Megan Gilger

After reading David Holmgren's Essence of Permaculture, I had some take aways on the Principles that I didn't have previously from my studies.

Here are 3 of the principles that will be a guide for my design of the site I am working on and how they relate specifically to the design I am working, and design as a whole:

1. **Produce No Waste:**  
We have some loops to close here, but this one has guided other systems we have built. Living on 15 acres, makes you acutely aware of your waste as there isn't the average urban or suburban trash systems. You pay per bag you produce, so we are constantly pursuing ways to offset waste. We have a closed loop for composting involving chickens and garden/land organic matter places for the compost to land, but we need to offset other wastes in the future.

2. **Catch and Store Energy:**  
We have an abundance of energy available to us on our land from natural sunlight exposure, wind being on an exposed SW hilltop, and the movement of water even with sandy soil. These two just on their own are their own form of energy we are looking constantly to capture. Whether through the addition of solar eventually a wind turbine, or rain barrels or swales we have a lot of options and I am excited to explore them as part of the larger system and decide what plays the best to the whole system.

3. **Use and Value Renewable Resources:**  
This one sort of ties back to the waste and storing energy, but I grabbed on to this one because of how Holmgren connected the dots of investments. He stated something about how we shouldn't spend capital assets on day-to-day expenses (correlating to using fossil fuels being used for everyday things) but instead we should consider how we can use our consistent income on what we use for day-to-day (meaning wood or stored energy for fuel rather than gasoline). I really hadn't thought of it that way but I felt that was an excellent analogy and I am sort of swirling on that one.

On a larger note, as someone who comes a Graphic Design and Art background, I always find these Design Principles so interesting. My partner works in user experience design and we have sat and discussed the implications of theese design principles on his work as well. Though I use them for designing our forest garden and other landscape projects, seeing how he can connect them into a digital and human interactive experience is also really amazing to see just the breadth they span in design.