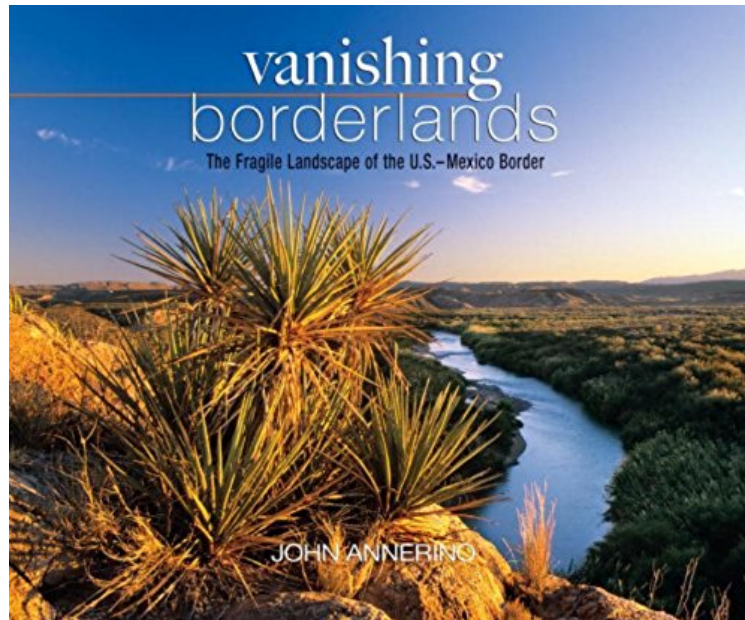


# Vanishing Borderlands: The Fragile Landscape of the U.S.-Mexico Border

*John Annerino*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1146798 in Books Countryman Press 2008-09-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.10 x .60 x 10.90l, 1.80 #File Name: 0881507172128 pages | File size: 34.Mb

**John Annerino : Vanishing Borderlands: The Fragile Landscape of the U.S.-Mexico Border** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vanishing Borderlands: The Fragile Landscape of the U.S.-Mexico Border:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Vanishing Borderlands brings the border into your living room By Roger DiRosa In Vanishing Borderlands, John Annerino continues to demonstrate why he is probably the best popular author and photographer who photographs and writes about the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. He has chronicled the borderlands from both sides for many years and gained a unique perspective few others have. His outstanding photographs are a hallmark of all his books. His many years in the field on the border have helped him hone his talent for "humanizing" the borderlands. John's latest "border-book" is a quick and thought provoking read with excellent photos that bring the border environment and its problems (social, law enforcement and environmental) into the reader's living room. It is an excellent and easily absorbed photographic journey highlighted by his thoughtful prose that includes personal anecdotes and feelings. By including interesting and relevant border history along with recent disturbing facts and photos about today's border issues/problems, he helps bring the border into perspective. John's book is a peep-hole look into, in some cases what was, beautiful, biologically complex and fascinating lands. These borderlands, many of which used to be remote and little impacted from human activity, have now become political and physical battlegrounds, and a deadly arena for illegal immigrants, drug smugglers and law enforcement. (No hyperbole intended.) No author or photographer can possibly capture the full complexity of the border's politics, human death and suffering, natural and human histories, and current border activities that are destroying large areas of ecologically sensitive and picturesque environments. Any reader who thinks he understands the border environment after reading

