



In the Temple of Wolves: A Winter's Immersion in Wild Yellowstone

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More than 80 5-STAR reviews on Amazon. When Rick Lamplugh arrives at the historic Lamar Buffalo Ranch on New Year's Eve, he has one goal: to learn as much as possible about the ecology of the Lamar Valley. All winter he will work and live in this remote corner of Yellowstone National Park, home to some of the best wildlife watching in the world. Winter-hungry elk and bison migrate there to graze. Wolves, coyotes, and mountain lions stalk the grazers while eagles, ravens, and magpies wait to scavenge. The snowy backdrop makes the saga of death and life easy to spot. He has three frigid months to explore on skis and snowshoes, observe with all his senses, listen to and talk with experts. A literary blend of facts and feelings, In the Temple of Wolves celebrates nature's stark beauty and treacherous cruelty, while revealing Lamplugh's inner battles with his own human nature.

In the Temple of Wolves: A Winter's Immersion in Wild Yellowstone Details

Date : Published November 21st 2013 by Rick Lamplugh via CreateSpace

ISBN : 9781490372051

Author : Rick Lamplugh

Format : Paperback 186 pages

Genre : Environment, Nature, Nonfiction, Outdoors, Animals, Wolves



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From Reader Review In the Temple of Wolves: A Winter's Immersion in Wild Yellowstone for online ebook

Maggie Shanley says

Rick tells the story of his three months driving a bus in Yellowstone during the winter in the "temple of the wolves". I love nature stories and studies of people living in remote locations observing wildlife, however this book was not as strong as some others that I have read. It lacks some of the specific details and heart that make such books as Fire Season or Indian Creek Chronicles linger with the reader.

Kendall says

4.5 stars, but am rounding up because I have an unabashed love for the wolves in Yellowstone and will pick up anything I can get my hands on about them. This is a GREAT companion read to American Wolf by Nate Blakeslee. So, if you loved that book, you will definitely love this one. The title is a *bit* misleading because the book is not just about wolves - the subtitle is more accurate. It's basically a compilation of essays about the wilds of Yellowstone, written by a man that spends the winters as a volunteer/guide there. Some cool "insider"-type stories (did you know they have to move bison carcasses by sled to more remote areas of the park if one dies too close to the roadside to prevent traffic jams/keep the visitors safe?). Also, Rick McIntyre (a central figure in American Wolf) and 06 both make an appearance in this book. It was also really interesting to see events discussed in American Wolf from this author's perspective. A short, quick read that has fanned the flame of my desire to visit Yellowstone in the winter some day!

Jessaka says

We had just arrived home from Yellowstone when I found this book that mimicked my own experience while there, even though it was only a day trip.

While preparing for this trip, I worried myself to death. What if a bear comes up to our car? What if we have to spend the night in our car, because we have no reservations, and a bear comes over to us? How would I even get out of the car to use the bathroom? Can we take a potty can with us? My husband said, "You worry too much," Ah, I have heard that before. What is Old Faithful blows?

I remembered the trip I took with my first husband when we were in Yosemite without a campsite and we had to sleep in the car. I got out in the middle of the night to use the bathroom and ran back into the car as fast as I could. My fears have always been the same, except to say that in later years I drove by myself in my VW bug from Berkeley to Yosemite where I had spent the night in one of their parking lots, and the next day I took nature photos. I was lying in the snow motionless, watching a deer, taking photos when the deer walked up to me and sniffed my foot. Then later on that day, I walked up to a coyote and snapped a photo. My professor, in the photography class that I was taking, didn't believe that I was that close to the coyote. But coyotes are not dangerous; bears are.

To continue the trip to Yellowstone: We were driving along the road, coming from Cody early that morning. We had passed a river and some small geysers, when we drove into a valley. Cars were parked along both

sides of the road. My husband pulled over and parked, and across the road people had binoculars, telescopes, and cameras. I grabbed my camera and crossed the road, while my husband stayed in the car. The low oxygen level was bothering him.

