(2023 March 16) You can't negotiate with a beetle- Mary Christina Wood

The essay linked here is a freely available earlier draft (2010) of what later became the Introduction to Mary Christina Wood's Nature's Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age (Cambridge UP, 2014), a book I'm currently reading and highly recommend to anyone who wants to understand climate change not only in terms of specific examples of natural degradation rather than the more commonly discussed (and often more incomprehensible) global numbers and projections, but in terms of what specific changes must take place in our environmental laws, regulations and paradigms if we are to avoid total ecological collapse.

We are all familiar with catastrophic forecasts and doomsday deadlines, but in the face of hardheaded denial, economic inertia, political gridlock and obstinate widespread public ignorance and apathy, we seldom see concrete guidelines for how to address, and if possible avert, the disaster. Wood offers some practical options with a focus on needed changes in environmental law, a relevant and volatile field we seldom see discussed by politicians, pundits or the journalists who report on them.

Mary C. Wood, You Can't Negotiate with a Beetle: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age, 50 Nat. Res. J. 167 (2010).

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