

Hiking New Mexico's Gila Wilderness

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new mexico's 555,000 acre gila wilderness is a vast untrammeled patchwork of virtually unlimited forest types climatic conditions and wildlife

salmon tells the varied story of this unique undammed southwestern river in the past the present and possibly the future

new mexico's 555,000 acre gila wilderness is a vast untrammeled patchwork of virtually unlimited forest types climatic conditions and wildlife this rugged landscape boasts sweeping tundra hot springs mountain views and deep gnarled canyons within

gila s boundaries you can follow trails to views of the breathtaking peaks of the mogollon range wonder at ancient cliff dwellings and wind your way along stream ribboned ponderosa forests

gone are those of the 1950s and early 1960s who championed preserving wild lands and who influenced and saw the birth of the national wilderness preservation system nwps gone too are myriad eager managers and proponents of wild land protection of the late 1960s and 1970s who helped rear the fledgling wilderness system and bring it into adolescence by adding management practices and policy interpretations in this the 40th year since the birth of the nwps this middle age federal land system is surrounded by many new faces as its childhood friends have moved on to other callings have retired or are no longer with us needed in these new times is a clear comprehensive articulation of the multiple values of wilderness the overall purpose of this book is to tell fully what we know about the range of values americans hold toward the nwps in a factual wide ranging and science based way a multidisciplinary team of authors and researchers clarify the meaning of different types of wilderness values and present replicable science based evidence of these values in this volume the intended audience is all those new faces who can and do have power over the future of the u s national wilderness preservation system as well as all who seek to influence those who have this power this book is also intended for teachers students and other inquisitive people involved in formal or informal learning and research programs the authors intend this compilation to help better inform interested and engaged members of the general public about the values of their public wilderness areas after all it is the american citizen who is ultimately responsible and can influence public policy in the greatest measure through their individual and collective voices and actions publisher

the gila wilderness is both a landmark in conservation history and a living evolving place first and wildest is an elegant impassioned and timely tribute to its remarkable past and present michelle nijhuis in the summer of 1922 aldo leopold traveled on horseback up into the headwaters of new mexico s gila river and proposed to his bosses at the forest service that 500 000 acres of that rough country be set aside as roadless wilderness thus was born america s first the world s first designated wilderness a century later writer activists including indigenous voices come together to celebrate this vast rugged landscape the yellowstone of the southwest contributors include michael p berman philip connors martha schumann cooper beto o rourke martin heinrich pam houston priyanka kumar laura paskus sharman apt russell jakob sedig leeanna t torres and jj amaworo wilson elizabeth hightower allen is a contributing editor at outside magazine where she spent twenty plus years editing award winning features and writing columns and book reviews a transplanted

southerner turned westerner she lives in santa fe new mexico where she edits books and articles about public lands memoir and adventure and serves on the advisory board to writers on the range she and her husband and daughter spend as much time as they can exploring the rivers and mountains of the west while also making it back to tennessee fairly frequently for ham biscuits her mind is blown by the rugged vastness of the gila

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