Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Values (journal)

"Beasts Versus the Biosphere?"

Midgley, Mary

Midgley, Mary. "Beasts Versus the Biosphere?" *Environmental Values* 1, no. 2, (1992): 113–21. doi:10.3197/096327192776680115 .

Apparent clashes of interest between 'deep ecologists' and 'animal liberationists' can be understood as differences in emphasis rather than conflicts of principle, although it is only too easy for campaigners to regard as rivals good causes other than their own. Moral principles are part of a larger whole, within which they can be related, rather than absolute all-purpose rules of right conduct. This is illustrated using the practical dilemma which often occurs in conservation management, of whether or not to cull animals that are damaging their habitat by overgrazing. Here, and in general, when we are faced with a choice between two evils, the need for scrupulous discrimination and honesty cannot be overstated; but it is not a worthy option to retreat behind moral principles of limited application.

— Text from The White Horse Press website

All rights reserved. © 1992 The White Horse Press

Download:
PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/midgley_1_2.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV107.html
- The White Horse Press
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/

Websites linked in this text:

- http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327192776680115
- http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV107.html

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Beasts Versus the Biosphere?"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5460
Print date: 17 November 2026 23:59:28