



Dilemma Cards

Dilemma Card

A deer herd has grown so large during the past ten years that many of the deer appear to be starving. The herd is severely damaging the habitat, eliminating much of the vegetation that the animals use for food or shelter. There is disagreement within your community as to what course of action is best to take. A limited legal hunt has been proposed to reduce the herd size in this area. Would you:

- Decide what would be the most humane and reasonable solution by first researching the feasibility, costs, level of safety, and effectiveness of the following options: relocating deer to other areas, hunting the deer herd, reducing the birthrate in the herd through sterilization or birth control methods, or reintroducing wildlife that prey on deer?
- Attempt to identify habitat components—food, water, shelter, and space—that supported the population increase and propose actions to modify habitat in the region to limit the herd size?
- Allow the habitat degradation to continue and the deer to starve?
- Leave it to the state wildlife agency to work with the landholder to arrive at a solution?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You learn that cows produce large amounts of methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Although carbon dioxide is a more abundant greenhouse gas, methane is more potent, trapping more than 25 times the heat by volume as carbon dioxide. You enjoy eating beef, but you are also concerned about the impacts of climate change on wildlife and the environment. Would you:

- Stop eating beef or dairy?
- Reduce your beef consumption through participating in activities such as “Meatless Mondays”?
- Start a local campaign to raise awareness?
- Contact your state wildlife agency to learn about legal and responsible hunting as an alternative source of red meat?
- Do nothing?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

Your family owns a 500-acre farm. A tributary to a high-quality fishing stream runs along the boundary of your property. The nitrogen- and phosphorous-based fertilizer that your family uses to increase crop production is carried into the stream by rain runoff. This type of fertilizer is increasing algae growth and adversely affecting the fish population in both the tributary and the main stream. Your farm production is your sole source of income, but your family has always enjoyed fishing and does not want to lose the fish from the streams. Would you:

- Change fertilizers even though it may reduce crop yield?
- Allow a portion of your land along the stream to grow wild, thus establishing a buffer zone (riparian area)?
- Investigate ways to reduce taxes you will owe to the government through tax exemptions that may be allowed when individuals use their land to help conserve wildlife and other natural resources—such as by creating buffer zones?
- Do nothing?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You are a homeowner in an area directly upstream from a city. Local government officials have proposed diverting a small stream from the property of several homeowners above the city, including yours, to power a hydroelectric system that will generate a portion of the electricity used by residents of the city. As a homeowner, you are concerned with losing the aesthetic value of this stream from your property. You also are concerned about the effect the removal of this stream will have on the fish and aquatic habitat. Another concern is that your property may lose some of its value for resale. You realize that your city needs to supply electric power to all its citizens as cost-effectively as possible. Would you:

- Hire a lawyer and prepare to sue the city for loss of property value?
- Form a coalition of homeowners to meet with city planners and explore possible alternatives?
- Sell your property before the project is begun?
- Decide the needs of the city are more important than either the consequences to you personally or the ecological costs?
- Do something else?



Dilemma Cards



Dilemma Card

You are fishing at a secluded lake and have caught two fish during your first day at the lake. Now, on the second day, the fishing has been great, and you have caught five fish in the first hour, all of which are bigger than yesterday's fish. The law allows you to possess 12 fish. Would you:

- Continue to fish and keep all the fish, even if you exceed the maximum?
- Dispose of the smaller fish you caught yesterday, and keep the big ones to stay within your limit?
- Have fish for lunch?
- Quit fishing and go for a hike?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You are a member of a country club that is considering building a farm to raise animals for members to hunt. Those members in favor of the plan state that the farm would benefit members by providing them with more opportunities for hunting. Those opposed to the plan expressed the opinion that hunting should occur only in the wild. Would you:

- Vote for the plan?
- Vote against the plan?
- Abstain from voting?
- Before voting, learn more about how wildlife farms are operated, as well as further discuss and understand the concerns of those who are opposed to the plan?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You are finally able to build your family's dream house. Because of rising construction costs, you realize that you cannot include all the features you had planned for. You must decide which one of the following you will include:

- solar heating,
- recreation room with fireplace,
- hot tub and sauna,
- greenhouse, or
- something else.

Dilemma Card

You are an influential member of the community. On your way home from work, you are stopped by a police officer and cited for having excessive auto emissions. Would you:

- Use your influence to have the ticket invalidated?
- Sell the car to some unsuspecting person?
- Work to change the law?
- Get your car fixed and pay the ticket?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You are a farmer. You have been studying and hearing about farming practices such as leaving edge areas for wildlife, no-till farming, and organic pest control. Although these practices may improve your long-term benefits, they may reduce your short-term profits. You are already having trouble paying your taxes and keeping up with expenses. Would you:

- Sell the farm?
- Keep studying farming practices but make no changes for now?
- Try a few methods on some of your acreage, and compare the results with other similar areas on your land?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You like to hang birdfeeders to attract birds to your yard. You recently heard a presentation on human-wildlife conflicts and learned how birdfeeders can cause problems with other animals such as bears and coyotes. You love wildlife and do not want to cause problems, but you also love seeing all the different birds around your house. Would you:

- Take your birdfeeder down?
- Find out other ways to attract birds to your yard?
- Take your birdfeeders in at night to avoid issues with nocturnal predators?
- Do nothing?
- Do something else?





