



CONSERVATION EDUCATION CORE CONCEPTS

Members of the Conservation Education Strategy, a working team of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, identified an extensive set of Core Concepts for Conservation Education that support the North American Model of fish and wildlife management.

From that list, these concepts have been identified as the most important for every citizen to understand:

- 1. In North America, fish and wildlife are public trust resources managed by governmental agencies.**
- 2. Since most wildlife live on private lands, private landowners play an important role in sustaining and improving habitat.**
- 3. Sustainable natural resources depend on the support of an informed and responsible citizenry.**
- 4. The health and well-being of fish, wildlife, and humans depend on the quality of their environment.**
- 5. Loss and degradation of habitat are the greatest problems facing fish and wildlife; therefore, enhancing and protecting habitat is critical to managing and conserving them.**
- 6. Conserving biodiversity is important.**
- 7. Fish and wildlife can be conserved and restored through science based management which considers the needs of humans as well as those of fish and wildlife.**
- 8. Everyone impacts fish and wildlife and their habitats and as human populations grow, impacts on natural resources increase.**
- 9. Regulated hunting, fishing, and trapping are important tools for managing some wildlife populations and habitats.**
- 10. Within the U.S., state fish and wildlife management is funded primarily through hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and through federal excise taxes collected from the sale of hunting, target shooting, and fishing equipment and motor boat fuels.**
- 11. Wildlife-based activities, such as hunting, fishing, viewing, and photography provide people with millions of days of outdoor recreation each year and generate billions of dollars for the economy.**

Conservation Education curriculum and educator professional development resources are on the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies website.