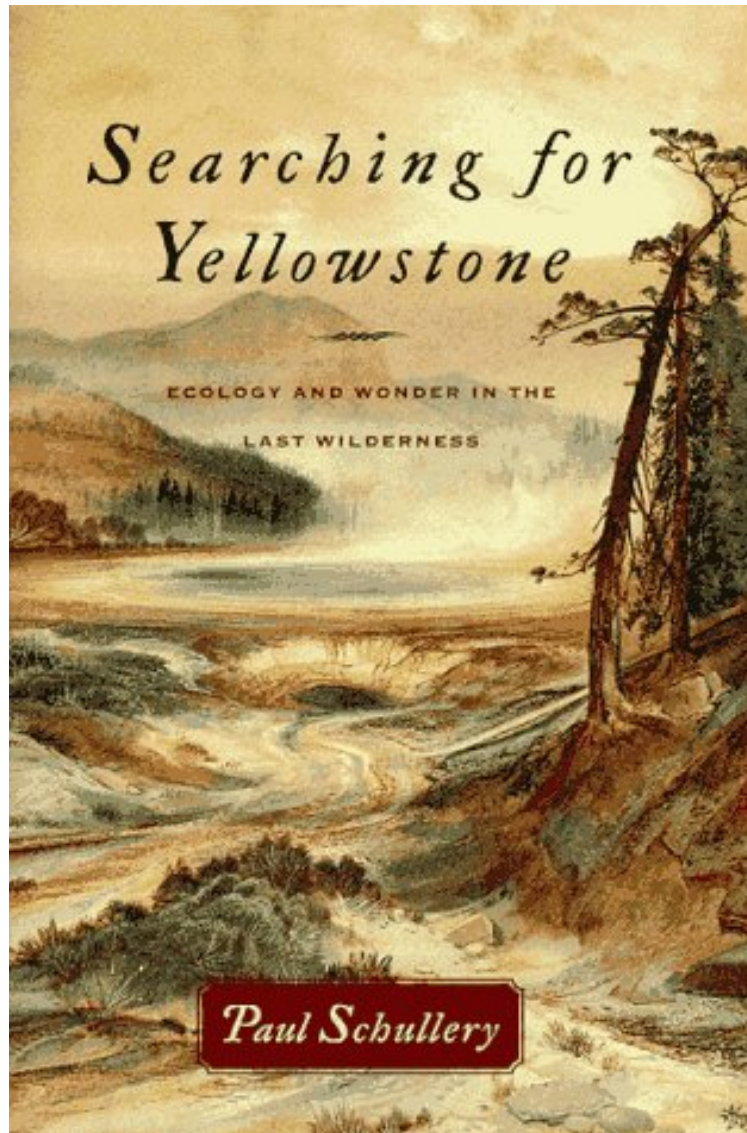


Searching for Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness

Paul Schullery

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Paul Schullery : Searching for Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Searching for Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A balanced history and a wonderful read By Arthur Digbee This book presents itself as a history of Yellowstone. However, it's also an extended reflection on the park by someone who loves

it dearly, someone who has worked for the National Park Service in Yellowstone for years and is very knowledgeable about the park. Schullery writes very well, and the book is a pleasure to read. The most striking characteristic of this book, in comparison with others, is how remarkably even-handed it is. Schullery takes controversial issues such as fire management, elk shooting, wolf reintroduction, and brucellosis-infected bison and presents them in an even-handed way, sympathetic to both sides. He recognizes that most people go to Yellowstone to see Old Faithful and the Grand Canyon, eat, and go shopping; that's not what he likes to do, but he isn't critical. Yet, somehow, he manages to cock an eyebrow here and there and make you rethink a position that you had previously held quite firmly. This would be a great book to read before a visit to Yellowstone, or as something to put in your pack while you're there. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By David S. Great reading before a trip to Yellowstone. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read this to understand Yellowstone By C. Hilton After reading this book I understand Yellowstone's past, present and future better. I visit Yellowstone every year and this book will help me get more out of my visits.

Combining exhaustive research with twenty-five years of experience at Yellowstone, Paul Schullery paints a dramatically new picture of Yellowstone park. He shows how Yellowstone's "discovery" by whites followed 10,000 years of occupation and use by native Americans. The search for Yellowstone is as vital and unpredictable today as it was in 1872, and Paul Schullery makes an urgent, eloquent, and startlingly practical case for ensuring that Yellowstone lasts another 125 years.

.com In 1997 Yellowstone celebrated its 125th anniversary as a national park, the keystone in the federal system of reserved and protected places. The celebration was somewhat marred by debates over wolf reintroduction, road improvement, resort building, and "bioprospecting," the search for economically useful plant materials. Paul Schullery, a longtime resident and student of the park, tells us that such debates are not new. In his deeply personal yet sweeping history of Yellowstone, he shows that the place known from the start as "Wonderland" has always been the subject of pro- and anti-development forces, has always been seen through sometimes bitterly contrasting points of view. With balance and grace, Schullery weaves his narrative through countless such arguments, noting that "Today's parks, for all the press of humanity lined up to get in, still seem short of friends, or at least lacking in just the right combination of friends to ensure adequate budgets and reasonable protection." His fine book may help widen Yellowstone's circle of champions. From Library Journal For its 125th birthday, Schullery (former ranger-naturalist, park historian, and chief of cultural resources at Yellowstone National Park) offers an environmental history of the world's first national park. From its geological birth, through the experiences of humans who have traversed the area for hundreds of years, to contemporary questions of bear management, elk herd reduction, and the reintroduction of wolves, the history of Yellowstone is not simple—and neither is humankind's quest for its meaning. By reviewing, condensing, and analyzing past and current literature and offering his personal insights, Schullery describes the ever-changing process that is its essence. Readable and tightly organized, this book fills a long-empty niche: a one-volume history of Yellowstone—America's best idea. Recommended for all libraries. Patricia Owens, Wabash Valley Coll., Mt. Carmel, Ill. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sThe wondrous and subtle cultural landscape of Yellowstone, and the powerful effect it has had on the human imagination, is lovingly detailed in this comprehensive, level-headed study from Schullery (*The Bear Hunter's Century*, 1988, etc.). This history of our first national park concentrates on the dynamic ideas and issues of the place rather than its bureaucracy and physical plant, reveling in the "fabulously complex suite of geophysical and ecological processes" called nature. Schullery is interested in the park as synecdoche: a park to be sure, but also a defining feature in the national life, a cultural, political, intellectual, and spiritual crossroad. He takes as his starting point the immediate postglacial recolonization of the area, detailing fauna and flora, speculating on the early human occupants, the far-reaching obsidian trade, the gradual development of the Crow, Shoshone, Bannock, and Blackfoot cultures, as shrewd, involved, and convoluted as any Old World counterpart. John Colter, Joe Meek, and Jim Bridger get their due, as well as the miners, travelers, and adventurers lured to the valley by reports of treasure and wonder. But Schullery concentrates on the postestablishment era, from 1872 on, and how the park has shaped, and been shaped by, contemporary modes of environmental thought. It has been a proving ground for all manner of conservation theory from prey/predator imbalances, wolf reintroduction, fire suppression, and ecological process management; on the other hand, there is the sorry tale of park concessionaries, the rivalries between the Park Service and the Forest Service, and the question of what a quality park experience represents for the throngs—Winnebagoist to backcountry rambler—who pour through the storied gateways. Schullery's "search" is for a chance to embrace Yellowstone's wonder, and he gives it one warm, all-embracing bear hug. (33 bw photos, 2 maps) -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.