a play about people and forests

EDEN CREEK

by Janean Creighton and John Sulzmann

project direction by Viviane Simon-Brown
Saving Eden Creek isn't just a play about trees. It isn't a story about who's right and who's wrong. It's a story about ethical dilemmas. It's about “right versus right.”

Each character in this play portrays a different natural resources ethic. Each believes in the rightness of his or her own viewpoint—just as each of us does:

It is right, on one hand, to preserve old growth forests for their biodiversity. It is right, on the other hand, to use the forest for jobs and wood products.

It is right to use the forest for recreation. It is also right for forest animals to live unimpeded by the presence of humans.

It is right to support local industries. It is also right to build a global economy by buying wood products from other countries.

We're interested in your reactions to Saving Eden Creek. Would you please answer the questions below? (Please don't add your name.)

Give the completed questionnaire to an usher or put it in the mail. Thanks for your help!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Saving Eden Creek succeeded in illustrating a variety of forestry issues.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The play helped me better understand other people's viewpoints on natural resources.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>The play helped me better understand my own viewpoints on natural resources.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>The character Summer Autumn states at the end of the play: “We all want something different. But we don’t all need everything we want. If we identify what we need, perhaps there are some overlaps. That could be the common ground.” She suggests that identifying our own needs and wants is a good first step.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Saving Eden Creek helped me more fully realize my personal responsibilities for using natural resources.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>I saw this play in (city) ________________________________ (state) ___________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>I am: male ___ female ___</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>My age group is: under 20 ___ 21–30 ___ 31–40 ___ 41–50 ___ 51–60 ___ 61–70 ___ over 70 ___</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:
choosing between two rights is an ethical dilemma, explains Rushworth Kidder in How Good People Make Tough Choices.

He states: ‘‘Right versus right’ choices reach inward to our most profound and central values, setting one against the other in ways that will never be resolved simply by pretending that one is ‘wrong.’”

Many natural resource problems are complex “right versus right” dilemmas, so we designed Saving Eden Creek to be an exploration of what we value about forests. It’s a conversation, if you will, among the actors, the Extension folks who created the project, and you.

In this play, we’re asking you, the audience, to consider your own values and beliefs about forests—and to try to understand the rightness of differing and opposing viewpoints.

continued from page 9

“Rethinking the American Dream,” a video and companion guide, is designed to raise awareness about our nation’s consumptive ways, help viewers evaluate their current lifestyles, and introduce choices that can improve our natural environment and quality of life. View it online at http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/EdMat/trailers/american_dream.html Or, get the package (20 min. video, 20 pp. guide, order #VTP 30; $19.95 plus $4.00 S&H) from Publication Orders, EESC, Oregon State University, 422 Kerr Admin., Corvallis, OR 97331-2119.

For more information, contact:
Viviane Simon-Brown
Oregon State University
541-737-3197
viviane.simon-brown@oregonstate.edu

Janean Creighton
Washington State University
509-335-2877
creighton@wsu.edu

© 2004 Oregon State University. Produced and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension work is a cooperative program of Oregon State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties. Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials—without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Published September 2004.
fter the performance, you’ll have the opportunity to talk about what you saw and heard. The idea is to listen and explore, not to argue and challenge. Feel free to disagree with the values expressed by the characters in the play. But, please don’t disagree with other members of the audience. Respecting people and viewpoints is central to resolving ethical dilemmas.

Here are some questions you might want to consider:

1. Which scene was most thought-provoking to you?
2. Which character seemed to best share your values?
3. Which character seemed to have the least in common with you? Did you see any commonality?
4. What “right versus right” dilemmas did you observe in the play? These can be described as:
   “On the one hand, it’s right to….
   On the other hand, it’s right to ….”
5. More than 5,000 forest products benefit us economically. Lumber, paper, food, and medicines are examples. Can you identify some forest products with social and environmental benefits for people? How can the value of these less tangible products be measured (clean water and clean air, for example)?

Resources and references


The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991 to improve public understanding of the state’s forest resources. To access its outstanding, free publications, call OFRI at 503-229-6718, or go to http://www.oregonforests.org/


On the topic of intelligent consumption, The Sustainable Living Project at OSU provides quality, research-based educational information to help you and your family make environmentally responsible decisions: http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/extended/sustain/


continued on page 10
6. Forests benefit more than humans, as we saw in the scene with the squirrels and the picnickers. What do you believe are the natural resource “rights” for nonhumans?

7. Making intelligent consumer decisions is tough. For example, in the Building Blox scene, what diverging issues stood out?

8. Consumers of natural resources—that’s all of us—have responsibilities to use those resources sustainably. How do you recommend we go about it?

9. In the last scene, the character named Summer Autumn says, “We all want something different. But we don’t all need everything we want. If we identify what we need, perhaps there’s some overlap there. That could be the common ground.”

Can you provide examples of places where people have found common ground?

---

**Did you know ... ?**

*Per-capita consumption of wood in the United States is twice the average of other developed countries.*

Those who present *Saving Eden Creek* will create a page for insertion here, giving specific information about the performance(s), such as names of cast, crew, and sponsors.