

Dear Carolyn --

1. **What advice you do have for young up and coming environmental stewards and activists?**

- Pursue what's true, and communicate as richly and accurately as possible, instead of reaching for what you think will be powerful. Truth is in short supply. Many received truths, especially about activism, are bunk. This will give you great freedom, power, the best friendships, and personal fulfillment. Don't focus on popular movements or put your trust in coalitions, which will be limited to the lowest common denominator. Don't confuse the social with the political, or peer approval with any kind of truth. We suspect that the wholehearted pursuit and communication of truth, rightly considered, is all that's needed for all wholesome political ends.
- Cultivate, protect, and cherish integrity wherever you find it.
- What is good for the environment will be, first and foremost, what is good for the poor and vulnerable, and for vulnerable species. Good environmental policy is also practical environmental politics, as well as good economic policy and sound social policy. To protect the environment, economy, and society, protect the poor and vulnerable. The recent failures of climate politics and policy nationally and in New Mexico were the result of promoting a cap and trade system which would not have helped the climate, was not good economic policy, and would have disproportionately hit the pocketbooks of the poor. These last two factors made cap and trade a political non-starter.
- Live simply and commit yourself to a life of service. "You must get your living by loving," as Henry Thoreau said. To do this you must gradually learn to die to all that is superficial and selfish in yourself and live a deeper and a wider life. You will die anyway, so what do you have to lose? Choose sanity, fulfillment, and the richness of lasting companionship. Dig in and make it work. Wherever you are, put down roots. Fulfillment can be found in all the environmental roles -- warrior, steward, builder.
- There is a unique, fulfilling, and powerfully effective path for you, as a result of the good deeds you have done and the compassionate vows that express the essence of your soul. We all can say, with Wordsworth in the Prelude, "I made no vows, but vows were then made for me." That soul is largely outside your body and does not live entirely in secular time. It communicates with those in pain as well as with the great benefactors of our species. You will find the speech and actions you need to unlock the future if you don't get in the way.
- Please understand that while catastrophe is alas now inevitable, and tens if not hundreds of thousands of species will become extinct and billions of people will live short and painful lives, it could still be worse. It will definitely be worse if we do not do our duty. Once we know what's going on, saving lives and species, with all the effectiveness we can muster, is our duty. Nelson's famous signal just before the Battle of Trafalgar comes to mind: "England expects that every man will do his duty." We must find our personal enlightenment, our happiness, in *doing what needs to be done* or we will be part of the downward drift.
- Leave entertainment and fun behind in favor of authentic experience and wisdom. They last.

- Be confident that in choosing a life of environmental service, you have made a great and noble choice, come what may. It will at times seem difficult and confusing -- even impossible -- but the answers you need lie in you yourself and you can find the way forward, for yourself and for those who are depending on you. The challenges that assail you now are a perfect fit to your present capacities.
 - Respect is the political analogue of love. Work at it, but call a spade a damn shovel when it's necessary to do so or chaos will result, and you'll be in it.
2. **Not including water shortages, what is the biggest threat to New Mexico's environment?**
- Global warming is the biggest environmental threat everywhere but especially in the American Southwest.
 - The biggest threats to New Mexico's environment are ignorance, complacency, and the expectation of a consumer lifestyle.
3. **What can the average person do to make the government, oil, gas, and other energy corporations and other polluting big industry accountable for environmental issues they cause?**
- The average person can do *nothing* to make corporations and government accountable. We have got to get real and leave behind childish fairy tales -- even (or especially) those promoted by environmental groups. Every single person *can* protect the environment from these entities, but we have to become non-average persons first. We have to care more than the average person, which will lead to above-average commitment, which in turn will lead to knowledge, friends, and influence. The notion that the average person can change the course of history by a few small actions -- or even opinions and idle speech, as many apparently think! -- is deeply pernicious and destructive.
4. **Please add anything else that you think people should know about what you do.**
- The credit for what we have done, and may do, goes to our whole team and to those whose generosity sustains our work. That work now includes energy and climate policy as well as nuclear weapons policy. Lots of doors are open to us in Washington.
 - We may be able to speak to your organization if you ask.
 - We would like to train more UNM students and interns, but most interns need a financial incentive, and funds are scarce. Go to your Sandia Lab friends -- some of them might want to help support our work, and most can well afford it.
 - We have entered the twilight of the nuclear gods. Gradual disarmament is now inevitable, but our mutual survival depends on *quickly* accepting and dealing with energy and environmental reality and leaving behind Cold War thinking.