

AP-ES Selected Reading List

Abbey, Edward. 1990. *Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness*.

Edward Abbey lived for three seasons in the desert at Moab, Utah, and what he discovered about the land before him, the world around him, and the heart that beat within, is a fascinating, sometimes raucous, always personal account of a place that has already disappeared, but is worth remembering and living through again and again. (GoodReads)

Arms, Myron. 1999. *Riddle of Ice: A Scientific Adventure into the Arctic*.

Weaving together the unfolding narrative of the voyage itself with a groundbreaking synthesis of the latest theories about Arctic ice production--and the troubling signals it may now be sending us--*Riddle of the Ice* is a taut and suspenseful science mystery told as captain's log. This is narrative nonfiction of the highest caliber, and it is certain to become a classic in the genre. (GoodReads)

Bormann, F. Herbert and Stephen Kellert (eds.). 1993. *Ecology, Economics, Ethics: The Broken Circle*.

In this highly readable book a distinguished group of environmental experts argues that in order to solve global environmental problems, we must view them in a broad interdisciplinary perspective that recognizes the relationships--the interconnected circle--among ecology, economics, and ethics. (GoodReads)

Brown, Kenneth. 1996. *Four Corners: History, Land, and People of the Desert Southwest*.

In this masterful tour de force of nature writing, Kenneth Brown explores one of the most awe-inspiring regions on earth -- the Four Corners of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. Providing a fresh perspective on a region currently enjoying an upwelling of interest, *Four Corners* is a fascinating study of one of the world's great wonders -- compelling reading for all science, nature, anthropology and travel aficionados. (GoodReads)

Cohen, Joel. 1996. *How Many People Can the Earth Support?*

With the world population now at 5.7 billion, and increasing by about 90 million per year, we have clearly entered a zone where we can see, and may well encounter, limits on the human carrying capacity of the Earth. In this penetrating analysis of one of the most crucial questions of our time, a leading scholar in the field reviews the history of world population growth and appraises what can be known about its future. (Note: The Earth's population is far greater, now.) (GoodReads)

Carson, Rachel. 1962. *Silent Spring*.

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was first published in three serialized excerpts in the *New Yorker* in June of 1962. The book appeared in September of that year and the outcry that followed its publication forced the banning of DDT and spurred revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. Carson's passionate concern for the future of our planet reverberated powerfully throughout the world, and her eloquent book was instrumental in launching the environmental movement. It is without question one of the landmark books of the twentieth century. (GoodReads)

Clover, Charles. 2006. *The End of the Line: How Overfishing Is Changing the World and What We Eat*.

In this vivid, eye-opening book—first published in the UK to wide acclaim and now extensively revised for an American audience—environmental journalist Charles Clover argues that our passion for fish is unsustainable. Seventy-five percent of the world's fish stocks are now fully exploited or overfished; the most popular varieties risk extinction within the next few decades. (Good Reads)

Cone, Marla. 2006. *Silent Snow: The Slow Poisoning of the Arctic*.

Traditionally thought of as the last great unspoiled territory on Earth, the Arctic is in reality home to some of the most contaminated people and animals on the planet. *Silent Snow* is not only a scientific journey, but a personal one. Whether hunting giant bowhead whales with native Alaskans who are struggling to protect their livelihood, or tracking endangered polar bears in Norway, Cone reports with an insider's eye on the dangers of pollution to native peoples and ecosystems, how Arctic cultures are adapting to this pollution, and what solutions will prevent the crisis from getting worse. (GoodReads)

Cook, Langdon. 2017. *Upstream: Searching for Wild Salmon, from River to Table*

Langdon Cook goes in search of the salmon in *Upstream*, his timely and in-depth look at how these beloved fish have nourished humankind through the ages and why their destiny is so closely tied to our own. Cook journeys up and down salmon country, from the glacial rivers of Alaska to the rainforests of the Pacific Northwest to California's drought-stricken Central Valley and a wealth of places in between. Reporting from remote coastlines and busy city streets, he follows today's commercial pipeline from fisherman's net to corporate seafood vendor to boutique marketplace. At stake is nothing less than an ancient livelihood. (GoodReads)

Cronon, William. 2003. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*.

In this landmark work of environmental history, William Cronon offers an original and profound explanation of the effects European colonists' sense of property and their pursuit of capitalism had upon the ecosystems of New England. With its chilling closing line, "The people

of plenty were a people of waste," Cronon's enduring and thought-provoking book is ethno-ecological history at its best. (GoodReads)

Devall, Bill and George Sessions. 2001. *Deep Ecology: Living as if Nature Mattered.*

Practicing is simple. Nothing forced, nothing violent, just settling into our place. "Deep ecology," a term originated in 1972 by Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess, is emerging as a way to develop harmony between individuals, communities and nature. DEEP ECOLOGY--the term and the book--unfolds the path to living a simple, rich life and shows how to participate in major environmental issues in a positive and creative manner. (GoodReads)

Diamond, Jared. 1997. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies.*

In this Pulitzer Prize book, noted physiologist Jared Diamond poses an answer to the question of why some societies have been able to conquer and displace others. Diamond devotes a number of chapters to the history and development of agriculture and its effect on human societies.

_____. 2005. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed.*

What caused some of the great civilizations of the past to fall into ruin, and what can we learn from their fates? Using a vast historical and geographical perspective ranging from Easter Island and the Maya to Viking Greenland and modern Montana, Diamond traces a fundamental pattern of environmental catastrophe - one whose warning signs can be seen in our modern world and that we ignore at our peril. Blending the most recent scientific advances into a narrative that is impossible to put down, "Collapse" exposes the deepest mysteries of the past, even as it offers hope for the future. (GoodReads)

Dillard, Annie. 2007. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek.*

An exhilarating meditation on nature and its seasons—a personal narrative highlighting one year's exploration on foot in the author's own neighborhood in Tinker Creek, Virginia. In the summer, Dillard stalks muskrats in the creek and contemplates wave mechanics; in the fall she watches a monarch butterfly migration and dreams of Arctic caribou. She tries to con a coot; she collects pond water and examines it under a microscope. She unties a snake skin, witnesses a flood, and plays 'King of the Meadow' with a field of grasshoppers. (GoodReads)

Di Silvestro, Roger L. 1989. *The Endangered Kingdom: The Struggle to Save America's Wildlife.*

How well have we done with protecting our beleaguered species? What is the full impact of the Endangered Species Act? Is there a role for game hunters in wildlife management programs? This gracefully written and impassioned book explores these questions as it surveys our history of destruction and protection of the animals that share our lands, seas, and skies. (GoodReads)

Ehrlich, Gretel. 1992. *The Solace of Open Spaces*.

A stunning collection of personal observations that uses images of the American West to probe larger concerns in lyrical, evocative prose that is a true celebration of the region. (GoodReads)

Ehrlich, Paul R. 1971. *The Population Bomb*.

The Population Bomb predicted disaster due to overpopulation, that "in the 1970s & 1980s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death", that nothing can be done to avoid mass famine & radical action is needed to limit overpopulation. (GoodReads)

_____, **Anne H. Ehrlich, and Gretchen C. Daily. *The Stork and the Plow: The Equity Answer to the Human Dilemma*.**

In this provocative book, the authors look at the interaction between population and food supply and offer a powerful and radical strategy for balancing human numbers with nutritional needs. Their proposals include improving the status of women, reducing racism and religious prejudice, reforming the agricultural system, and shrinking the growing gap between rich and poor. (GoodReads)

Forsyth, Adrian and Ken Miyata. 1987. *Tropical Nature: Life and Death in the Rain Forests of Central and South America*.

Seventeen marvelous essays introducing the habitats, ecology, plants, and animals of the Central and South American rainforest. (Amazon)

Friedman, Thomas L. 2008. *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution -- and How It Can Renew America*.

In this brilliant, essential book, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Thomas L. Friedman speaks to America's urgent need for national renewal and explains how a green revolution can bring about both a sustainable environment and a sustainable America. (GoodReads)

Garrett, Laurie. 1995. *The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance*.

Laurie Garrett takes you on a fifty-year journey through the world's battles with microbes and examines the worldwide conditions that have culminated in recurrent outbreaks of newly discovered diseases, epidemics of diseases migrating to new areas, and mutated old diseases that are no longer curable. She argues that it is not too late to take action to prevent the further onslaught of viruses and microbes, and offers possible solutions for a healthier future. (GoodReads)

Girling, Richard. 2014. *The Hunt for the Golden Mole: All Creatures Great and Small, and Why They Matter*

The Hunt for the Golden Mole is an engaging story which illustrates the importance of every living creature, no matter how small, strange or rare. It is a thoughtful, shocking, inspiring and important book. (GoodReads)

Gore, Al. 2006. *An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It.*

In *An Inconvenient Truth* Gore writes about the urgent need to solve the problems of climate change, presenting comprehensive facts and information on all aspects of global warming in a direct, thoughtful and compelling way, using explanatory diagrams and dramatic photos to clarify and highlight key issues. The book has been described in the New York Times as one which could 'push awareness of global warming to a real tipping point'. The documentary film of the same name, based on the book, premiered at this year's Sundance Festival to great acclaim. (GoodReads)

Goodall, Jane and Phillip Berman. 2000. *Reason For Hope: A Spiritual Journey.*

Dr. Jane Goodall's revolutionary study of chimpanzees in Tanzania's Gombe preserve forever altered the very, definition of humanity. Now, in a poignant and insightful memoir, Jane Goodall explores her extraordinary life and personal spiritual odyssey, with observations as profound as the knowledge she has brought back from the forest. (GoodReads)

Graedel, Thomas and Paul Crutzen. 1997. *Atmosphere, Climate, and Change.*

In *Atmosphere, Climate, and Change*, world renowned experts on the chemistry of the atmosphere Thomas E. Graedel and Paul J. Crutzen take us behind the scenes of local climate change to reveal the workings of the atmosphere in its larger context, as a component of Earth as a system. By exploring the causes of long-term climate change and the sources and pitfalls of scientific prediction, they give us a new understanding of what changes are likely to occur in the future, and what can be done about them. (GoodReads)

Gray, Mike and Ira Rosen. 2003. *The Warning: Accident at Three Mile Island, A Nuclear Omen for the Age of Terrorism.*

This factual, riveting thriller is based on exclusive interviews with key operating personnel. Mike Gray, author of *The China Syndrome*, and Ira Rosen, producer for CBS's 60 Minutes, have updated this jackhammer narrative of mechanical failure and human error with an analysis of the current threats to our nuclear power plants. With a new introduction and epilogue for this reissue edition. (GoodReads)

Greenberg, Paul. 2011. *Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food*.

In *Four Fish*, award-winning writer and lifelong fisherman Paul Greenberg takes us on a culinary journey, exploring the history of the fish that dominate our menus---salmon, sea bass, cod and tuna--and examining where each stands at this critical moment in time. By examining the forces that get fish to our dinner tables, he shows how we can start to heal the oceans and fight for a world where healthy and sustainable seafood is the rule rather than the exception. (GoodReads)

Greenburg, Joel. 2014. *A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction*.

A beautifully written story with gripping details of the passenger pigeon's demise. It provides a cautionary tale of what happens when species and natural resources are not harvested sustainably. (GoodReads)

Harr, Jonathan. 1996. *A Civil Action*.

In this true story of an epic courtroom showdown, two of the nation's largest corporations stand accused of causing the deaths of children. Representing the bereaved parents, the unlikelyst of heroes emerges: a young, flamboyant Porsche-driving lawyer who hopes to win millions of dollars and ends up nearly losing everything, including his sanity. A searing, compelling tale of a legal system gone awry--one in which greed and power fight an unending struggle against justice--*A Civil Action* is also the story of how one determined man can ultimately make a difference. With an unstoppable narrative power, it is an unforgettable reading experience. (GoodReads)

Hawken, Paul., L. Hunter Lovins, and Amory B. Lovins. 2000. *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*.

This groundbreaking book reveals how today's global businesses can be both environmentally responsible and highly profitable. (GoodReads)

Hertsgaard, Mark. 2000. *Earth Odyssey: Around the World in Search of Our Environmental Future*.

Earth Odyssey is a vivid, passionate narrative about one man's journey around the world in search of the answer to the essential question of our time: Is the future of the human species at risk? Combining first-rate reportage with irresistible storytelling, Mark Hertsgaard has written an essential--and ultimately hopeful--book about the uncertain fate of humankind. (GoodReads)

Houle, Marcy. 1996. *The Prairie Keepers: Secret of the Grassland*.

Tucked away in the far corner of remote northeastern Oregon lies the ruggedly beautiful Zumwalt Prairie--a seemingly peaceful land of waving grasses that has become a symbolic

battleground in the war between ranchers and environmentalists over the use of our country's rapidly vanishing natural habitat. Marcy Houle's job was to cover the 200 square miles of the Zumwalt in search of three species of hawks. What she discovered was the densest concentration of these hawks anywhere in the lower forty-eight states. Why? Houle's findings, eloquently reported, show that ranchers and grazing and wildlife not only *can* coexist, but in some instances *must* coexist if we are to save the last of the native prairies for us all. (GoodReads)

Klein, Naomi, 2014. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate.*

Forget everything you think you know about global warming. It's not about carbon - it's about capitalism. The good news is that we can seize this existential crisis to transform our failed economic system and build something radically better. (GoodReads)

Kingsolver, Barbara, Steven L. Hopp, and Camille Kingsolver. 2007. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life.*

Bestselling author Barbara Kingsolver returns with her first nonfiction narrative that will open your eyes in a hundred new ways to an old truth: You are what you eat. (GoodReads)

Kolbert, Elizabeth, 2014. *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History.*

A major book about the future of the world, blending intellectual and natural history and field reporting into a powerful account of the mass extinction unfolding before our eyes. (GoodReads)

