

Homework 1
Conservation Ecology
Summer 2009
50 points

Your beliefs and conservation

In many ways, conservation ecology is only relevant if people value “nature” in some way other than a utilitarian way. Your first homework is to write a brief (between 350 and 500 words) essay about what you believe about “nature”. You will model your essay on the “This I Believe” series by National Public Radio. Their suggestions are to 1) tell a real story that is specific for you, 2) name your belief—try to focus on one core belief; 3) be positive—say what you do believe, not what you don’t believe; and 4) be personal—make your essay about you and use the first person. Essays must be typed and double spaced. Note that I do not care if you believe that the northern spotted owl (an endangered species) tastes like chicken. Write what you believe, not what you think I want you to believe. This is your essay. Your grade will be based on your ability 1) to write clearly without spelling and grammatical errors, 2) to have a beginning, middle, and end, 3) to follow the directions above.