

The Conscience of a Conservationist*

M. GRAHAM NETTING

Assistant Director, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.

the manners, and write the laws of the commonwealth, is its charge completed."

CONSERVATION COMMANDMENTS

In summary, I have the temerity to offer a set of conservation commandments which merit critical revision, but which may serve to codify the points my conscience has striven to express.

1. Study the land so that each acre may be used wisely according to its capabilities and treated according to its needs.
2. Guard well the soil that it may continue to nurture man;
Clothe it lovingly,
Hold on to it tenaciously,
Restore it organically,
Improve it as a legacy for posterity.
3. Revere water—life blood of civilization;
Retard it on the surface,
Entrap it in the soil,
Guard its purity zealously.
4. Cherish forests that they may
Conserve water,
Shelter wildlife,
Provide for our needs,
Restore our tranquillity.
5. Respect all living things as having a role, however humble, in the balance of nature.
6. Provide living museums, samples of primeval America, to be managed by nature alone, so that they may
Serve as reservoirs of wild species that may be needed tomorrow,
Provide control areas against which man's efforts at management may be measured.
7. Live in harmony with nature in an ecological symphony, a mutually beneficial dependency.

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