I went up to a young man and asked, "What is everyone looking at?" His answer was, "An elk was hit by a car an hour or so ago and fell on the hill. There were five wolves and a bear fighting over it, but most of the wolves have wandered off. Now there is just a white wolf, which had been fighting with the bear earlier." He pointed to the area that was around 500 feet away. I only saw a speck of white. I began snapping photos of everything even though I saw nothing. The guy saw my dilemma and handed me his binoculars. I saw nothing. Then he asked me to stay where I was, and when he returned he asked me to follow him, saying, "This guy is going to let you look through his telescope." I looked through the telescope. A large bear was standing over the elk, his head buried in its fur. The white wolf was standing maybe ten feet away. "Oh, my God! Wow!" is all I could say. I was in awe. Never in my entire life had I thought that I would want to see something like this. I wanted to stay and watch all day. I wanted a telescope, a Nikon camera. And I even wanted to walk across the valley to the hill where the bear and the wolf were, but I knew better. I thought of my youth, how I once wanted to be a park ranger.

I can't tell you much more about Yellowstone, but I can tell you over and over again about the bear and the wolf, and while that was the last thing I wanted to see in Yellowstone it was the highlight of our trip across America. And yes, we made it to Jackson before dark, found a motel and began descending the mountains the next day.

But don't let me forget, the Teton Mountains are the most beautiful mountains that I have ever seen.

As for Lamplugh's book, it was wonderful. Not only does it describe scenes like this, but he talks about how returning the wolves to Yellowstone has changed things for the better; It has had a good impact on the environment and other animal species.

And yes, I would walk up to a wolf, but I know that he would turn and walk away, while I would be quietly saying, "Stay."

Note:

Wolves and Coyotes Need Not Die So We Can Eat Meat
by Rick Lamplugh, wildlife advocate & author

My previous post, "We Have More to Fear from Livestock than from Wolves," (<http://bit.ly/2rsCJf1>) evoked many comments. The post's premise: While ranchers claim that wolves threaten their existence and should be eradicated, the livestock production that ranchers make a living off of is killing the ecosystem that sustains the rest of us.

Many readers commented that they had already stopped eating beef or sheep. Some readers wrote that they are vegetarians or vegans. Still others wondered how they could continue to enjoy meat without supporting an industry that unnecessarily kills wolves, coyotes, and other predators.

Ranchers can keep livestock and predators separate and alive. Some choose to do so and become what is called predator friendly. Here's how being predator friendly works for Becky Weed and Dave Tyler in Belgrade, Montana. On the website of their Thirteen Mile Lamb & Wool Company, they write, "Our principal protection against native predators are our guard dogs and llamas and our own vigilance; because we have chosen not to use lethal control methods against coyotes, bears, wolves, mountain lions, our ranch is certified as 'predator friendly.'"

Ranchers earn Predator Friendly® certification. An annual audit must find that the producer maintains and enhances wildlife habitat, employs a mix of nonlethal methods, and quickly modifies management practices when conditions change.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to living with predators, but here are some of the nonlethal methods Predator Friendly producers employ:

- * Using guard animals such as llamas, donkeys, and dogs
- * Scheduling pasture use when predation pressure is low
- * Grazing cattle with smaller livestock to protect sheep, goats, and calves
- * Timing calving and lambing to avoid predation risk
- * Lambing in sheds, secure fenced lots, or protected pastures
- * Making frequent and unpredictable patrols in pastures
- * Protecting vulnerable animals by fencing out predators
- * Learning the ecology and habits of area wildlife

The Animal Welfare Institute states that the Predator Friendly program encourages livestock producers like Weed and Tyler to protect some of the most important habitat and species in the United States, while opening up a new market for their sustainable ranch.