this book, or any book about the border, is extremely naive indeed. However, John's book is a very good start for anyone who wants to understand the border a little better. It encourages the reader to open the door, or at least enlarge the peep-hole, and further explore the fascinating borderlands. I write with the experience of a retired federal law enforcement officer and natural resource manager who worked the border for many years and experienced its best and worst. I highly recommend *Vanishing Borderlands*.<sup>2</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. WOW!! By O. H. Saenz John Annerino's "Vanishing Borderlands" speaks lightyears of truth the mainstream media fails miserably at. This volume leaves no stone unturned, no door closed, no letter unopened. "Vanishing Borderlands" presents the full (and bulletproof) spectrum on the border issue and nothing less. His personal accounts and spectacular imagery will transport you to a world like no other. You will meet folks who risk all in hopes of a better life and those who prey upon them. You will meet those who risk all to protect our border and you will meet some who gave it all. You will also meet the killers and outlaws who make their living smuggling people and drugs across a fragile environment daily. Annerino will show you what has happened to the land via his brilliant photography. It is all here in "Vanishing Borderlands"! Annerino will take you to where it all happens and tell you who, what, when, where, why and how the deadliest stretch of contested real estate in America and Mexico lives on. "Vanishing Borderlands" is a no holds barred expedition into a world no one likes to talk about. Down here along the border, seeing or hearing the wrong thing will get ANYONE killed. Only Annerino succeeds in revealing everything and nothing less than the truth. His experience, his respect for the lands, his symphony of imagery and persona breathes life where all others have failed. John gets it right as only he can do. It wouldn't surprise me to learn tons of folks have made a career, completed doctoral degrees or testified before Congress because of what Annerino has contributed and done with his life to get the REAL WORD out. "Vanishing Borderlands" will take you where no one'd dare. Not even Hollywood! Anything else is a waste of money! Want the wildest ride to be had on the subject? Get this book!<sup>2</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful book By D. Millis Few have more experience in the desert borderlands than John Annerino. His excellent photography and years of wilderness experience combine to provide a very unique look at the border. Jammed with beautiful, raw twilight photos of timeless border landscapes, the large format and intense colors expose the high stakes of our border crisis. Entitled "Vanishing Borderlands," the book is a little soft on the U.S. border policies that are endangering the lands so wonderfully captured in its photography. The last section of the book is a bit of a glorification of the enforcement activities that are ripping our protected public lands and wildlife habitats to shreds. Still, Annerino gives a great overview of the border wall project, the damage it causes to fragile ecosystems, and, most importantly, the absolute grandeur of the lands it threatens to dissect. Dan Millis Sierra Club Borderlands Campaign Tucson, Arizona

John Annerino, famed photographer of the American Southwest, portrays the astonishing beauty of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands and contrasts those with images of the conflict that threatens to destroy them. These 1,956 miles through Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California on the U.S. side and Nuevo Len, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Baja California Norte on Mexico's side are the beautiful, rugged, blood-stained borderlands that once lured conquistadors, missionaries, scalp hunters, bandits, smugglers, pioneers, and colonists from Spain, Mexico, and the United States. Annerino canoed the Ro Grande/Ro Bravo del Norte through the legendary Big Bend Frontier, walked treacherous immigrant trails like Arizona's Camino del Diablo (Road of the Devil), explored borderlands jaguar country on foot, and came to know the resilient people who live, work, and cling to the traditions on both sides of the border. Along the way he chronicled his perilous journeys through this "geography of chaos," capturing in remarkable photographs and evocative essays the stunning landscapes whose fragile environment is threatened by today's politics.

John Annerino is an excellent photographer and fine writer with a special affinity for the American West and Old Mexico. His newest book focuses on the natural wonders that became landmarks for early surveyors who marked the border between Mexico and the U.S. It also includes images and stories that reflect the ongoing battles to stem illegal immigration and smuggling and preserve traditional lifestyles in a beautiful, but isolated and harshly unforgiving, land. --Dallas Morning News During the past two decades, author photographer John Annerino has seen this "extraordinary and dangerous paradise," home to many UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves, national parks, monuments and wildlife refuges, become a battleground. In brief travel essays and with skilled photographic imagery, this coffee-table book, which balances the region's grandeurs with its truths, is an eye opener. An introduction to a highly troubled place of devastating beauty, his book does readers a service, and shows why this great natural treasure deserves to be conserved. --The Seattle Times Many of us love the Southwestern borderlands for their stirring landscapes and timeless people. In transfixing photos and enchanting essays, John Annerino ably brings us both. He reminds those of us who live here why we love the Southwest, and to those who live elsewhere, he explains why. But, though beautiful and enchanting, the borderlands are fragile and at times perilous. He reminds us what is at stake along the border. Annerino knows both sides of the line and this book is exceptional. -- Southwest Books of the Year, "Best Reading" The wilderness along the U.S.-Mexico border is being devastated as if it were a war zone. The onslaught is turning these fragile lands into a wasteland. Among these are American and Mexican national parks, monuments,

