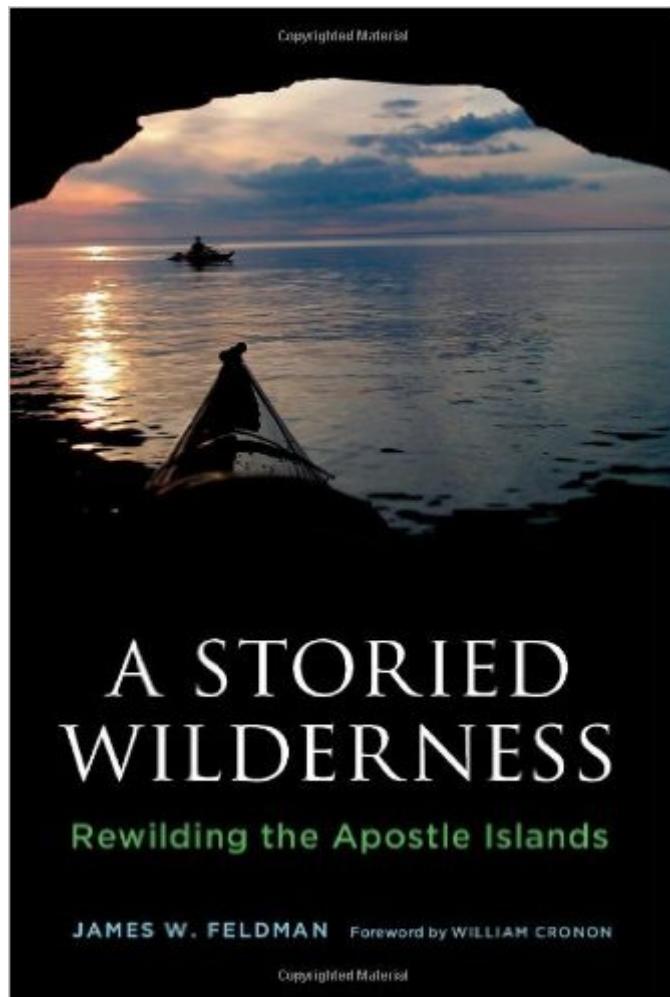


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A Storied Wilderness: Rewilding The Apostle Islands (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books)



Synopsis

The Apostle Islands are a solitary place of natural beauty, with red sandstone cliffs, secluded beaches, and a rich and unique forest surrounded by the cold, blue waters of Lake Superior. But this seemingly pristine wilderness has been shaped and reshaped by humans. The people who lived and worked in the Apostles built homes, cleared fields, and cut timber in the island forests. The consequences of human choices made more than a century ago can still be read in today's wild landscapes. *A Storied Wilderness* traces the complex history of human interaction with the Apostle Islands. In the 1930s, resource extraction made it seem like the islands' natural beauty had been lost forever. But as the island forests regenerated, the ways that people used and valued the islands changed - human and natural processes together led to the rewilding of the Apostles. In 1970, the Apostles were included in the national park system and ultimately designated as the Gaylord Nelson Wilderness. How should we understand and value wild places with human pasts? James Feldman argues convincingly that such places provide the opportunity to rethink the human place in nature. The Apostle Islands are an ideal setting for telling the national story of how we came to equate human activity with the loss of wilderness characteristics, when in reality all of our cherished wild places are the products of the complicated interactions between human and natural history. Check out the book trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/user/UWashingtonPress#p/u/6/frECwkA6oHs>

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Storied Wilderness by James Feldman is a well written meticulous description of Lake Superior's

Apostle Islands transitioning from local sustainability to market driven rural resource recovery to seasonal home/tourism and finally to it's present status as a eco-wilderness. The book is valuable in recounting and capturing the historical progression. The author and the NPS are to be commended in their call to blend history into nature. To do so they are challenging the Jolly Green Giant of wilderness-as-religion mantra that has driven environmental discourse to anthropocentric distraction. However NPS's injection of cultural vignettes is little more than tokenism in what amounts to a checkerboard, live-tree rather than animatronics, theme park. It is artifice designed to provide the illusion of nature while fostering the delusion of a present new and improved non-consumption. Just as the former schemes failed as the resources proved too limited to service the cities gregarious needs, so too shall the present panacea prove fallacious. Eco-tourism footprint merely displaces the resources needed for such sport to transport and industry of unseen elsewhere's. Such "preserves" of less visible use are constructs to salve the past and satisfy present narratives. They are the jolly greens of idyllic 'pre-contact' stasis, surrounded by exclusionary filters to sort out the unholy while concurrently preventing nature from fulfilling her legacy. Even rewilding the prime mover of nature is used anthropocentrically as an ointment to remove the vestiges of white man guilt. Rewilding at man's direction is gardening, plot by plot of self righteous dreamscapes rather than allowing nature to regaining her design.

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