We can support ranchers that choose coexisting over killing by purchasing their Predator Friendly® products. Products sold from the Predator Friendly website include beef, bison, goat, lamb, turkey, eggs, and honey as well as sheep and cattle breeding stock. To check out the Predator Friendly website:

<http://www.predatorfriendly.org/>

To learn more about ways that ranchers can keep livestock and wolves separate and alive, check out "Livestock and Wolves," the guide from Defenders of Wildlife. The principal author is Suzanne Asha Stone. Contributors include Carter Niemeyer, Linda Thurston and others. Here's the link: <http://bit.ly/1RVw4SA> Rick Lamplugh writes to protect wildlife and preserve wildlands. He lives near Yellowstone's north gate and has just finished his new book, Deep into Yellowstone: A Year's Immersion in Grandeur and Controversy. He is the author of the Amazon bestseller In the Temple of Wolves. Available as eBook or paperback at <http://amzn.to/Jpea9Q>. Or as a signed copy from Rick at <http://bit.ly/1gYghB4>.

Ashley Kennedy says

I couldn't put this book down-- read it in <24 hours. It's one of the best descriptive nonfiction books I've come across in recent years.

I'm an ecologist, but you don't have to be a scientist to enjoy this book. Lamplugh presents some complex ecological theories, but he does so masterfully, with wording that is accessible for anyone. Having taken graduate-level courses on some of the topics introduced in this book, I can say that the science (as he presents it) holds up to scrutiny, but it is interwoven with a fascinating personal narrative that makes it a real "page-turner."

Don't be fooled by the fact that it's self-published; it's a very smooth, polished read-- no edits needed.

Jennifer says

A great read. It made me want to sign up as a volunteer in Yellowstone right away. I have always been fascinated by the history of human/wolf relations in the US and the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone is something I have followed with interest over the last 18 years. I really appreciated the way the author reminds the reader that One thing that this book does well is present the wolf vs. rancher part of the story from a business perspective, which is different and interesting. I am very concerned about the wolf hunts that have been resumed since 2011. There doesn't seem to be any incentive to the hunters to avoid killing collared wolves that are clearly part of Yellowstone packs, and the numbers of Yellowstone wolves have decreased significantly after only 2 hunts. I also feel like I want to go volunteer in Yellowstone in winter, and I'm not all that fond of winter.

Tim McMacken Jr. says

A wonderful invitation to sit quietly and be with nature learning from your surroundings and from the creatures that form the great web of life. This exploration of the winter world of wolves in Yellowstone dives into not just the packs that roam a corner of the great park but into the larger ecosystem that they support. From Coyotes to Caribou a wolf kill is essential for the system to balance and the author takes the reader from flinching at the thought of watching game being taken down to a deeper appreciation the cycle of life.

Marianne Scholer says

Wolf Champion

I became a wolf activist in 1987 by joining a letter-writing campaign supporting the re-introduction of wolves in Yellowstone NP. What a pleasure to read this account by this talented outdoorsman. Thank you, Rick, for keeping the flame alive. Wolf supporters certainly cannot rest as new threats to this magnificent species multiply. The effort - like this book - is life affirming and heartbreakng.

Kathy England says

I'm biased. An animal lover, a biology major, and someone who has watched the reintroduction of the wolf to Yellowstone, I was a sucker for this book. I also have lived within 6 hours of Yellowstone for the last 9 years and visit at least once a year. Our neighbors told us about the great wildlife watching in the Lamar Valley and it has become our favorite part of the park. So what's not to like about a book about the wolves in the Lamar Valley, written by someone who also loves wolves, the area, and who writes well.

Robert Nye says

Life in the American Serengeti

I read this book to improve my understanding of Yellowstone National Park. My wife and I lived in Gardiner, Montana during May, June, July and August, 2013. We were in the Lamar Valley (the Temple) almost daily. We listened to Rick McIntyre (the Archbishop) whenever we could.

The book was very well written, and I found it very interesting and exciting, yet still accurate.

Mr. Lamplugh beautifully expresses his thoughts about and reactions to Yellowstone. I have entertained some of the same thoughts and reactions. I expect many others have also. Yellowstone does that to many visitors.

I suggest you read this book and visit the Lamar Valley.

Ld says

Didnt want it to end

I have a long time fascination with wolves and their powerful presence. This book reinforces the greatness of this amazing species in a comfortable way of presentation that makes you want more. It's as if you were sitting down with a trusted friend to listen to their tale of life in the presence of wolves. Will definitely be reading it again.

