

Urban Cascadia: The Pursuit of Environmental Justice in the Pacific Northwest



Urban Cascadia and the Pursuit of Environmental Justice by Stephen Pax Leonard

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Urban Cascadia is a region in the Pacific Northwest of North America that stretches from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Seattle, Washington, to Portland, Oregon. It is one of the most populous and economically vibrant regions in the United States, but it is also home to a number of environmental justice issues.

Environmental justice is the fair and equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens. It means that all people, regardless of their race, income, or zip code, have access to clean air, water, and land. Unfortunately, this is not the case in Urban Cascadia.

Air Pollution

Air pollution is a major problem in Urban Cascadia. The region's geography makes it susceptible to air inversions, which trap pollutants close to the ground. This can lead to high levels of smog and particulate matter, which can cause respiratory problems, heart disease, and other health issues.

Air pollution disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color. These communities are often located near major highways or industrial areas, which are sources of air pollution. They are also more likely to live in older housing that is not well-insulated, which allows pollutants to enter the home.

Water Pollution

Water pollution is another major problem in Urban Cascadia. The region's rivers and lakes are polluted by a variety of sources, including industrial

discharge, agricultural runoff, and sewage overflows. This pollution can make water unsafe for drinking, swimming, and fishing.

Water pollution disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color. These communities are often located near industrial areas or sewage treatment plants, which are sources of water pollution. They are also more likely to live in older housing that is not well-connected to the sewer system, which can lead to sewage backups and overflows.

Land Use

Land use is another environmental justice issue in Urban Cascadia. The region's rapid growth has led to the development of new housing, businesses, and transportation infrastructure. This development has often come at the expense of green space, which can provide a number of benefits, including air and water filtration, flood control, and recreation.

Low-income communities and communities of color are often disproportionately affected by land use changes. These communities are often located in areas that are targeted for redevelopment, which can lead to displacement and gentrification. They are also more likely to live in areas that are underserved by parks and other green spaces.

The Pursuit of Environmental Justice

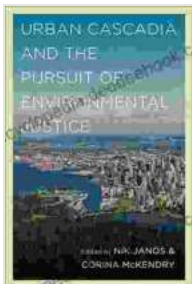
The pursuit of environmental justice in Urban Cascadia is a complex and challenging task. It requires a multi-faceted approach that includes addressing air pollution, water pollution, land use, and other environmental issues. It also requires empowering low-income communities and communities of color to participate in the decision-making process.

There are a number of organizations and individuals working to achieve environmental justice in Urban Cascadia. These groups are working to monitor pollution, advocate for policy changes, and empower communities to take action.

The pursuit of environmental justice is a long-term struggle, but it is one that is essential for the health and well-being of all residents of Urban Cascadia.

Resources

- Environmental Justice Network
- Green Action
- Puget Soundkeeper
- Sierra Club Washington
- Wilderness Society



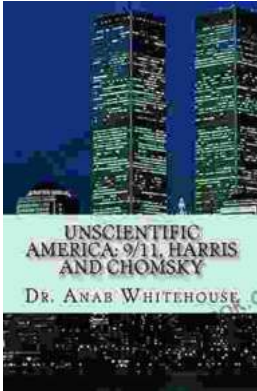
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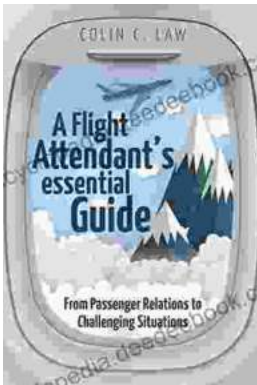
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