

Biodiversity Rules Worksheet

Student Name:

Class:

Date:

Welcome to the **Biodiversity Rules** conservation group. You're miffed at all the hoopla about America's 19th Century conservation pioneers helping pave the way for "conserving our wildlife resources". They were mostly motivated to protect their hunting interests in a handful of big game species.

Their perfect North American Model of Wildlife Conservation failed to clearly see that it's actually biodiversity that makes healthy ecosystems where all species can flourish, including the prize species they want to hunt. They say that their conservation plan is supported by science, but all the science supports the fact that the more biodiversity you have in an ecosystem, the healthier it is for all the biotic and abiotic factors in the ecosystem.

So your goal is to develop a **21st Century Conservation Pioneers Plan** that will convince the other stakeholder groups that managing for biodiversity instead of "wildlife conservation" is actually the perfect conservation plan for the greater ecosystem... which makes perfect scientific and environmental sense when you think about it.

The challenge you face is that some other stakeholder groups either think that everything's okay as it is now, or that conservation means managing a few huntable species at the cost of damaging biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

On a separate sheet of paper or on your computer, develop your own 21st Century Conservation Pioneers Plan that should include:

- Why the North American Model of Wildlife conservation actually damages ecosystems and biodiversity. Research the effects of deer and elk on ecosystems for ammunition.
- The need for your 21st Century Conservation Pioneers Plan that finally places managing biodiversity of species as the prime goal instead of the short-term managing of a few species for the 7% of humans who hunt.
- If more focus is placed on conservation programs that create biodiversity, then ecosystems can finally reach a state of homeostasis where everything that lives there can thrive in balance with nature.