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**Interview with David B Williams, author of *A Human and Natural History of Puget Sound***

Brown, Matthew

Brown, Matthew. "David B Williams, 'Homewaters: A Human and Natural History of Puget Sound.'" *New Books in Environmental Studies*, October 6, 2021. Mp3, 00:57:26.

"Homewaters: A Human and Natural History of Puget Sound" (University of Washington Press, 2021) tells a story about exploitation and a story of hope. Focusing on the life histories of both humans and the natural world, Williams presents an account of how people and place are connected by demonstrating the transformation of the landscape through geologic, ecological, and cultural lenses. Through conversations with archaeologists, biologists, and tribal authorities, and getting out in the field himself, Williams traces how humans have developed their infrastructure around Puget Sound while documenting the human interaction with species as geoducks, salmon, orcas, rockfish, and herring. While addressing critical issues linked to iconic species like salmon and orca, the book works to capture the complexities of ecosystems through in-depth dives into the life histories of rockfish, herring, kelp, and oysters. Williams contends how it is not too late to right the wrongs through responsible action and scientific innovation if we recognize the issues created by a colonial legacy, including social injustice towards native peoples, pollution, and exploitation.

(Source: [New Books Network](#) )

In this episode of *New Books in Environmental Studies*, Matthew Brown interviews David B Williams, author of *Homewaters: A Human and Natural History of Puget Sound*.

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- Kneitz, Agnes, and Marc Landry (eds.), "On Water: Perceptions, Politics, Perils," RCC Perspectives 2012, no 2.  
doi.org/10.5282/r  
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/perspectives/2012/2/water-perceptions-politics-perils>

**Websites linked in this text:**

- <https://newbooksnetwork.com/homewaters>