

in Europe and the Great Lakes in North America, providing a thorough introduction to the concept of ecosystem management as well as the problems common to managing transboundary resources.

The selection of cases here is somewhat eclectic, but while not every important issue in the field is represented, the volume covers a good range. For readers seeking in-depth background material on these issues, the contributors have done a good job of introducing their often complex histories and jargon (a six-page table of acronyms is also helpful). Although “theory agnosticism” was the authors’ charge, from my perspective the most successful chapters were those, like Harrison’s and Wilkening’s, which did explicitly confront existing theory, rather than just raise questions. The editors’ concluding chapter provides students with an excellent model for sifting through theory and data to formulate new hypotheses. Readers who delve into these cases and engage in the theory-building exercise should be closer to answering one of the book’s most critical questions about the current state of interactions between science and politics (p. 133): “Is there an alternative?”

Bocking, Stephen. 2004. *Nature's Experts: Science, Politics and the Environment*. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Reviewed by Paul P. Craig
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While virtually all environmental issues involve substantial elements of science, the way in which science affects policy is always complex and always involves values and judgments that go far beyond science itself. In *Nature's Experts*, Stephen Bocking provides a superb introduction to the complexity of these interactions. He illuminates these issues from the multiple and overlapping perspectives of scientists, institutions, interest groups, and citizens.

The book evolved from a course Bocking teaches to science and non-science undergraduate students at Trent University, Ontario. The course is designed to show non-scientists how science works, to show scientists the complexity of real-world environmental decision-making, and to help both groups understand why scientific conclusions so often play disappointingly small roles in real life decisions.

His approach is deeply embedded in the “democratic” approach to science characteristic of the US, Canada and other open societies. Ideally, in these societies information used in the policy process would be relevant, technically credible, and politically legitimate. The strength of the book is its clear explanations of how and why failure frequently occurs, and its suggestions of how to do better.

From an intellectual point of view, one might assert that how much knowledge is necessary for an informed decision depends on the complexity of the science, the consequences of the decision and societal decisions about how much any of this matters. From a practical point of view things can look quite different. For illustrative purposes I’ll focus on one area: research.

There's an old saying in the policy community: "He who controls the agenda controls the outcome." It's a bit of an overstatement, but contains much truth. Methodological choices affect outcomes. If research agendas can be controlled, then certain types of information won't be obtained. Sensitive subjects may be downplayed or even kept off the table entirely.

Choices of research methodology always require making decisions favoring one set of values relative to another. For example, individuals concerned about the intrinsic value of eagles may well feel that a study of windmills formulated in pure benefit/cost terms overemphasizes monetization at the expense of species and intergenerational equity. A research agenda designed to look only at the effects of individual chemicals will systematically exclude synergistic effects. Bocking provides numerous examples, ranging from valuation of ecosystems to decisions over siting of hazardous facilities in places where minorities live.

The fact that outcomes can be influenced by research agendas means that science can be a significant tool for maintaining social power. Bocking explores this theme from many dimensions, one which is the question of whether objectivity is achieved if scientists are required to disclose funding sources (no disclosure is desirable but is not sufficient).

Bocking uses a broad range of examples, among them management of natural resources, international environmental disputes including global climate change, and environmental health risks. His focus is not on the science itself, but on how science is developed and used. Extensive references make it easy for the interested reader to learn about the actual science relevant to the cases examined.

Nature's Experts provides an excellent introduction to the kinds of questions non-scientists should ask of scientists, and the questions that scientists need to ask themselves when their work touches the policy world. The material should be a part of every environmental science curriculum. This book offers a good way to get it there.

Rootes, Christopher, ed. 2003. *Environmental Protest in Western Europe*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

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This first of three volumes to emerge from the Transformation of Environmental Activism Project (TEA) confronts the claim that western European environmental movements have been in decline since reaching a peak in the late 1980s. Edited by TEA coordinator Christopher Rootes, *Environmental Protest in Western Europe* provides an overdue examination of protest activity from 1988 to 1997 in Britain, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Basque Country, and Sweden. Following in the footsteps of previous efforts to trace the evolution of protest using newspaper records, the empirical analysis makes a significant contribu-