Book Reviews

The Wolves of Yellowstone

Michael K. Phillips and Douglas W. Smith

Stillwater, MN: Voyageur Press, 1996

US \$19.95, 125 pages, hardcover

The *Wolves of Yellowstone* tells the story of the 1995 wolf restoration project in Yellowstone National Park. As noted by the project's leaders in the book's introduction, "the actual arrival of wolves to Yellowstone was, more than anything, a celebration of the end of a great decade-long siege—arguably the greatest battle to date over the control and influence agribusiness has regarding policy on western public lands."

Once numerous natural inhabitants of the world's first national park, the last wolf pack disappeared from Yellowstone in the 1930s. Reintroduction of the gray wolf was an idea that began 3 decades later, when published park goals included a recommendation that "biotic associations within each park be maintained, or where necessary, recreated." It took nearly 30 more years to generate the first plan for gray wolf recovery in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

The authors chronicle the restoration project, giving fair time to opposing viewpoints. They let the reader in on everything from the last-minute legal setbacks to photos of the first wolf being released from its pen. Essays written by several authors, from those involved in the daily operations to the Secretary of the Interior, are insightful and add depth to this interesting chapter in American history.

If the story can't hold your interest (but it will!), the photography is sure to please. Graphics, maps, timelines, and photos make the book an easy, quick, educational, and interesting read.

All proceeds from the sale of the book go to support the continuing Yellowstone wolf restoration program.

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