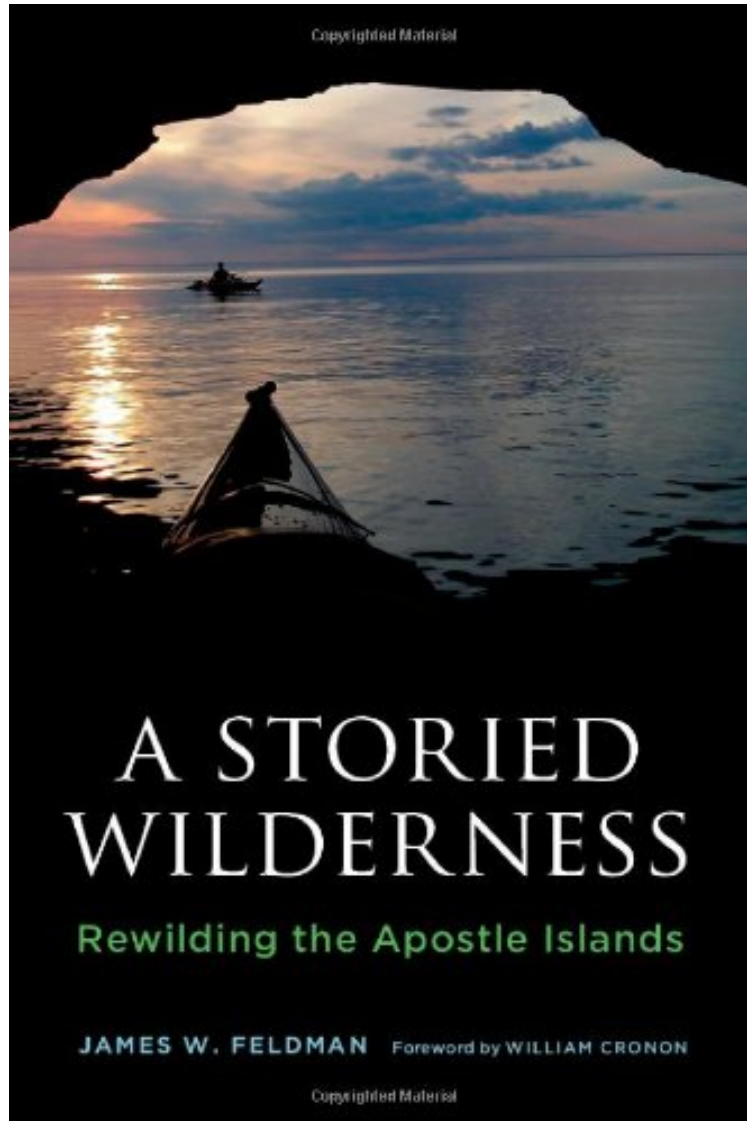


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Storied Wilderness (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books)

James W. Feldman

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James W. Feldman : Storied Wilderness (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Storied Wilderness (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books):

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Anthropocentric distractions By Vilnis Neilands 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 regain her design. Anthropocentrism no matter it's form is a dereliction of our responsibility to prioritize the needs of our environment. Satisfying urban's needs for timber, fish and fowl started the slide from sustainability which wilderness designation will now make complete. Resource recovery took, perhaps stole from her, now we have enslaved her. In the author's wanderings away from history the book could be improved through a deeper understanding of the forest for the trees and a more courageous going of the sacred oxes. But it is a very good read none the less.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Jay Turner
By J. Turner
This is a wonderful book. If you already know the Apostle Islands, Feldman offers a new way to read the landscape that will change the way you look at each dock, each beach, and each clearing in the woods. But Feldman also wraps big questions about what wilderness is, why we protect it, and how we manage it around one of the most fascinating national parks in the United States. If you are interested in a new way to conceptualize the shared role of people and nature in recreating wild landscapes, Feldman offers a compelling framework -- "rewilding." As Feldman argues in the introduction, "Rewilding landscapes should not be interpreted as evidence neither of past human abuse nor of triumphant wild nature, but as examples of the ongoing impact of human choices on natural processes and of natural conditions on human history. These landscapes represent both history and nature, working simultaneously and together." Embracing those stories doesn't diminish wilderness; instead, it offers us a rich new way to think about our relationship to Nature, both in the past and future.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Brings fascinating questions of life and wonder in the Apostles
By Randy
Feldman's genius is in the way he mixes his true sentiment for this pristine area, unknown to many, with a realistic and practical approach to the way we think about natural preservation. He motivates you to think about human impact while sharing excerpts from his experience and so gracefully detailed written perspective with a friend or loved one.

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. James W. Feldman is associate professor of history and environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin.

"Feldman's book is at once a model of local environmental history and a superb history of the conceptual and political landscape of wilderness." -James Morton Turner, author *The*

"An insightful chapter to the ongoing wilderness debates about the central role of humans in the wilderness." -Lissy Goralnik, *Journal of Environmental Studies* Vol.2

"Feldman's book is at once a model of local environmental history and a superb history of the conceptual and political landscape of wilderness." James Morton Turner, author of *The Promise of Wilderness: A History of American Environmental Politics*

"This book has a specific geographic focus but it is relevant to the entire park system and to wilderness--for they are the product of the choices we have made in our relationships with nature." David Louter, author of *Windshield Wilderness: Cars, Roads, and Nature in Washington's National Parks*

"Long before it became a place for pleasure, the sylvan paradise that is today's Apostle Islands National Lakeshore was logged, farmed, quarried, lived upon, and loved by people whose footprints have largely disappeared. Jim Feldman makes the important point that history and nature together have shaped this once again wild place, and we

should not miss those stories for the trees."Dennis McCann, longtime Milwaukee Journal Sentinel travel writerAbout
the AuthorJames W. Feldman is associate professor of history and environmental studies at the University of
Wisconsin