

**Study Questions and Reading Guide: Kareiva & Marvier, PP 81-87**  
Conservation Biology  
Spring 2011

**Questions & Comments:**

1. Distinguish between conservation policy and conservation science.
2. The four individuals featured by K&M in this section all are overwhelmingly important figures in the biological conservation/ environmental movements. Know them all. Each of them well illustrates the importance of leadership and engaging with the public through writing, speaking and political forms. The list of important individuals that I will push in class has some differences, mainly because we will stress biological conservation (in the strict sense) over the somewhat broader topic of environmentalism. That said, the two are very closely related areas: obviously, most advances that lower pollution and improve water quality or promote sustainability will benefit wild life and humans. If we follow up on a theme from Ch. 1, remember that humans are part of the biosphere.
3. Know the variety of backgrounds of these four individuals and the different ways each has made a major contribution.
4. Rachel Carson was a very important person to me as boy (I was 13 when *Silent Spring* was published). I well remember the sorts of things that were said about her, even at her death. Don't get the idea that the path to reform is ever easy. It is worth reflecting on the present political climate and sorts of things that commonly are said and techniques that are used to discredit environmental work today. Little has changed: humans are humans and we do the same things now and are motivated by the same sorts of things as always. Also note how long it took to actually ban DDT after *Silent Spring* appeared. Why was this, do you suppose?
5. Note also the importance of responsible science – what would have happened if much of what Carson had said was not true? That said, also realize that Carson (and the other three individuals) engage in polemics.
6. Carson certainly painted a picture that could be taken as "gloom and doom." Was this an invalid approach? Square this with the last section of Chapter 1 (see study question 11 for Ch. 1).
7. A link is provided on the website for all who are interested to one of the most important documents of the environmental movement – the Brundtland report. Be familiar with the three main proposals and with some of the effects of the report.