



JOHN J. REILLY CENTER  
SCIENCE · TECHNOLOGY · VALUES

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## 2012 Reilly Center Forum

Jessica Hellmann

Biological Science, University of Notre Dame



**“Fixing the global commons: what humans can and should do to help nature live and thrive through climate change”**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012**

**3-5pm**

**210-4 McKenna Hall**

Climate change is shifting the conditions for life everywhere on Earth. We know from the historic record that species often shifted geographically when climate changed in the past, but a number of reasons prevent that option for some species today. When species do not shift, we risk species' extinction, loss of genetic diversity, and decreases in ecosystem goods and services. Dr. Hellmann will talk about limitations on species' natural adjustments to climate change and ideas about how humans could help species and ecosystems tolerate and persist through climate change. These ideas involve many technical considerations, but they greatly depend on our views about nature and economic and social goals. Only in considering science, ethics, and economics together can we build rational guidelines for intervention actions in nature that avoid both catastrophic losses of biodiversity and undesirable side effects.

*Jessica Hellmann is Associate Professor of Biological Sciences. She has a BS from the University of Michigan and a PhD from Stanford University. She has been at Notre Dame since 2003. Her research spans field biology, functional genomic biology, mathematical modeling and environmental policy. She has been honored by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the Aldo Leopold Program with fellowship awards. In 2012-2013, she is a sabbatical fellow at the ND Institute for Advanced Study where she is writing a book on climate change adaptation. With colleagues, Hellmann also recently created the University's new Sustainability Minor, and she is a Reilly Center Fellow.*

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