Kurlansky, Mark. 1998. *Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World.*

The Cod. Wars have been fought over it, revolutions have been triggered by it, national diets have been based on it, economies and livelihoods have depended on it. To the millions it has sustained, it has been a treasure more precious than gold. This book spans 1,000 years and four continents. From the Vikings to Clarence Birdseye, Mark Kurlansky introduces the explorers, merchants, writers, chefs and fisherman, whose lives have been interwoven with this prolific fish. He chronicles the cod wars of the 16th and 20th centuries. He blends in recipes and lore from the Middle Ages to the present. In a story that brings world history and human passions into captivating focus, he shows how the most profitable fish in history is today faced with extinction. (GoodReads)

Leakey, Richard and Roger Lewin. 1996. *The Sixth Extinction: Patterns of Life and the Future of Humankind.*

In *The Sixth Extinction*, Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin consider how the grand sprawl of human life is inexorably wreaking havoc around the world. The authors of *Origins* and *Origins Reconsidered*, unimpeachable authorities on the human fossil record, turn their attention to the most uncharted anthropological territory of all: the future, and man's role in defining it. According to Leakey and Lewin, man and his surrounding species are end products of history and chance. Now, however, humans have the unique opportunity to recognize their influence on

the global ecosystem, and consciously steer the outcome in order to avoid triggering an unimaginable upheaval. (GoodReads)

Leopold, Aldo. 1968. *A Sand County Almanac*.

A Sand County Almanac combines some of the finest nature writing since Thoreau with an outspoken and highly ethical regard for America's relationship to the land. Written with an unparalleled understanding of the ways of nature, the book includes a section on the monthly changes of the Wisconsin countryside; another part that gathers informal pieces written by Leopold over a forty-year period as he traveled through the woodlands of Wisconsin, Iowa, Arizona, Sonora, Oregon, Manitoba, and elsewhere; and a final section in which Leopold addresses the philosophical issues involved in wildlife conservation. (GoodReads)

Lewis, Martin. 1994. *Green Delusions: An Environmentalist Critique of Radical Environmentalism*.

Scholars, politicians, and activists worldwide are finally recognizing the severity of the global environmental crisis, yet serious threats to the environmental movement remain. In this book Lewis distinguishes the main variants of eco-extremism, exposes the fallacies upon which such views ultimately flounder, and demonstrates that the policies advocated by their proponents would, if enacted, result in unequivocal ecological disaster. At once polemic and prescriptive, *Green Delusions* is an impassioned attempt to defend the environmental movement against extremist ideas that would lead to self-defeating political strategies. (GoodReads)

Lopez, Barry. 1978. *Of Wolves and Men*.

Of Wolves and Men reveals the uneasy interaction between wolves and civilization over the centuries, and the wolf's prominence in our thoughts about wild creatures. Drawing on an astonishing array of literature, history, science, and mythology as well as considerable personal experience with captive and free-ranging wolves, Lopez argues for the necessity of the wolf's preservation and envelops the reader in its sensory world, creating a compelling picture of the wolf both as real animal and as imagined by man. (GoodReads)

_____. 1986. *Arctic Dreams*.

Lopez offers a thorough examination of this obscure world-its terrain, its wildlife, its history of Eskimo natives and intrepid explorers who have arrived on their icy shores. But what turns this marvelous work of natural history into a breathtaking study of profound originality is his unique meditation on how the landscape can shape our imagination, desires, and dreams. Its prose as hauntingly pure as the land it describes, **Arctic Dreams** is nothing less than an indelible classic of modern literature. (GoodReads)

Lovins, Amory. 1977. *Soft Energy Path: Towards a Durable Peace.*

Amory Lovins is a justifiably renowned physicist and environmentalist who promotes energy-use and energy-production ideas based on conservation, efficiency, use of renewable energy-sources, and generating energy near where it is actually used as opposed to huge centralized capital-intensive megaprojects like nuclear power plants. He may be best known for being co-founder and chief scientist of the Rocky Mountain Institute or being credited with his work on the design on an ultra-efficient automobile, the Hypercar. *Soft Energy Paths* is about ideas which have become much more familiar since its publication back in 1977. (A technical read and a bit outdated) (Amazon)

Mann, Charles C. 2005. *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus.*

In this groundbreaking work of science, history, and archaeology, Charles C. Mann radically alters our understanding of the Americas before the arrival of Columbus in 1492. Challenging and surprising, this a transformative new look at a rich and fascinating world we only thought we knew. (GoodReads)

McDonough, William and Michael Braungart. 2002. *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things.*

