

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 it from mere vandalism — which is motivated by boredom, malice, revenge, etc.

Ecosabotage and Civil Disobedience

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.
- (3) Nonviolent.
- (4) Public
- (5) Deliberately illegal.

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