

A new book has been published about Global Climate Change and Environment. The Corvallis community was first introduced to NATURE'S TRUST at a lecture series on "The Commons" 10 years ago right here in Burt Hall.

Wood, Mary C. 2014. Nature's Trust: environmental law for a new ecological age. Cambridge University Press, 436 pp. ([mwood@uoregon.edu](mailto:mwood@uoregon.edu))

The PUBLIC TRUST concept in a nutshell:

- Waters, wildlife and air remain common property belonging to the people as a whole. They are in a **perpetual trust** for future generations.
- Present and future generations are legal beneficiaries. Government (s) have a fiduciary obligation over these resources.
- Implicit in 8<sup>th</sup> grade civics is that a government exists to support the people's interests.

## Wood maintains that:

- All three branches of government must carry out their fiduciary responsibility, not just the judicial branch
  - All "natural resources" are held in trust, not just water and wildlife
  - All governmental agencies must comply, not just states, the Federal Government, or Indian Tribes
- All ownership is involved, not just public ownership

## Extending these ideas to our planet and the world, viz. Global Climate Change:

- The Oceans and the atmosphere belong *to ALL* people of the earth
- We must think outside the legal sphere to include – political concepts, ethical meanings, diplomatic frameworks, and economic principles
- The public trust is as important as The Magna Carta (1215), and Ghandi's march to the sea in 1930

**As a teacher I am a Climate Victory Speaker to:**

- Wake up my fellow citizens to the climate crisis and other ecological threats
- Inspire citizens to encourage government leadership to respond to the crisis
- Model a personal low carbon lifestyle change
- Seed communities with re-localization initiatives

Mary's book is not cheap (\$100) and is not yet generally held in local libraries. My copy came on interlibrary loan from The Evergreen State University, through the Albany Public Library.

**Thank you for listening!**

**And thanks to Kari and the presenters for a very informative two-day workshop.**