Dana says

I think if you have either been to Yellowstone or love nature then you will absolutely love this book. I enjoyed it but felt the language was a little over the top at times. I'm sure it was to evoke the same emotion in the reader that the author experienced. I really enjoyed a lot of the history of the park, bison and wolves and the interconnectedness of nature that was provided. It was really fascinating to hear how the elimination of species affects so many others including trees. It's a fun read and I definitely recommend if you're looking to hear about one of our amazing National Parks or planning a visit.

Reader Views says

Reviewed by Susan Violante for Reader Views (1/19)

“In the Temple of Wolves: A Winter’s Immersion in Wild Yellowstone” by Rick Lamplugh is the author’s recollection of his time as an observer in Yellowstone Park. Rick and his wife Mary signed up as winter volunteers to have a chance to experience the park during the winter. They had visited multiple times during the summer but as volunteers Rick would have a chance to observe as a naturalist, experiencing the ecosystem, the behavior of the food chain, and his passion...the wolves.

The book presents to readers a mix of the author’s observation notes enriched with his own reflections and recounts of his experiences through prose narration, as well as black and white pictures at the beginning of each chapter. Each chapter reads as a standalone vignette, almost like a picture made out of words which tells of a moment in time in the life of the park. Its characters are not only of predatory wolves and coyotes but their prey, such as elk and buffalo, scavengers, and the money-making photo hunters who compete to capture each life and death event in nature.

Rick Lamplugh is a skillful writer. His storytelling in this narration is captivating and informative, two elements that will keep readers hooked page after page, even as they read the difficult and crude description of the food chain where it is the reality show of survival of the fittest. His point of view as a naturalist gives a detailed description of what he is observing, while his point of view as a passionate wildlife lover gives readers his emotional view on the effects of intruding photographers in search of the best picture. His point of view of a regular person wanting to grow to an experienced outdoorsman shows readers a real view of the dangers and beauty of the wild outdoors during the winter.

My favorite scene was precisely the one where he realized once he got off the trail that he had left his important survival tools (like a map) in the car, and because of that, a small walk could have had a tragic end. I loved his voice and how he was able to transport me from my reading chair to the middle of the woods through his storytelling. Certainly a well-written account of Yellowstone Park, wolves, and the author's experience during his visit in the winter. I do wish the pictures would have been in color and the format of the book would have been a hard cover to be displayed on our coffee table to share as a conversation piece with everyone.

Overall, "In the Temple of Wolves: A Winter's Immersion in Wild Yellowstone" by Rick Lamplugh is a well-written captivating account of the life of wolves, extermination, and re-introduction into Yellowstone Park. Learn how their presence and absence affected the park and its food chain, and how people affect them as well, all through the author's firsthand experience, observation and research of factual and historical information. I found it informative, thought-provoking and entertaining and recommend it to all nature lovers as a realistic trip to wild winter Yellowstone!

Kaoru says

Don't read this if you don't want to take an immediate trip to Yellowstone, because after reading the beautiful nature and wildlife described in this book I wanted to head to Yellowstone as quickly as possible! It is also very informative and thought-provoking about why we need to fight to keep wolves in our ecosystems. A very good book!

Rachel says

It was such a pleasure to drop into Yellowstone with Rick Lamplugh. I liked the voice of his naturalist best, being present and observant with what is around him. His detailed descriptions of walking (or snow-shoeing) in nature had the effect of slowing me down, in a meditative way, making me hungry to re-establish my own connection with nature. I appreciated the thorough presentation of the wolf dilemma in regards to rancher's losses, but it took me out of the "being present" and pulled me into my head. Perhaps the next volume will keep my feet in Yellowstone with my eyes wide-open and wondering.

Nancy Lewis says

I read this book during my season as a program assistant at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch, so I could sit outside and listen to the babble of Rose Creek as I read Rick's description of it. I could look across the road at Rick's favorite stand of six cottonwoods. I could experience camp duty and driving the bus for visiting instructors

like he did here just a few seasons ago. It's surreal - like deja vu.