wildlife refuges, and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, beloved and irreplaceable national and world treasures. Award winning photographer John Annerino, who knows this territory well, chronicles this disturbing story in the wake of continued failures of two governments and societies to address their crises and work together for the common good. --Southwest Books of the Year"Unusual among John Annerino's superb albums of the Southwest, this book is as much concerned with the people--Mexican and American, residents and tourists, border crossers and border patrolmen--as with the timeless and astonishingly beautiful land they pass through, and are in danger of destroying. For more than 25 years, Annerino has clambered over rocks, hiked across parched expanses, descended into river canyons, and climbed treacherous ridges, risking his bones and even his life to record the elusive, ever-changing play of desert light on the dramatic landscapes of the Southwest." --Abe From the Author Photographed and researched on both sides of the 1,956-mile border, *Vanishing Borderlands* includes essays and literary quotes on the contested landscape, descriptive photo captions with Spanish names, bibliography, literature cited, 3 color maps of the Author's Journey, and an afterword photo essay, "Border Wars: Tracking Smugglers and Coyotes in America's Most Dangerous Parklands." The color photographs feature many trans-border biosphere reserves, natural areas, and national parks in the United States and Mexico: Anza Borrego Desert State Park and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Barry M. Goldwater Range, Basaseachic Falls National Park, Big Bend National Park UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Big Bend Ranch State Park, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Chiricahua National Monument, City of Rocks State Park, Cochise Stronghold National Register of Historic Places, Colorado River Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, Cumbres de Monterrey National Park, El Camino del Diablo National Register of Historic Places, El Columpio del Diablo, ("The Devil's Swing"), El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Empire-Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Maderas del Carmen Flora and Fauna Protection Area UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Picacho Peak State Park, Reserva del Centro Ecological de Sonora, Ro Bravo del Norte, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, Saguaro National Park, San Ignacio del Babocomari Spanish Land Grant, Santa Elena Flora and Fauna Protection Area, Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra San Pedro Martir National Park, Superstition Mountains Wilderness, Tinajas Altas Mountains Natural Area, Tiburon Island and Sea of Cortes UNESCO Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California, Tumacacori National Historic Park, Upper Gulf of California UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, United States/Mexico Boundary Monuments, White Sands National Monument. From the Inside Flap In his most latest book, John Annerino went in search of the natural wonders that were landmarks for early surveyors whose formidable task it was to draw a straight line through a "geography of chaos" that shaped the 1,956-mile United States/Mexico borderlands of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California; and Nuevo Len, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Baja California Norte, Mexico. In the beautiful, rugged, blood-stained borderlands that once lured conquistadors, missionaries, scalp hunters, bandits, smugglers, Texas Rangers, pioneers, and colonists from Spain, Mexico, and United States, Annerino canoed the Rio Grande/Ro Bravo del Norte through the legendary Big Bend frontier, walked treacherous immigrant trail's like Arizona's Camino del Diablo, "Road of the Devil," explored the realm of the borderlands jaguar on foot, and came to know the resilient people who live, work and cling to traditions on both sides of the border. Along the way he chronicled his perilous journeys, capturing in remarkable photographs and evocative essays the stunning landscapes and people that remain hidden behind today's headlines. Many of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves, national parks and monuments, wilderness areas, and national wildlife refuges Annerino visited throughout the borderlands are the last refuge for threatened and endangered species such as the Sonoran pronghorn antelope, Desert bighorn sheep, Mexican jaguar, Vaquita porpoise, as well as the indigenous people who once traveled freely across a land divided. But the fragile ecosystems of these vibrant bioregions-- shared by the United States and Mexico--have fallen prey to the deadly mix of heavy off-road traffic of armed smugglers, coyotes (human traffickers), bajadores (border bandits and kidnappers), Border Patrol, migrants, and a steel border wall that threatens to be the death knell for the natural landscape, wildlife, multi-lingual people and culture that wove the colorful mosaic of the borderlands' common ground. John's photographs and essays portray the astonishing beauty of this mythic landscape, underscored by discerning images, words, and maps of forces that now threaten to destroy it--or anyone who now dares venture into it.