

Human Nature: A Blueprint for Managing the Earth--by People, for People

James Trefil

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A radical approach to the environment which argues that by harnessing the power of science for human benefit, we can have a healthier planet

As a prizewinning theoretical physicist and an outspoken advocate for scientific literacy, James Trefil has long been the public's guide to a better understanding of the world. In this provocative book, Trefil looks squarely at our environmental future and finds-contrary to popular wisdom-reason to celebrate. For too long, Trefil argues, humans have treated nature as something separate from themselves-pristine wilderness to be saved or material resources to be exploited. What we need instead is a scientific approach to the environment that embraces the human transformation of nature for our benefit. In *Human Nature*, Trefil exposes the benefits of genetically modified species, uncovers vital facts about droughts and global warming, and points to examples of environmental management where catering to humans reaps greater rewards than sheltering other species. By taking advantage of explosive advances in the sciences, we can fruitfully manage the planet, if we rise to the challenge.

Like Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and Paul Ehrlich's *Population Bomb*, *Human Nature* promises to fundamentally alter the way we perceive our relationship to the Earth-but with optimism rather than alarm.



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