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A Sand County Almanac Reflection

Aldo Leopold was one of the pioneers of the modern conservationist movement and many things can be learned from his novel *A Sand County Almanac*. After reading this novel I now have a greater appreciation for all things that are wild. I know understand that ethics can be described in both philosophical and ecological terms. Society has formed ethics dealing with man-to-man interactions. One of the most famous of these ethics is the Golden Rule. Society needs an ethic dealing with man’s relationship to the land. Currently the only value that is seen in the land is profit. Often this narrow thinking ends up harming the environment in ways that might not seem to have immediate consequences, but will ultimately have a major impact in the future. Man-made changes have different effects than evolutionary changes. The land was built to sustain itself in a continuous cycle. It was not designed to compensate for man-made changes and this makes it more difficult for the land to repair itself. Leopold teaches that is possible to live with the land and not hurt it. When the word ‘community ‘ is normally associated with people. We must add land to this community as if it were just another person. This means that it is ok to enjoy it, but do not hurt it. In other words, you can use it as long as you do not abuse it.