Dilemma Cards

Dilemma Card

You are walking in the woods and come upon a young fawn. There is no sign of the fawn's mother. Would you:

- Leave the fawn where it is?
- Move the fawn to a sheltered area?
- Take the fawn home?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You love children and would like to have a large family. You are aware, however, of the world's population projections for the future. Would you:

- Plan to have a large family anyway?
- Decide not to have children?
- Limit yourself to one or two children?
- Adopt children?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You have found a young screech owl and raised it to maturity. You have been told that you cannot keep the owl any longer because keeping it without the proper permit violates state and federal laws. Would you:

- Offer it to your local zoo?
- Keep it as a pet?
- Call members of the local fish and wildlife agency and ask their advice?
- Determine whether it could survive in the wild, and if it appears the owl could, release it in a suitable area?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You are out in the woods hunting with a friend when you spot a hawk perched on a high limb. Before you realize what is happening, your friend shoots the hawk. An hour later, you are leaving the woods and are approached by a state wildlife officer who tells you a hawk has been illegally shot and asks if you know anything about it. Would you:

- Deny any knowledge of the incident?
- Admit your friend did it?
- Make up a story implicating someone else?
- Say nothing, but call the fish and wildlife officer later with an anonymous phone tip?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You are president of a large corporation. You are very interested in pollution control and have had a task force assigned to study the pollution your plant is creating. The task force reports that you are barely within the legal requirements. The plant is polluting the community. To add the necessary equipment to reduce pollution would cost so much that you would have to lay off 50 employees. Would you:

- Add the equipment, and lay off the employees?
- Not add the equipment?
- Wait a few years to see if the cost of the equipment will drop?
- Hire an engineering firm to provide further recommendations?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You have purchased a beautiful 10-acre property in the mountains to build a summer home. One hillside of the property has a beautiful view of the valley and lake below and is your choice for your home site. However, you discover a bald eagle has an active nest site on that hillside. The bald eagle is sensitive to disturbance around its nest tree and is a protected species. Bald eagles are highly selective in choosing nest sites and usually return to the same nest year after year. Would you:

- Select a different site on the property to build your home?
- Sell the property?
- Call your wildlife agency and ask for information or a recommendation?
- Chop down the tree and build your home?
- Do something else?



Dilemma Cards



Dilemma Card

You left your small dog out in your fenced backyard. You hear a loud cry, and when you run outside, you see a coyote jump over the fence and run away. Your dog is injured, although the wound is not serious. After tending to your pet's wounds, would you:

- Research ways to protect your pets from coyotes and make changes to your actions?
- Download a "Living with Coyotes" brochure from your local wildlife management agency to distribute to neighbors?
- Call your local wildlife management agency and demand the coyote is relocated?
- Call your local wildlife management agency and demand the coyote be killed?
- Do nothing?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You live in bear country, and a bear is repeatedly getting into people's trash cans. Now it appears a bear has broken into a neighbor's garage in search of stored trash and food in their freezer. Would you:

- Call your local wildlife management agency and demand the bear be relocated to another area?
- Call your local wildlife management agency and demand the bear be killed?
- Work together as a community to determine how to prevent attracting bears and implement potential solutions?
- Download a "Living with Bears" brochure from your local wildlife management agency to distribute to neighbors?
- Do nothing?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

Your class is on a field trip to the zoo. Although you know that feeding of animals by zoo visitors is prohibited, some of your friends are feeding marshmallows to the bears. Would you:

- Tell them that feeding marshmallows may harm the bears, and ask them to stop?
- Report their behavior to the nearest zookeeper?
- Ask the teacher to ask them to stop?
- Do nothing?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You are on a picnic with your family and you see members of another family leaving to go home without picking up their trash. It is clear the other family is going to leave litter all around. Would you:

- Move quickly, and ask them to pick up their trash before they leave?
- Wait for them to leave, and pick up the trash for them?
- Do nothing?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

You live in mountain lion country, and you notice your neighbor feeding deer in her yard. You know feeding deer is illegal here but are more concerned about the safety of your neighborhood, since attracting deer could attract mountain lions. Would you:

- Report your neighbor to the local wildlife officer?
- Work with other neighbors to confront your neighbor?
- Confront your neighbor yourself?
- Say nothing?
- Do something else?

Dilemma Card

