# Environmental Ethics Duties to and Values in The Natural World



HOLMES ROLSTON, III

### Philosophy

### In the series Ethics and Action, edited by Tom Regan

"Environmental Ethics unravels the ethics question, then weaves the strands back together in a tight fabric of analysis and proposal. . . . By refusing to be pulled toward either an economics-based or a "biocentrist" position, Rolston bridges an otherwise yawning gap between the two camps. . . . A model of the environmental thinking—and acting—required now and in the future."—<u>Christian Science Monitor</u>

"Rolston's incisive logic . . . poetic insights . . . and almost conversational style reassure the reader. . . With luck, lots of people will accompany him on this journey, returning with ideas with which to launch sophisticated discussions of environmental ethics."—Los Angeles Times Book Review

"Rolston's work—worthy of becoming a classic itself—explores values from several points of view. . . . The work is not a carefully structured argument, but a delightful series of insights and concrete examples leading to a new gestalt . . . a unique groundbreaking work appropriate for all reader levels."—Choice

"Most insightful and poetic. . . . We need . . . Rolston's wisdom."—Kristin Shrader-Frechette, Sierra

"A lucid introduction to environmental ethics that will be of value to scholars, students, and general readers. . . . Environmental Ethics is packed with information and a good deal of wisdom obviously acquired through long experience."—Edward O. Wilson, Harvard University

"Rolston's analysis . . . is perceptive philosophy yet accessible to a general audience. His comprehensive scope, accurate references, examples given, and clarity of text make the book invaluable to students of environmental ethics in a very practical way. . . . What a wonderful effort!"—David Hales, University of Michigan

"A brilliantly provocative challenge for us to think about how we should behave toward the environment.... A required book for public and natural science collections."—Library Journal

"This work is vintage Rolston, which is very good. He has a wonderful and intimate knowledge of matters environmental, which he again uses here in insightfully new ways.... This book reads well, reads easily, reads enticingly."—Donald Scherer, Bowling Green State University

Holmes Rolston, III, is Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State University and the author of Science and Religion: A Critical Survey (Temple).

Temple University Press

Philadelphia 19122

Design: Bruce Gore Printed in U.S.A. ISBN 978-0-87722-628-4

9 780877 226284

### **Contents**

# **Chapter 1. Humans Valuing the Natural Environment**

- 1. Values carried by nature
- 2. Value ownership
- 3. Following nature

### **Chapter 2. Higher Animals: Duties to Sentient Life**

- 1. Natural rights, goods, and interests
- 2. Human dominion over animals
- 3. The ethical uses of animals

### Chapter 3. Organisms: Duties to Organic Life

- 1. Objective value in organisms
- 2. Objective life versus subjective life
- 3. Human interests and organismic values

### **Chapter 4.** Life in Jeopardy: Duties to Endangered Species

- 1. Duties to persons concerning species
- 2. Specific forms of life
- 3. Duties to species
- 4. Individuals and species
- 5. Species and ecosystem
- 6. An endangered ethic?

# Chapter 5. Life in Community: Duties to Ecosystems

- 1. Cooperation and struggle
- 2. Centered and loose organization
- 3. Succession and natural history
- 4. Individuals in communities
- 5. Intrinsic, instrumental, and systemic values
- 6. Subjective experience and evolutionary ecosystems

## Chapter 6. The Concept of Natural Value: A Theory for Environmental Ethics

- 1. Valuing projective nature
- 2. Valuing in ecosystems
- 3. Valuing aesthetic nature

### Chapter 7. Environmental Policy: An Ethic of the Commons

- 1. Collective choice in an environmental ethic
- 2. An axiological model for policy

3. Environmental principles and strategies

# Chapter 8. Environmental Business: An Ethic for Commerce

- 1. Business and a humanistic environmental ethic
- 2. Business and a naturalistic environmental ethic
- 3. Ethical complexities in business and environmental concerns
- 4. Business and nature

# Chapter 9. Down to Earth: Persons in Natural History

- 1. Humans resident in nature and culture
- 2. Humans as moral overseers on Earth
- 3. Storied residence on Earth

**Published Critical Notice of Environmental Ethics**