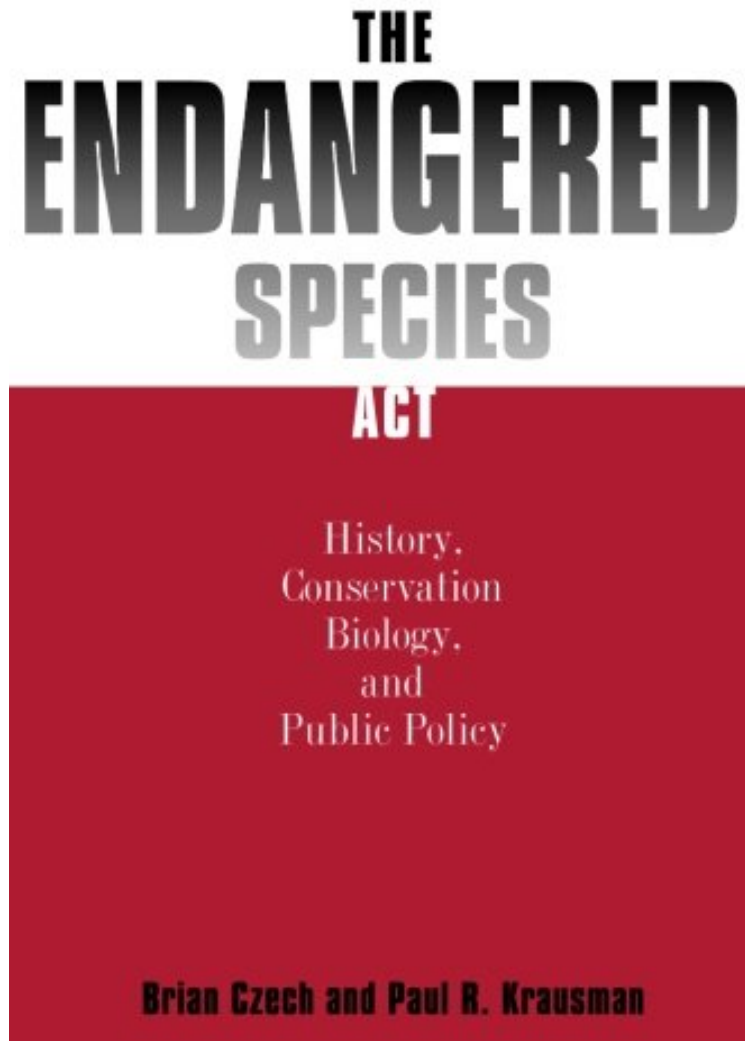


The Endangered Species Act: : History, Conservation, Biology, and Public Policy

Brian Czech, Paul R. Krausman
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Brian Czech, Paul R. Krausman : The Endangered Species Act: : History, Conservation, Biology, and Public Policy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Endangered Species Act: : History, Conservation, Biology, and Public Policy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful introduction to policy issues (Kindle Edition)By RichOne of the reasons I got the Kindle DX was to read professional textbooks I normally would not have time for. With the

Kindle, I effectively take my texts everywhere, meaning I have many more chances to read than I did before (meetings, on planes, etc). The book by Czech and Krausman was the first book I read on the Kindle DX, and I was more than satisfied with the text, both in terms of content and how it reads on the Kindle. As a college professor working on conservation biology in the field, reading a book whose primary focus was on policy was something of a novel experience for me. While I found some of the concepts and ideas unusual, most of the text provided a solid grounding in the history of the ESA and how it is viewed from a policy expert's viewpoint. Although I found some of the conclusions suspect (especially their ideas of how to prioritize species for protection under the ESA), most of the rest of the book was pretty interesting. The sections on legal issues and historical development were especially interesting, and could provide solid material for discussions by my graduate students. Reading the Kindle edition was an enjoyable experience; the larger size of the DX made reading the text similar to what reading a "real" book would have been like, with the added benefits of bookmarking sections for future reference and looking up new terms. Tables were formatted correctly, as were references. This book contained few figures or photos, so I can't comment on how those were rendered. Overall, I would recommend the book to graduate students and professional conservation biologists who want to learn more about the policy aspects of ESA, and at a reasonable cost (especially for the Kindle edition).

