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### WHY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES FAIL

This book is for those who are not just interested in the ways humans have harmfully altered their environment, but instead wish to learn why the many governmental policies in place to curb such behavior have been unsuccessful. Since humans began to exploit natural resources for their own economic ends, we have ignored a central principle: nature and humans are not separate, but are a unified, interconnected system in which neither is superior to the other. Policy must reflect this reality. We failed to follow this principle in exploiting natural capital without expecting to pay any price, and in hurriedly adopting environmental laws and policies that reflected how we wanted nature to work instead of how it does work. This study relies on more accurate models for how nature works and humans behave. These models suggest that environmental laws should be consistent with the laws of nature.

JAN LAITOS holds the John A. Carver, Jr. Chair in Environmental and Natural Resources Law at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. He has previously published natural resources and environmental law books and treatises with all the major law publishers in the United States as well as several in Europe. He has taught and lectured throughout America as well as in Spain, Hungary, Argentina, Ireland, Turkey, and Scotland. He is a graduate of Yale College and the University of Colorado Law School. He has a Doctorate in American Legal History from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Cambridge University Press 978-1-107-12101-0 — Why Environmental Policies Fail Jan Laitos Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

# WHY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES FAIL

## JAN LAITOS

 ${\it University} \ of \ Denver \ Sturm \ College \ of \ Law$ 

WITH JULIANA OKULSKI



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> To Erik Jan Peter Laitos May you live in a world where you and your

environment are in harmony

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the interconnected human-Nature unit, termed a Social Ecological System. She was the first one who urged me to explore the underlying explanations for policy ineffectiveness, instead of simply focusing on the effects of policy disappointments and then proposing some grandiose solution. She helped me understand how policy models, when flawed, cause policy failures, and how many of the models that we have been using are flawed because they are too often not based on good science. This book is a testament to all of her hard work, and infinite patience in me. She has been, in effect, my copilot on this journey.

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