"Reduce, reuse, recycle," urge environmentalists; in other words, do more with less in order to minimize damage. But as architect William McDonough and chemist Michael Braungart point out in this provocative, visionary book, such an approach only perpetuates the one-way, "cradle to grave" manufacturing model, dating to the Industrial Revolution, that creates such fantastic amounts of waste and pollution in the first place. Why not challenge the belief that human industry must damage the natural world? In fact, why not take nature itself as our model for making things? A tree produces thousands of blossoms in order to create another tree, yet we consider its abundance not wasteful but safe, beautiful, and highly effective. (GoodReads)

McKenna, Maryn. 2017. *Big Chicken: The Incredible Story of How Antibiotics Created Modern Agriculture and Changed the Way the World Eats*

In this eye-opening expose, acclaimed health journalist and *National Geographic* contributor Maryn McKenna documents how antibiotics transformed chicken from local delicacy to industrial commodity--and human health threat--uncovering the ways we can make America's favorite meat safer again.

McKibben, Bill. 2010. *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet.*

Twenty years ago, with *The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben offered one of the earliest warnings about global warming. Those warnings went mostly unheeded; now, he insists, we need to acknowledge that we've waited too long, and that massive change is not only unavoidable but already under way. Our old familiar globe is suddenly melting, drying, acidifying, flooding, and

burning in ways that no human has ever seen. We've created, in very short order, a new planet, still recognizable but fundamentally different. We may as well call it Eearth. (GoodReads)

McPhee, John. 1971. *Encounters With the Archdruid*.

The narratives in this book are of journeys made in three wildernesses - on a coastal island, in a Western mountain range, and on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. The four men portrayed here have different relationships to their environment, and they encounter each other on mountain trails, in forests and rapids, sometimes with reserve, sometimes with friendliness, sometimes fighting hard across a philosophical divide. (GoodReads)

_____. 2003. *The Founding Fish*.

John McPhee's twenty-sixth book is a braid of personal history, natural history, and American history, in descending order of volume. Each spring, American shad, *Alosa sapidissima*, leave the ocean in hundreds of thousands and run heroic distances upriver to spawn. McPhee--a shad fisherman himself--recounts the shad's cameo role in the lives of George Washington and Henry David Thoreau. He fishes with and visits the laboratories of famous ichthyologists; he takes instruction in the making of shad darts from a master of the art; and he cooks shad in a variety of ways, delectably explained at the end of the book. Mostly, though, he goes fishing for shad in various North American rivers, and he "fishes the same way he writes books, avidly and intensely. He wants to know everything about the fish he's after--its history, its habits, its place in the cosmos" (Bill Pride, *The Denver Post*). (GoodReads)

Miller, Benjamin. 2000. *Fat of the Land: Garbage of New York -- The Last Two Hundred Years*.

Benjamin Miller's panoramic view of New York's garbage takes us from the earliest antebellum collectors, to 19th-century barons trading in fertilizers and explosives, to the current feuding bureaucrats and environmentalists. *Fat of the Land* covers social and scientific theories of class and disease, in the process offering a richly textured history of urban development. *Fat of the Land* brings to light an often hidden subject, assessing who gains and who loses in the endless battle over garbage. (GoodReads)

Moore, Kathleen Dean. 2010. *Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril*.

Moral Ground brings together the testimony of over eighty visionaries--theologians and religious leaders, scientists, elected officials, business leaders, naturalists, activists, and writers--to present a diverse and compelling call to honor our individual and collective moral responsibility to our planet. In the face of environmental degradation and global climate change, scientific knowledge alone does not tell us what we ought to do. The missing premise of the argument and much-needed center piece in the debate to date has been the need for ethical values, moral guidance, and principled reasons for doing the right thing for our planet, its animals, its plants, and its people. (GoodReads)

Montgomery, David R. 2007. *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilization*.

Dirt, soil, call it what you want—it's everywhere we go. It is the root of our existence, supporting our feet, our farms, and our cities. This fascinating yet disquieting book finds, however, that we are running out of dirt, and it's no laughing matter. An engaging natural and cultural history of soil that sweeps from ancient civilizations to modern times, *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations* explores the compelling idea that we are—and have long been—using up Earth's soil. (GoodReads)

Muir, John. 1911. *My First Summer in the Sierra*.

Picturesque descriptions and sketches by one of America's most important and influential naturalists describes the author's 1869 stay in California's Yosemite River Valley and the Sierra Mountains. Muir's engaging journal describes majestic vistas, flora and fauna, as well as the region's other breathtaking natural wonders. (GoodReads)

Nash, Roderick. 2001. *Wilderness and the American Mind*.

Roderick Nash's classic study of America's changing attitudes toward wilderness has received wide acclaim since its initial publication in 1967. The Los Angeles Times has listed it among the one hundred most influential books published in the last quarter century, Outside Magazine has included it in a survey of "books that changed our world", and it has been called the "Book of Genesis for environmentalists." (GoodReads)

O'Brien, Dan. 2002. *Buffalo for the Broken Heart*.

