



PAUL ROBBINS

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Paul Robbins is dean of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a role he has filled since joining the Institute in 2012. He guides the Institute as it serves as a world leader in addressing rapid global environmental change. He also is strengthening the Institute's commitment to the Wisconsin Idea through the expansion of innovative service-learning and internship programs as well as partnerships across campus, with outside agencies and organizations, and with the sovereign native nations in the state now known as Wisconsin. Over many years as a researcher and educator, Paul has focused on human interactions with nature and the politics of natural resource management. He has taught topics ranging from environmental studies and natural resource policy to social theory. After receiving his PhD, Paul taught and led at various colleges and universities across the U.S., including establishing and then leading the School of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona. Paul's research addresses questions spanning conservation conflicts, urban ecology, and environment and health interactions. He has done extensive fieldwork in rural India, where he has focused his work on the politics surrounding forestry and wildlife conservation in Rajasthan, India, as well as recent research examining the wealth of biodiversity (frogs, birds, and mammals) in commercial coffee and rubber plantations throughout south India. He also has led national studies of consumer chemical risk behaviors in America, including research on the abiding passion of Americans for their lawns and mosquito management policies in the Southwest. In addition, he has studied the complexities of elk management policy on the settled fringes of Yellowstone National Park. Paul received a BS and an MS in geography from Clark University (Massachusetts) and a PhD in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.