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Buying Nature: The Limits of Land Acquisition as a Conservation Strategy, 1780-2004

By Sally K. Fairfax, Lauren Gwin, Mary Ann King

MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2005. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New.. 226 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Buying land to conserve it is not a recent phenomenon. Buying Nature chronicles the evolution of land acquisition as a conservation strategy in the United States since the late 1700s. It goes beyond the usual focus on conservation successes to provide a critical assessment of both public and private land acquisition efforts. The book shows that for more than 200 years, both private purchasers -- such as the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land -- and governmental agencies have acquired land for conservation. It documents trends of growing complexity in transactions and a blurring of public and private roles. The preservation of Mount Vernon and its grounds, for example, began with a private group -- the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union -- and continues today with a mosaic of private, state, and federal actors. The current emphasis on private land trust acquisitions, the authors argue, may undercut other effective governmental efforts to preserve the environment and may not be the best way to meet conservation goals. Buying Nature emphasizes the accountability issues that arise when the...



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