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. An end-member perspective on environmental policy
By Frank T. Manheim
I bought this slim, solidly-produced paperback because of its subject - one of the most important U.S. environmental laws, and authoritative subtitle: "History, Conservation Biology, and Public Policy". The preface by senior author, Czech, lets us know that this book started life as his PhD dissertation at the University of Arizona in 1997: "The Endangered Species Act, American Democracy, and an Omnibus Role for Public Policy". Coauthor Paul Krausman, a senior professor at the University of Arizona School of Natural Resources, was his major advisor. A policy dissertation on such a complex and controversial law (300 or more pages long) would have surely been impossible had Czech not already been an experienced conservation biologist and manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Arizona - when he got intrigued with wildlife policy. Czech mentions that "Paul and I decided to convert my dissertation into something more reader friendly". I suggest that while Czech and Krausman are clearly experts regarding this law and its subject area, the book is not likely to be considered user friendly by persons other than academic policy specialists. The authors write clearly and even colorfully at times. At other times they forget and drop in unexplained scientific or political science terminology (e.g. "haploid set of chromosomes"). Much of the book concerns policy design analysis. This can become especially abstruse when it launches into complex, social-science laden academese like the below example: "Pluralism, policy sciences, public choice theory, and critical theory have produced analyses characterized by a lack of normative content, preoccupation with reductionist methods, illogical optimism in a free market, and little practical application, respectively." As a policy researcher, myself, I was hoping that "History" would include information on how and by whom ESA was written, and something about debates that may have gone on during committee hearings. Unfortunately, though a brief summary of earlier laws, (generically dismissed as "toothless") is given, we learn little more about legislative history of ESA itself beyond the fact that the 1973 law was first sponsored by Representative John Dingell, a Michigan Democrat, passed by overwhelming margins by Congress, and signed by President Richard Nixon. The authors have strong preservationist and political views. The treatment would have benefited from a leavening of pros and cons, or alternative opinion. But where other views or stakeholders are mentioned it is often only in dismissive terms, e.g. "By definition, a degenerative subset of wealthy contenders strategize and hide agendas when ESA stands in the way of profits". The authors offer some 13 recommendations for change in the ESA law, all of which would apparently toughen the law and its penalties. In fact, the authors come right out and say that policymakers should replace incentives for economic growth by barriers to economic growth in society generally. They seem unaware that such attitudes can breed antagonism and hostility in those who aren't supported by Federal government or academic positions. This, in turn, may reduce cooperation and limit funding for enforcement - which they regard as too low. In the view of author Daniel Fiorino, heavy-handed policy approaches that limit innovation are now outdated. European models that emphasize cooperation have in many cases left the U.S. behind. I do value the treatment as an example of an end member perspective on wildlife policy.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Endangered Species Act
By M. Springer
This book is quite informative of the issues revolving around the Endangered Species Act. The Endangered species Act is endangered itself, with the goal to weaken its impact currently underway. Currently, it is the best source of over all information about the Act.

Since the 1970s, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), by virtue of its regulatory impact, has been a frequent subject of policy analysis. In this comprehensive history and critique of the ESA, Brian Czech and Paul R. Krausman incorporate the new model of policy design theory to frame a larger discussion about conservation biology and American democracy. Czech and Krausman provide a historical background of endangered species policy that integrates natural history, socioeconomic trends, political movements, and professional developments. Outlining the controversies surrounding the ESA, they find a connection between challenges to species conservation and challenges to democracy. After an assessment of ESA analyses that have been performed from traditional perspectives, they engage policy design theory to review the structural logic of the ESA, analyzing each clause of the legislation for its application of

the fundamental elements of democracy. To address the technical legitimacy of ESA, they propose two new genetic considerations-functional genome size and molecular clock speed-to supplement phylogenetic distinctiveness as criteria with which to prioritize species for conservation. Next, they systematically describe the socioeconomic context of ESA by assessing and classifying the causes of species endangerment. A hybrid of policy analysis and ecological assessment, *The Endangered Species Act: History, Conservation Biology, and Public Policy* will appeal to scholars and students in the fields of natural resource policy and law, conservation biology, political science, wildlife ecology, and environmental history, and to professionals at agencies involved in wildlife conservation.

"This book is concisely written and reads easily,... uniquely covers the social and political contexts of the ESA... [and] provides insight into the controversies surrounding [it]... It provokes thoughtful consideration of the ESA, it logically organizes ESA issues, and it boldly recommends improvements." (K. Shawn Smallwood Environmental Conservation)"Interesting for anyone concerned about the preservation of species and, more generally, the global environment... a good explanation of the statute, a wonderful and often entertaining description of how we view and rank nonhuman species, and a provocative critique of the very policy analytic framework the authors have employed." (Joseph F. C. DiMento Environment)"This book examines many different aspects of the ESA and would be of interest to anyone concerned with the ESA." (American Fisheries Society)"The Endangered Species Act provides plenty of insight, a fresh policy model, and a new perspective on the ESA that should attract and challenge historians, environmentalists, and policy makers." (Dr. Jason Krupar Environmental History)"Czech and Krausman are effective and original scholars. *The Endangered Species Act: History, Conservation Biology, and Public Policy* is both a treatise on policy assessment and an excellent history, assessment, and discussion of the ESA itself. Those interested in natural resources policy and those interested specifically in the ESA will want to read this book." (Jack Ward Thomas, The University of Montana, Chief Emeritus, U.S. Forest Service)About the AuthorBrian Czech is a conservation biologist with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and is the author of *Shoveling Fuel for a Runaway Train: Errant Economists, Shameful Spenders, and a Plan to Stop Them All*. Paul R. Krausman is a professor of wildlife science and associate director of the Arizona Agriculture Experiment Station at the University of Arizona. His previous books include *Rangeland Wildlife and Ecology and Management of Large Mammals in North America* (co-edited).