)

112. War is the ultimate environmental destroyer