HP 302 Post-Course Survey

Please answer all of the following questions the best that you can in the order that they are presented. This test is strictly diagnostic and will be used for research purposes only. You will be identified by a coding system that protects your anonymity, and this will have no impact on any aspect of your participation in the Honor’s Program. We will provide your Honor’s Class collective compensation of $10 per completed survey.

Birth-date and middle initial _________________

Circle the best answer (True or False)

1) The Adirondack Park is a US National Park. True False

2) There is a breeding population of wolves in the Adirondacks. True False

3) Around half of the Adirondack Park is privately owned. True False

4) The St. Lawrence River is in good environmental condition. True False

5) There is more forest in northern New York today than 100 years ago. True False

6) Algonquin Park and Adirondack Park are biologically similar. True False

7) In general, government agencies have no legal right to regulate the use of private land in the US. True False

8) When an agency commissions an expert panel to produce a ‘white-paper’ on a controversial issue, the intended purpose of the paper is to persuade readers that the sponsoring agencies’ opinion on the issue is the correct one . True False

9) Economists have not yet developed systematic and sophisticated methods for placing dollar values on natural amenities such as wild areas . True False

10) In the U.S., less than 20% of the farms produce over 80% of total agricultural production. True False

11) The most planted types of transgenic crops are insect resistant crops. True False

12) Pesticide use on farms has not been documented to have adverse off-farm impacts on wild plants and animals or natural areas. True False
13) The two primary nutrients of concern in regards to the relationships between environmental quality and livestock production are nitrogen and potassium.  

14) The goal of ecosystem management is to focus primarily on the science of sustainable resource use by removing political issues and politics from consideration as much as possible.

15) A conservation easement is a tax provision that enables land to be protected from certain uses and for certain uses in perpetuity (forever).

16) Ecotourism is a sustainable method for gaining economic benefit from natural areas without the risk of over extraction that is common to other types of uses.

17) In the U.S., public lands have been reserved almost exclusively for public uses.

18) The livestock industry of most economic importance to St. Lawrence County is the beef industry.

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**Answer each of the following as completely as you can in one sentence.**

1) Why might someone wish to connect two parks via a habitat corridor?

2) Why is a species with a small population size at significantly greater risk of extinction than a species with a large population?

3) What are the main causes of biodiversity loss (extinction of species)?

4) When seeking to preserve biodiversity, why is it more desirable to have a large park than a small park?
5) Why would conservation biologists be concerned about the disappearance of top predators (like wolves, cougars, or lynx) from a biodiversity park?

6) What (if any) value is there in preserving biodiversity?

7) What type of organization is The Nature Conservancy (public or private; for-profit or non-profit) and what is its mission?

8) What are some of the concerns associated with the implementation of ecotourism schemes for protecting natural areas?

9) In general, what is the major change associated with the U.S. livestock industry over the past couple decades, and what has this meant regarding control of agricultural pollution?

10) In regards to private property and public (governmental) policy, what are “givings” and “takings”? 
Circle the answer that best corresponds to your honest opinion.

1) By participating in this course, I developed knowledge and skills that will be useful to me in the future.
   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

2) I was interested in the content of this course.
   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

3) Over the last year, I have thought about some issues or concepts that I first learned about in this course.
   Never  Occasionally  Frequently

4) I have been more aware of environmental issues pertaining to the Adirondack / St. Lawrence Valley region during the past year than before I took the course.
   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

5) I have been more aware of national or global environmental issues during the past year than before I took the course.
   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

6) My knowledge of issues relating to the Adirondack Park is
   Very Poor  Poor  Fair  Good  Very Good

7) My knowledge of environmental issues of concern to the St. Lawrence Valley is
   Very Poor  Poor  Fair  Good  Very Good

8) My knowledge of agricultural issues of concern to the St. Lawrence Valley is
   Very Poor  Poor  Fair  Good  Very Good

9) My knowledge of the science of conservation biology is
   Very Poor  Poor  Fair  Good  Very Good

10) My knowledge of the recent developments in agricultural science and technology is
    Very Poor  Poor  Fair  Good  Very Good

11) I am a member of an environmental or conservation organization
    Yes  No

12) I have a good understanding of the debates surrounding the private use of public lands
    Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree
13) I have a good understanding of how and why local, state and federal governments acquire and manage lands for conservation purposes.
   
   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

14) I am concerned about environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

15) Private land use should **not** be regulated, even if it means that the local environment may become degraded or some biodiversity may be lost.

   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

16) More land needs to be managed for conservation purposes in Northern New York.

   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

17) More land needs to be managed for conservation purposes in the United States.

   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

18) The Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation are unfair to residents in the Adirondack Park.

   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

19) The Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation do a good job of preserving the environmental quality of the Adirondack Park.

   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

20) The Adirondack Park provides a good model for how to manage a conservation area that incorporates both public and private lands.

   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

21) I am generally in favor of the use of transgenic crops in agricultural production.

   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

22) I support organic agriculture.

   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree

23) The federal government should use public funds to pay farmers to employ environmentally beneficial management practices and technologies.

   Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neutral  Agree  Strongly Agree