“The Promise and Peril of Ethics within Environmental Governance”

Nils Peterson,
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10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Room A170
James B. Henry Center for Executive Development
Michigan State University

RSVP required, space is limited.
RSVP Mary Thompson at diedri13@msu.edu by TUESDAY, March 15.

Abstract
In this paper I discuss two challenges associated with efforts to make ethics an explicit part of environmental governance. First, focusing on the moral dimension of environmental governance may exacerbate conflict by highlighting foundational divisions among stakeholders. Second, traditional uses of applied ethics may encourage positional bargaining and neglect stakeholders’ interests. I suggest a renewed focus on distributive justice and pragmatism within applied ethics may create opportunities to address these challenges.

M. Nils Peterson is an Assistant Professor in the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program at North Carolina State University. He conducted his graduate training at Texas A&M University and Michigan State University, where he worked at the Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability. His research focuses on providing strategies for promoting wildlife conservation and environmental sustainability in coupled human-natural systems. Focal topics include conservation related conflict, conservation development, urban wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation, and environmental economics (http://www4.ncsu.edu/~mnpeters/).

Seminar presented as part of the Environmental and Natural Resource Governance Fellows Program. For more information please visit www.nrconservation.msu.edu/nrconservation/enr_governance_fellows

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