Mission: The Aldo Leopold Foundation's mission is to weave a land ethic into the fabric of our society; to advance the understanding, stewardship and restoration of land health; and to cultivate leadership for conservation.

Target Population: families, students, and adults

Local audiences served:
Baraboo area tourists (particular focus on those who have read A Sand County Almanac or are familiar with Leopold in some way)
Natural resource professionals
Families
Retirees
Outdoor recreationists
College students
High school students
Landowners

Outreach audiences served:
Natural resource professionals
College professors
Environmental Educators
Grade 6-12 teachers
Environmental scholars
Readers of A Sand County Almanac in other countries (translated into 11 languages)
Viewers of the Green Fire film (has shown in all 50 states and 20 foreign countries)

Current Programs:
The Foundation offers a broad variety of programming in land ethic education and land health/land stewardship. Programs range from on-site tours and meeting rentals to a Leopold based curriculum for teachers, and from extensive hands-on land stewardship on our property, to landowner education.

Land Ethic Leader Program: encourages open-ended thinking, listening, discussion, and collaborative efforts to improve conservation and environmental education on the ground with the goal of empowering conservation leaders all over the country to find creative ways to build a land ethic in their own thinking communities.
http://www.aldoleopold.org/Programs/lel.shtml
Driftless Forest Network/My Wisconsin Woods: a partnership among a multitude of state, federal, and private agencies seeking to improve delivery of conservation tools to landowners on the ground. The public face of the Driftless Forest Network is the website My Wisconsin Woods, a clearinghouse of information for landowners. This project is being replicated in other parts of the state and across the nation, and has potential to help conservation professionals fundamentally change the way they reach out to impact private lands stewardship across the nation.  
http://mywisconsinwoods.org/

Project Development Guidelines:

• Could use a HEX scholar for the Land Ethic Leadership program

Program-Design Needs:

1. Discussion facilitation around environmental values is a key focus of Land Ethic Leaders. A HEX scholar could organize a series of discussions to engage various groups—the local community in Baraboo, or more broadly Sauk County. Or it could be more targeted toward specific organizations and gatherings. The discussions that program graduates are prepared to lead are reflective, and use a piece of literature that helps participants explore larger themes, each one revolving around a central question about our relationship to the land.

2. Could collaborate with a graduate student to review existing readings/themes that are used to engage participants in reflective discussions, and in compiling a list of suggested new readings to round out the themes and appeal. There is also the possibility of publishing a kind of booklet for participants which would include the content of the program handbook, as well as a collection of best readings paired with discussion questions. A graduate student could contribute to this kind of project as well, working to secure permissions and creating/refining discussion plans for readings.

3. Depending on the length of the term that the student would be engaged, the Foundation could tailor an experience to prep the student to become a co-facilitator of the Land Ethic Leader program alongside a member of Aldo Leopold Foundation staff. Currently one of their biggest challenges with offering the program more broadly is limited staff capacity. Frequently they are asked to offer these programs in other areas of the country, so a project involving this component would involve travel for the student and would require a flexible schedule.

Future Programs:
Developing more programming and support for a network of “ambassadors.” These include graduates of the Land Ethic Leader program, people who use the Leopold Education Project curriculum, people who have shown the Green Fire film, and people who host Aldo Leopold Weekend events annually. Shared needs among these ambassadors include:
• Vehicles for regular communication— from the ambassador to ALF, and amongst ambassadors (focused either geographically or in specific professions/areas of interest)
• An easy to access, easy to use repository of all the educational tools and programming developed by the Aldo Leopold Foundation available to ambassadors
• Web-based learning and networking opportunities to keep the ambassadors connected to the Aldo Leopold Foundation and each other
• Possibility of hosting a live multi-day conference for ambassadors as early as 2015.

Leopold Education Project
http://www.aldoleopold.org/Programs/lep.shtml

Green Fire film
http://www.aldoleopold.org/greenfire/index.shtml