Environmental Activism
Ecosabotage and Civil Disobedience

What a definition of ecosabotage must do:

(1) distinguish it from legal protests.

(2) distinguish it from other forms of sabotage (e.g., in wartime).

(3) not restrict it to forms of property damage.

(4) distinguish it from civilly disobedient practices of, e.g., Greenpeace.

(5) distinguish if from mere vandalism — which is motivated by boredom, malice, revenge, etc.
Martin’s definition of ‘ecosabotage’: 

Person P’s act A is an act of ecosabotage iff:

[goal]

(1) In doing A, P’s aim is to stop, frustrate, or slow down some process or act that P believes will harm or damage the environment;

(reason)

(2) P’s act A is motivated by a sense of religious or moral concern;

(method)

(3) A is illegal;

(4) A is not a public act.
Ecosabotage and Civil Disobedience

An act, A, is civilly disobedient iff A is….

1. Towards some “vital social purpose” (sometimes: the revocation of the very law being violated)
2. Motivated by some higher moral or religious law.
4. Public
5. Deliberately illegal.

Howard Zinn: an act of civil disobedience is a deliberate violation of the law for a vital social purpose.