Buffalo for the Broken Heart is at once a tender account of the buffaloes' first seasons on the ranch and an engaging lesson in wildlife ecology. Whether he's describing the grazing pattern of the buffalo, the thrill of watching a falcon home in on its prey, or the comical spectacle of a buffalo bull wallowing in the mud, O'Brien combines a novelist's eye for detail with a naturalist's understanding to create an enriching, entertaining narrative. (GoodReads)

Peterson, Rolf. 1995. *The Wolves of Isle Royale: A Broken Balance*.

The Wolves of Isle Royale is author and wildlife biologist Rolf Peterson's fascinating first-hand account of the relationship that exists between the wolf and the moose on the island...this reveals the true nature of this mysterious and little-understood animal, and it offers novel solutions to the conservation crises as the wolf population falters to its lowest recorded level. (GoodReads)

Plotkin, Mark. 1994. *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest.*

For thousands of years, healers have used plants to cure illness. In *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice*, ethnobotanist Mark J. Plotkin recounts his travels and studies with some of the most powerful Amazonian shamans, who taught him the plant lore their tribes have spent thousands of years gleaning from the rain forest. (GoodReads)

Pollan, Michael. 2006. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals.*

We are indeed what we eat-and what we eat remakes the world. A society of voracious and increasingly confused omnivores, we are just beginning to recognize the profound consequences of the simplest everyday food choices, both for ourselves and for the natural world. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* is a long-overdue book and one that will become known for bringing a completely fresh perspective to a question as ordinary and yet momentous as "What shall we have for dinner?" (GoodReads)

Preston, Richard. 2007. *The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring.*

Hidden away in foggy, uncharted rain forest valleys in Northern California are the largest and tallest organisms the world has ever sustained—the coast redwood trees, *Sequoia sempervirens*. Ninety-six percent of the ancient redwood forests have been destroyed by logging, but the untouched fragments that remain are among the great wonders of nature. Preston's account of this amazing world, by turns terrifying, moving, and fascinating, is an adventure story told in novelistic detail by a master of nonfiction narrative. The author shares his protagonists' passion for tall trees, and he mastered the techniques of tall-tree climbing to tell the story in *The Wild Trees*—the story of the fate of the world's most splendid forests and of the imperiled biosphere itself. (GoodReads)

Quammen, David. 1997. *Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in the Age of Extinctions.*

David Quammen's book, *The Song of the Dodo*, is a brilliant, stirring work, breathtaking in its scope, far-reaching in its message -- a crucial book in precarious times, which radically alters the way in which we understand the natural world and our place in that world. It's also a book full of entertainment and wonders. (GoodReads)

_____. 2012. *Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic.*

The emergence of strange new diseases is a frightening problem that seems to be getting worse. In this age of speedy travel, it threatens a worldwide pandemic. In *Spillover*, Quammen takes the reader along on this astonishing quest to learn how, where from, and why these diseases emerge, and he asks the terrifying question: What might the next big one be? (GoodReads)

Quinn, Daniel. 1995. *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit*. (Fiction)

The narrator of this extraordinary tale is a man in search for truth. He answers an ad in a local newspaper from a teacher looking for serious pupils, only to find himself alone in an abandoned office with a full-grown gorilla who is nibbling delicately on a slender branch. "You are the teacher?" he asks incredulously. "I am the teacher," the gorilla replies. Like all great teachers, Ishmael refuses to make the lesson easy; he demands the final illumination to come from within ourselves. Is it man's destiny to rule the world? Or is it a higher destiny possible for him-- one more wonderful than he has ever imagined? (GoodReads)

Raup, David. 1992. *Extinction: Bad Genes or Bad Luck?*

In the geological record, there are five major mass extinctions—the "Big Five." The most famous happened at the end of the Cretaceous Period, when the dinosaurs and two-thirds of all marine animal species were wiped out, opening the door for the age of mammals and the rise of *Homo sapiens*. Using this example as a springboard, David M. Raup leaps into an engaging discussion of the theories, assumptions, and difficulties associated with the science of species extinction. Woven in along the way are stories of the trilobite eye, tropical reefs, flying reptiles, and the fate of the heath hen on Martha's Vineyard, a very modern extinction. (GoodReads)

Reisner, Marc. 1986. *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water*.

The story of the American West is the story of a relentless quest for a precious resource: water. It is a tale of rivers diverted and dammed, of political corruption and intrigue, of billion-dollar battles over water rights, of ecologic and economic disaster. Based on more than a decade of research, *Cadillac Desert* is a stunning expose and a dramatic, intriguing history of the creation of an Eden—an Eden that may be only a mirage. (GoodReads)

Revkin, Andrew. 1990. *Burning Season: The Murder of Chico Mendes and the Fight for the Amazon Rain Forest*.

