

Name: _____ Pledge (sign): _____

Env Studies 201 Test #1

Point Total: 100 pts possible

- 8 pts 1. In his famous essay, "The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis," Lynn White opines that *two important events* that have shaped our modern ecological crisis. What were these events, according to White? Briefly (1-3 sentences) explain each.
- 9 pts 2. In our discussion about the merits of 'Pleistocene rewilding,' we described three general strategies for protecting biodiversity. What were they? Briefly (1 sentence) describe each.
- 5 pts 3. (a) What fraction of the U.S. is currently owned by the federal government? Where does most of this land lie?
- 10 pts (b) List the four federal agencies that control the bulk of federal lands.

- 8 pts 4. In his article supporting offshore oil drilling, Stephen Baird states that the effects of offshore oil drilling on the environment are not great:

According to the US Minerals Management Service, since 1975, 101,997 barrels spilled from among the 11,855 billion barrels of American oil extracted offshore. This is a 0.001 percent pollution rate.

May Annette Rose, who opposes offshore drilling, contends that these numbers are misleading. In what way(s) does she mean?

- 12 pts 5. Gifford Pinchot and John Muir represent two distinct attitudes toward wilderness. Describe these attitudes in some detail.

6. William Baxter wrote a short book entitled *People or Penguins: The Case for Optimal Pollution*.

5 pts (a) Baxter states that an anthropocentric case can be made on behalf of penguins. What is it?

16 pts (b) Baxter contends that, in most cases, the optimum level of pollution (or, more generally, environmental degradation), is *not zero*. Explain in detail (use the back side of this page if necessary) how this optimum level can be determined.

9 pts (c) List three potential criticisms of this approach to resolving environmental disputes, briefly (1 sentence) describing each.

- 18 pts 7. Explain in detail why greater biodiversity is generally believed to lead to healthier ecosystems; be complete. In your answer, you should be sure to define the term 'biodiversity' and also describe what it means for an ecosystem to be more 'healthy.'