

<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	<b>Launch Lab: Whose Planet?</b>	<b>BLM 2.0.1</b>
<b>HANDOUT</b>		

**Proposal:** That other organisms and natural entities should enjoy the same rights as humans.

### Procedure

1. Consider this proposal by applying your current knowledge and feelings about biosphere connections to one of the following scenarios. Discuss your views and ideas with a partner or in a small group.
  - People wanting to enjoy the quiet and beauty of nature build homes in “wild” areas that are habitat for other species. Should one species (humans) be allowed to “own” the habitat of other species?
  - Loggers working to support their families and communities are often hampered by laws protecting organisms such as endangered owls and old-growth trees. Should these other organisms have rights that encroach on a person’s right to make a living?
  - Tourist operators and their clients now have the technology and financial resources to venture almost anywhere in Canada. This includes using helicopters to take mountain bikers and skiers into delicate alpine terrain and taking motor boats through sensitive wetlands. Should people be allowed to go anywhere they wish for whatever purpose?

### Analysis

1. In your opinion, should other organisms have the same rights as humans? Should those rights apply only to some organisms? How would you choose?
2. Is it justifiable to extend rights and laws to natural entities such as a mountain? Is it practical? Does that matter? Defend your opinions.