Andrew Revkin artfully interweaves the moving story of Chico Mendes's struggle with the broader natural and human history of the world's largest tropical rain forest. In his life and untimely death, Mendes forever altered the course of development in the Amazon, and he has since become a model for environmental campaigners everywhere. (GoodReads)

Ruddiman, William F. 2005. *Plows, Plagues and Petroleum: How Humans Took Control of Nature*.

The impact on climate from 200 years of industrial development is an everyday fact of life, but did humankind's active involvement in climate change really begin with the industrial revolution, as commonly believed? Eminently readable and far-reaching in argument, "Plows, Plagues, and Petroleum" shows us that even as civilization developed, we were already changing the climate in which we lived. (GoodReads)

Sagan, Carl. 1997. *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark.*

How can we make intelligent decisions about our increasingly technology-driven lives if we don't understand the difference between the myths of pseudoscience and the testable hypotheses of science? Pulitzer Prize-winning author and distinguished astronomer Carl Sagan argues that scientific thinking is critical not only to the pursuit of truth but to the very well-being of our democratic institutions. (GoodReads)

Steingraber, Sandra. 1997. *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment.*

Biologist and poet Sandra Steingraber shoulders the legacy of Rachel Carson, producing a work about people and land, cancer and the environment, which is as accessible and as invaluable as "Silent Spring." (GoodReads)

Streever, Bill. 2007. *Green Seduction: Money, Business, and the Environment.*

Following environmental workers on the job, Streever guides readers across a California Superfund site, through the New Orleans water system, into wetlands created in Washington, D.C., suburbs, through a southern Georgia carpet plant, and elsewhere. Through these firsthand experiences, "Green Seduction" offers a new appreciation of what businesses have invested in the environment and what the benefits may be from that investment. (GoodReads)

_____. 2009. *Cold: Adventures in the World's Frozen Places.*

From avalanches to glaciers, from seals to snowflakes, and from Shackleton's expedition to "The Year Without Summer," Bill Streever journeys through history, myth, geography, and ecology in a year-long search for cold--real, icy, 40-below cold. A scientist whose passion for cold runs red hot, Streever is a wondrous guide: he conjures woolly mammoth carcasses and the ice-age Clovis tribe from melting glaciers, and he evokes blizzards so wild readers may freeze--limb by vicarious limb. (GoodReads)

Terborgh, John. 1990. *Where Have All the Birds Gone? Essay on the Biology and Conservation of Birds that Migrate to the American Tropics.*

"Things are going wrong with our environment," writes John Terborgh, "even the parts of it that are nominally protected. If we wait until all the answers are in, we may find ourselves in a much worse predicament than if we had taken notice of the problem earlier. By waiting, one risks being too late; on the other hand, there can be no such thing as being too early." Terborgh's warnings are essential reading for all who care about migratory birds and our natural environment. (GoodReads)

Thompson, Jonathan P. 2018. *River of Lost Souls: The Science, Politics, and Greed Behind the Gold King Mine Disaster*

Award-winning investigative environmental journalist Jonathan P. Thompson digs into the science, politics, and greed behind the 2015 Gold King Mine disaster, and unearths a litany of impacts wrought by a century and a half of mining, energy development, and fracking in southwestern Colorado. Amid these harsh realities, Thompson explores how a new generation is setting out to make amends.

Thoreau, Henry David. 1854. *Walden; or Life in the Woods*.

Walden; or Life in the Woods is an American book written by noted transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau. The work is part personal declaration of independence, social experiment, and voyage of spiritual discovery, satire, and manual for self-reliance. Published in 1854, it details Thoreau's experiences over the course of two years in a cabin he built near Walden Pond, amidst woodland owned by his friend and mentor Ralph Waldo Emerson, near Concord, Massachusetts. (GoodReads)

Turco, Richard. 1996. *Earth Under Siege: From Air Pollution to Global Change*.

This acclaimed book examines one of the most important problems facing our modern technological age: environmental pollution. Written to inform general readers--including future policy makers, business administrators, and political leaders--the text offers a comprehensive description of environmental systems, providing a basic understanding of how the world around us works and how human activities affect it. (GoodReads)

Weiner, Jonathan. 1994. *The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time*.

In this dramatic story of groundbreaking scientific research, Jonathan Weiner follows these scientists as they watch Darwin's finches and come up with a new understanding of life itself. *The Beak of the Finch* is an elegantly written and compelling masterpiece of theory and explication in the tradition of Stephen Jay Gould. (GoodReads)

Wheelwright, Jeff. 1996. *Degrees of Disaster: Prince William Sound: How Nature Reels and Rebounds*.

