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2013 Reilly Center Forum



Ecology, Ethics, Policy, and the Wolves and Moose of Isle Royale

Tuesday, February 5, 2013
11:00 am — 12:15pm
131 Decio Hall

Michael P. Nelson, Ph.D.
Oregon State University

Isle Royale in Lake Superior is home to the longest continuous study of a predator-prey system in the world. Currently in the midst of its 55th year, ecologists are learning how wolves and moose interact in this single-predator, single-prey system. But this isn't just about long-term ecological science. The Isle Royale Wolf-Moose Project team also includes geneticists, social scientists, film makers, and one bewildered philosopher. The project has had important implications for, and direct impact upon, our policies about wolves. It offers an example of efforts to understand something about the human relationship with nature that lies at the edges and fusions of our academic disciplines.

Michael P. Nelson is the Ruth H. Spaniol Chair of Natural Resources and a professor of environmental ethics and philosophy at Oregon State University, where he also serves as the lead principle investigator for the HJ Andrews Long-Term Ecological Research program in the Oregon Cascades. He is the coeditor of The Great New Wilderness Debate (1998) and The Wilderness Debate Rages On (2008) and the coauthor of American Indian Environmental Ethics: An Ojibwa Case Study (2004), all with J. Baird Callicott. He is also the cofounder and codirector of the Conservation Ethics Group, an environmental consultancy fusing ethics with social and ecological science, and a senior fellow with the Spring Creek Project for Nature, Ideas, and the Written Word.

For more information, please contact Melinda Gormley at gormley.6@nd.edu