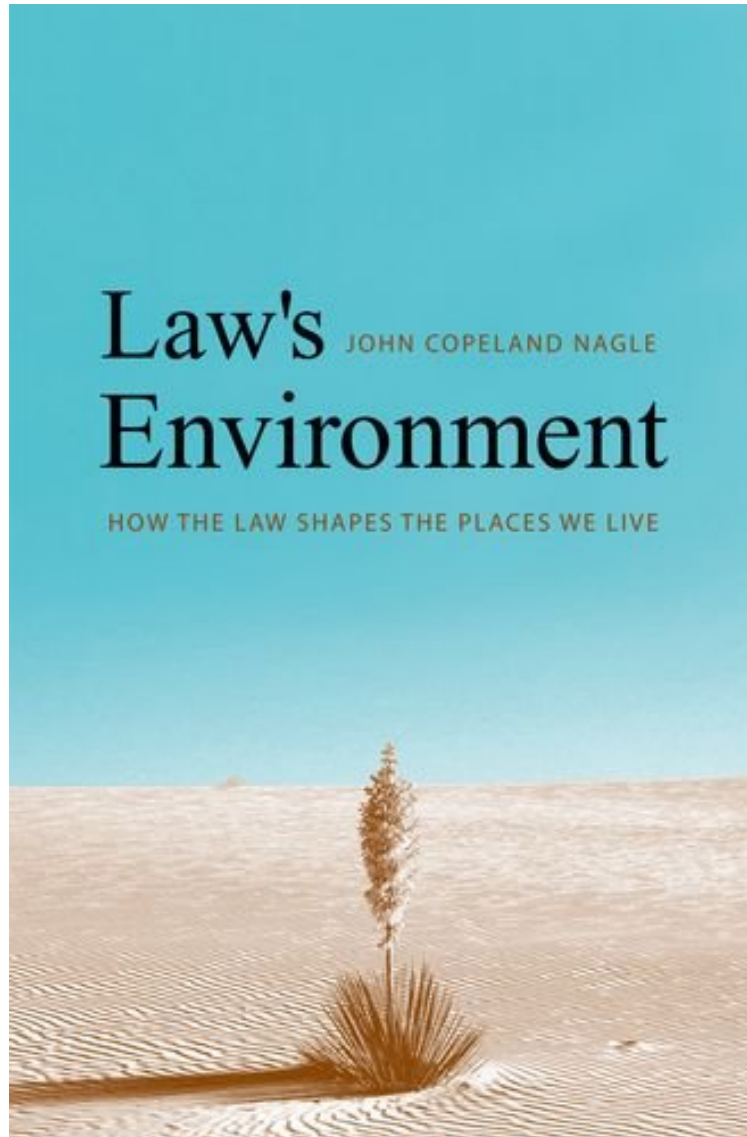


[E-BOOK] Law's Environment: How the Law Shapes the Places We Live

Law's Environment: How the Law Shapes the Places We Live

John Copeland Nagle

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John Copeland Nagle : Law's Environment: How the Law Shapes the Places We Live before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Law's Environment: How the Law Shapes the Places We Live:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Environment's ReviewBy mcphLaw's Environment: How the Law Shapes the Places We Liveby John Copeland Nagle.John N. Matthews Professor, University of Notre Dame Law School.John Nagle's book, Law's Environment, is the result of his in depth study of five cases concerning U.S.

environmental problems and their regulation. These locations are widely distributed within the U.S. and rife with myriad causes, mistakes, corrections and mismanagement. We read how too many agencies, political maneuvering, change on top of change, overlapping laws and regulations in the past and now, continue to impede effective, desirable management for a better and sustainable environment. The five locations are: Adak, Alaska; Colton, California; The Badlands of North Dakota; The Susquehanna River; Alamogordo, New Mexico. The reader learns that the confluences of every governing body whether federal, state, county, or township, as well as landowners, uninformed, indifferent, or generally contentious citizens, businesses and a multiplicity of interested organizations make reasonable management impossible. This haphazard and inept system is the worst possible for habitat regulation short of doing nothing—which is cheaper though unconscionable. The agencies involved, if listed in full, would fill a small book. Our population is relentlessly expanding, our open land is shrinking, and wildlife is often fatally stressed. The result has been the ruin of too many once healthy environments. Blame can be broadly applied, and that list could also fill a rather fat book. America's roll call of toxic, ruined, or endangered areas is much longer than Nagle's five. In some cases, ongoing efforts to rectify previous errors in an area have taken more than ten years, with no real end in sight. Many are near our largest waters, and Nagle's chapter about the Susquehanna is a small example. Too many people ignore the idea expressed in: "...for the common good." Too many tend to think only of personal gains. Even with a smattering of knowledge one realizes that earth's climate has previously experienced extreme changes and we are not immune to similar happenings which may be precipitated by the continuing contamination of our world. It seems expedient for some, who wish not to be bothered, to claim there can be no climate change. Others rely on NIMBY as their final and complete action. It should be said that after reading Nagle's clear review of our growing hazards, that we should not allow this problem to become politicized. Everyone has a stake in preventing environmental deterioration and in recovering a safe, whole, environment. Within the life time of the older population, it was believed that industrial poisoning occurred in specific locations, but believed that away from those locations, one found clean water and air, uncontaminated foods and earth. To return, even to that, would be a spectacular achievement. This book is rather dense because our environmental problems and innumerable solutions are dense. Nagle's concluding chapter is an important review of critical points including a restatement of his three themes: "...the elusive nature of values;" "...the changing nature of the law;" that "...the law operates much differently from what is suggested by the stories told in the judicial decisions that are our most familiar accounts of the operation of environmental law." Nagle's core purpose is given in his last paragraph: "I am not suggesting that these five stories reveal all that one needs to know about environmental law. Rather, I hope that they and their tentative lessons will encourage us to learn more about the actual effects of environmental law and other laws upon the environment." There are pages of references that support his findings, and for readers' research for further information. This book should be read reflectively with time to review and understand that other such situations may be nearby. Carolyn P. Handy reviewer

John Copeland Nagle shows how our reliance on environmental law affects the natural environment through an examination of five diverse places in the American landscape: Alaska's Adak Island; the Susquehanna River; Colton in California's Inland Empire; Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the badlands of North Dakota; and Alamogordo in New Mexico. Nagle asks why some places are preserved by the law while others are not, and he finds that environmental laws often have unexpected results while other laws have surprising effects on the environment. Nagle argues that sound environmental policy requires better coordination among the many laws, regulations, and social norms that determine the values and uses of our scarce lands and waters.

"Nagle reveals a remarkably nuanced understanding of the many ways that law affects the landscape. I wanted to visit each place after reading the book and found myself looking differently at the landscape around me." Michael P. Vandenberg, Carlton Tackington Professor of Law and Director, Climate Change Research Network, Vanderbilt University Law School