



TED radio hour

Are We Ready To Hack The Animal Kingdom?

by NPR/TED STAFF

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Stewart Brand

The dawn of de-extinction. Are you ready?

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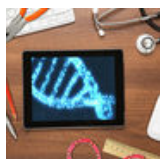
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About Stewart Brand's TEDTalk

Mankind has driven species after species extinct. Now Stewart Brand says, we have the technology to bring back the species that we wiped out. So should we? Which ones? He asks a big question whose answer is closer than you may think.

“Humans have made a huge hole in nature in the last 10,000 years. We have the ability now, and

maybe the moral obligation, to repair some of the damage.

- *Stewart Brand*

About Stewart Brand

The revival of extinct species is becoming a possibility and Stewart Brand plans to not only bring species back but restore them to the wild.

Brand is already a legend in the tech industry for things he's created: the Whole Earth Catalog, The WELL, the Long Now Foundation, and the notion that "information wants to be free."

Now Brand, a lifelong environmentalist, wants to re-create — or "de-extinct" — a few animals that have disappeared from the planet. Resurrecting the woolly mammoth using ancient DNA may sound like mad science.

But Brand's Revive and Restore project has an entirely rational goal: to learn what causes extinctions so we can protect currently endangered species, preserve genetic and biological diversity, repair depleted ecosystems, and essentially "undo harm that humans have caused in the past."

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