Avoid making environmental public policy judgment errors. Two kinds of error: 1) I do not know something which I need to know; and 2) I think I know something but I am mistaken from bad information or the will to believe, culture, training, etc.

These judgment errors are common in environmental risk assessment. The risks that scare people are different than the risks that actually harm or kill people. While environmental policy talk usually describes conservation of resources and environmental health and protection, the real policy action has always been about economics and property rights. Primarily in two areas: indebtedness and economic dislocation.

Economics is about how people get what they want and need. Property rights law turns out to be how we mete out power in society. For example wetlands protection acts and endangered species protection acts and regulations don’t actually either goal. What they are is land use–property use–laws. Economic dislocation, rather than resource depletion threats, are usually at the core of public policies.

Fugitive Resources. What are they? Why are they different? Why is there a valid role for government regulation over their property and use rights? Examples: deer, water, Canada geese, air, whales. How are they different from cattle, trees, soil? Fugitive resources frequently result in property rights violations. If I pollute air, it gets in your lungs, I violate your property rights. It is trespass. Examples of Paper Mill on a river and market bias of Judge. Spotted owls. The lost opportunity costs to the logging industry for saving 5,000 spotted owls on public land was calculated as $9 million per owl, $45 billion.