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"Values, Advocacy and Conservation Biology"

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Odenbaugh, Jay. "Values, Advocacy and Conservation Biology." *Environmental Values* 12, no. 1 (2003): 55–69. doi:10.3197/096327103129341225 .

In this essay, I examine the controversy concerning the advocacy of ethical values in conservation biology. First, I argue, as others have, that conservation biology is a science laden with values both ethical and non-ethical. Second, after clarifying the notion of advocacy at work, I contend that conservation biologists should advocate the preservation of biological diversity. Third, I explore what ethical grounds should be used for advocating the preservation of ecological systems by conservation biologists. I argue that conservation biologists should defend their preservationist positions on instrumentalist grounds alone if the context of discussion and debate is a scientific one.
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