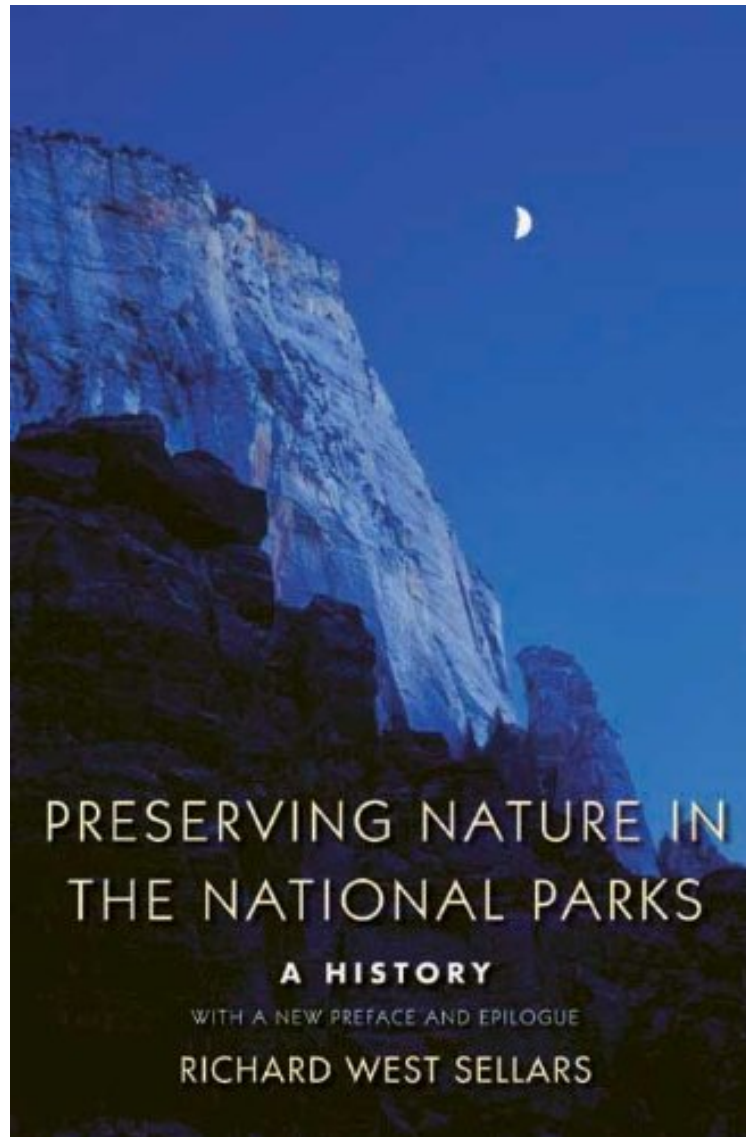


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(+) years.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy LTEXcellent history of the parks.1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Enforcement not interpretationBy Scott M. KruseVisit a national park, recreation area or other entity and the emphasis is on law enforcement, not nature. The average field ranger cannot tell you the name or natural history of a rock, plant, stream or valley. They can cite policy, enforce laws and focus on their families. Many rangers are college educated - in police science, not biology, geography or physics. A major incentive is "20 years and out". You work 20 years and retire. You obtain promotion and upgrades in pay by moving from park to park, not by learning and becoming one with local ecosystems.This is unfortunate. Rangers should be able to operate in any ecosystem - water, sea, snow, air, rock, soil and even urban areas, but emphasize the sustainable natural environment. Nature, in too many cases, has become a side show, not the main focus.

This book traces the epic clash of values between traditional scenery-and-tourism management and emerging ecological concepts in the national parks, Americas most treasured landscapes. It spans the period from the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 to near the present, analyzing the management of fires, predators, elk, bear, and other natural phenomena in parks such as Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and Great Smoky Mountains.Based largely on original documents never before researched, this is the most thorough history of the national parks ever written. Focusing on the decades after the National Park Service was established in 1916, the author reveals the dynamics of policy formulation and change, as landscape architects, foresters, wildlife biologists, and other Park Service professionals contended for dominance and shaped the attitudes and culture of the Service. The book provides a fresh look at the national parks and an analysis of why the Service has not responded in full faith to the environmental concerns of recent times.Richard West Sellars, a historian with the National Park Service, has become uniquely familiar with the history, culture, and dynamics of the Serviceincluding its biases, internal alliances and rivalries, self-image, folklore, and rhetoric. The book will prove indispensable for environmental and governmental specialists and for general readers seeking an in-depth analysis of one of Americas most admired federal bureaus.

"Preserving Nature inspired the greatest advances in scientific natural resource preservation in the history of the national parks." Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, 1961-1969 "Anyone who hopes to understand the rich history of our national parks - or cares about their future - needs to read this penetrating book." Dayton Duncan, writer and producer of The National Parks: America's Best Idea broadcast on PBS "This book has changed the way I think about the National Park Service. Its honesty, clarity, and deep research all mark this book as a landmark in N.P.S. historical treatises." Robert C. Pavlik, Yosemite Association>About the AuthorRichard W. Sellars is a historian with the National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico.