Week 4 Yellowdig Discussion Questions

Our Yellowdig community can be accessed through our Brightspace course page under 'Content and Activities', then 'Yellowdig'. Online discussion periods run from Monday morning to midnight on the following Sunday. The point earning rules can be found here:

Point earning rules for Yellowdig.

Do not use AI to write posts. Here is my policy for the use of AI in this class.

The discussion questions below are intended to start conversations. You are encouraged to discuss any aspect of the readings or assigned material. You do not have to answer all of the questions below, but rather use these questions as prompts to contribute to the online discussion portion of the class.

All posts must use a 'Topic' from the pulldown list in yellowdig, e.g., **Week 4 Discussion** or **Get Help.**

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Chapter 10 – Ecosystem-Level Responses

1. How do ecosystems act as both sources and sinks of greenhouse gases? (Chapter 10)

2. What are some examples of positive feedback loops between ecosystems and climate change? (Chapter 10)

3. How can disturbances like fire and permafrost thaw influence ecosystem–climate feedbacks? (Chapter 10)

4. What are ecosystem tipping points, and how can crossing them accelerate global change processes? (Chapter 10)

5. In what ways do feedback loops between ecosystems and the climate system contribute to the risk of ecosystem collapse? (Chapter 10)

Chapter 11 – Conservation in an Era of Global Change

1. How do rapid climate and environmental changes challenge the effectiveness of traditional conservation approaches? (Chapter 11)

2. What are the ethical implications of conservation triage, and how should resource-limited decisions be made about which species or habitats to prioritize? (Chapter 11)

3. In what ways might the concept of 'novel ecosystems' shift our goals and strategies for conservation? (Chapter 11)

4. How can adaptive management and climate-smart conservation planning help address uncertainty in long-term conservation efforts? (Chapter 11)

Chapter 12 – Aligning the Interests of Biodiversity and Human Society

1. What is the difference between ecosystem-based mitigation and ecosystem-based adaptation? (Chapter 12)

2. How can protecting or restoring ecosystems contribute to reducing greenhouse gas concentrations? (Chapter 12)

3. What are some examples of nature-based solutions that support both biodiversity and climate resilience? (Chapter 12)

4. What challenges exist in implementing ecosystem-based strategies at local and global scales? (Chapter 12)

Documentary – Planet of the Humans

1. The Planet of the Humans includes the following quote: "Human kind is challenged, as it has never been challenged before, to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature but of ourselves" Rachel Carson 1962. What does this mean? Do you agree? Why or why not?

2. The producers of the film Planet of the Humans state that they have come to grips with the reality that our entire current civilization is unsustainable, and only a complete rethinking of who and what we are will save us, and just as importantly save all the species that do not deserve to perish. Do you agree? Why or why not? What is your reaction to this?