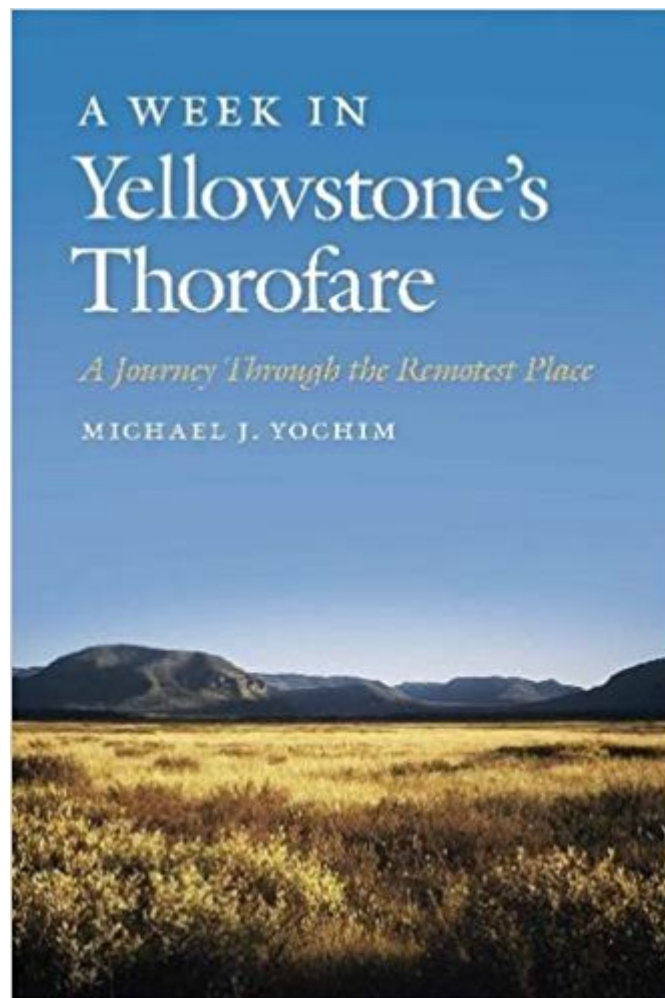




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A Week In Yellowstone's Thorofare: A Journey Through The Remotest Place



Synopsis

The remotest place in the country, outside of Alaska, is a region in Yellowstone National Park ironically named the Thorofare, for its historic role as a route traversed by fur trappers. *A Week in Yellowstone*’s Thorofare is a history and celebration of this wild place, set within a week-long expedition that the author took with three friends in 2014. Drawing upon the first-person accounts of rangers who have patrolled the area, archival documents, and Michael Yochim’s personal experiences over almost three decades, *A Week in Yellowstone*’s Thorofare distinguishes between the notions of wildness and wilderness. Through historic vignettes, descriptions of natural resources, and the author’s own experiences, it argues that wildness is the most precious, and easily lost, attribute of wilderness. The Thorofare is remote not only from roads, but also largely unexplored in the vast body of wilderness literature. *A Week in Yellowstone*’s Thorofare aims to fill that void. Recognizing both the value and the fragility of wildness, the rangers who manage the area have struggled through many eras to preserve it. This book chronicles many of the struggles through which it has remained protected for visitors today. Yochim offers poignant insight into the passions that motivate those who manage, defend, and journey through the Thorofare. His story demonstrates the importance of wild places for touching and understanding a fundamental part of the human experience. Part history, memoir, travelogue, natural history, and reflection, the book will appeal to readers interested in preservation, the wilderness movement, the history of National Parks, or the natural treasures of Yellowstone.

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Customer Reviews

"This book is Yochim's legacy, a tribute to a fragile, nourishing, and powerful wilderness, a deeply moving and informed exploration of the beauty, mystery, and community of the natural world." Kristen Rabe, Foreword Reviews "[Yochim's] story demonstrates the importance of wild places for touching and understanding a fundamental part of the human experience. Part history, memoir, travelogue, natural history, and reflection, the book will appeal to readers interested in preservation, the wilderness movement, the history of National Parks, or the natural treasures of Yellowstone." Jeff Pappas, National Parks Traveler "While heartbreaking, Yochim's story strikes deep in that profoundly human part of the soul that connects us with nature and our own fleeting mortality." Amy Klarup, Eugene Weekly

The remotest place in the country, outside of Alaska, is a region in Yellowstone National Park ironically named the Thorofare, for its historic role as a route traversed by fur trappers. *A Week in Yellowstone's Thorofare* is a history and celebration of this wild place, set within a week-long expedition that the author took with three friends in 2014. Drawing upon the first-person accounts of rangers who have patrolled the area, archival documents, and Michael Yochim's personal experiences over almost three decades, *A Week in Yellowstone's Thorofare* distinguishes between the notions of wildness and wilderness. Through historic vignettes, descriptions of natural resources, and the author's own experiences, it argues that wildness is the most precious, and easily lost, attribute of wilderness. The Thorofare is remote not only from roads, but also largely unexplored in the vast body of wilderness literature. *A Week in Yellowstone's Thorofare* aims to fill that void. Recognizing both the value and the fragility of wildness, the rangers who manage the area have struggled through many eras to preserve it. This book chronicles many of the struggles through which it has remained protected for visitors today. Yochim offers poignant insight into the passions that motivate those who manage, defend, and journey through the Thorofare. His story demonstrates the importance of wild places for touching and understanding a fundamental part of the human experience. Part history, memoir, travelogue, natural history, and reflection, the book will appeal to readers interested in preservation, the wilderness movement, the history of National Parks, or the natural treasures of Yellowstone.

In 2014, Yochim and two friends spent a week exploring the Thorofare, a remote region in Yellowstone National Park. That expedition, undertaken mostly by canoe because Yochim was in the early stages of ALS, became the backbone of his book. He also draws on the first-person accounts of the rangers who patrol the area, historical documents, and his earlier personal experiences working in Yellowstone and Yosemite. Yochim argues for the need to preserve "wildness" in the wilderness and buttresses his argument by giving readers a glimpse into one of the Lower 48's most remote, still wild areas. A Week in Yellowstone's Thorofare is a great book for celebrating 100 years of our National Parks, learning more about Yellowstone in particular, or thinking more deeply about the importance of wilderness and wildness in nature. There is no question that Yochim's medical condition, which he addresses frankly, adds poignancy and melancholy to the story. He shares a part of the country he loves with readers who will probably never see it for themselves, knowing he will never see it again.

This book made me want to get to the Thorofare and other places described by the author. Portions of the book may not be an easy read because they deal with the author's ALS and global warming and the effects of warming on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and beyond. I do wish that the book had more maps.

A moving story of an individual's decades long experience in the remote Thorofare, plus insight into the conservation struggle to preserve it.

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