In this fascinating account of the ecological effects of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill on Prince William Sound, Jeff Wheelwright tells the complex story of a region where natural disturbance is normal. While the spill had toxic short-term effects, the author concludes that cleanup efforts probably perpetrated more damage than the oil did. Left alone the Sound would have repaired itself quickly. Throughout the book Wheelwright illuminates the gap between the scientists' measurements of change and the public's understanding of disaster. (GoodReads)

Wilcove, David S. 2000. *The Condor's Shadow: The Loss and Recovery of Wildlife in America.*

The Condor's Shadow is a brilliant and compulsively readable study of the state of North American wildlife and what is being done to reverse the damage humans have caused. With equal respect for the smallest feather-mite and the fiercest grizzly, the frailest flower and the state-listed redwood, David S. Wilcove illustrates -- in jargon-free, often witty prose -- nature's delicate system of checks and balances, examining the factors that determine a species' vulnerability and the consequences of losing even the tiniest part of any ecosystem. (GoodReads)

Wilkinson, Charles. 1993. *Crossing the Next Meridian: Land, Water, and the Future of the West.*

In "Crossing the Next Meridian," Charles F. Wilkinson, an expert on federal public lands, Native American issues, and the West's arcane water laws explains some of the core problems facing the American West now and in the years to come. He examines the outmoded ideas that pervade land use and resource allocation and argues that significant reform of Western law is needed to combat desertification and environmental decline, and to heal splintered communities. (GoodReads)

Willis, Delta. 1996. *The Sand Dollar and the Slide Rule: Drawing Blueprints from Nature.*

In *The Sand Dollar and the Slide Rule*, Delta Willis explores the relationship between natural forms and human engineering and the beauty, economy, and efficiency in the way birds fly, fish swim, and trees grow. She then applies this knowledge to design, and how humans can adapt such natural blueprints for everything from ultra-light aircraft to massive skyscrapers. (GoodReads)

Wilson, Edward O. 1975. *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis.*

When this classic work was first published in 1975, it created a new discipline and started a tumultuous round in the age-old nature versus nurture debate. Although voted by officers and fellows of the international Animal Behavior Society the most important book on animal behavior of all time, "Sociobiology" is probably more widely known as the object of bitter attacks by social scientists and other scholars who opposed its claim that human social behavior, indeed human nature, has a biological foundation. The controversy surrounding the publication of the book reverberates to the present day. (GoodReads)

_____. 1999. *The Diversity of Life.*

In this book a master scientist tells the story of how life on earth evolved. Edward O. Wilson eloquently describes how the species of the world became diverse and why that diversity is threatened today as never before. (GoodReads)

_____. **2002. *The Future of Life.***

Based on a love affair with the natural world that spans 70 years, Wilson combines lyrical descriptions with dire warnings and remarkable stories of flora and fauna on the edge of extinction with hard economics. How many species are we really losing? Is environmentalism truly contrary to economic development? And how can we save the planet? Wilson has penned an eloquent plea for the need for a global land ethic and offers the strategies necessary to ensure life on earth based on foresight, moral courage, and the best tools that science and technology can provide. -- *Lesley Reed* (GoodReads)

_____. **2012. *The Social Conquest of Earth.***

Where did we come from? What are we? Where are we going? In a generational work of clarity and passion, one of our greatest living scientists directly addresses these three fundamental questions of religion, philosophy, and science while “overturning the famous theory that evolution naturally encourages creatures to put family first” (Discover magazine). Demonstrating that the sources of morality, religion, and the creative arts are fundamentally biological in nature, Wilson presents us with the clearest explanation ever produced as to the origin of the human condition and why it resulted in our domination of the Earth’s biosphere. (GoodReads)

Yong, Ed. 2016. *I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us and a Grand View of Life.*

Every animal, whether human, squid, or wasp, is home to millions of bacteria and other microbes. Ed Yong, whose humor is as evident as his erudition, prompts us to look at ourselves and our animal companions in a new light—less as individuals and more as the interconnected, interdependent multitudes we assuredly are. (GoodReads)

Wolfe, David. 2002. *Tales from the Underground: A Natural History of Subterranean Life.*

There are over one billion organisms in a pinch of soil, and many of them perform functions essential to all life on the planet. Yet we know much more about deep space than about the universe below. In *Tales from the Underground*, Cornell ecologist David W. Wolfe lifts the veil on this hidden world, revealing for the first time what makes subterranean life so unique and so precious. An original, awe-inspiring journey through a strange realm, *Tales from the Underground* will forever alter our appreciation of the natural world around-and beneath-us. (GoodReads)