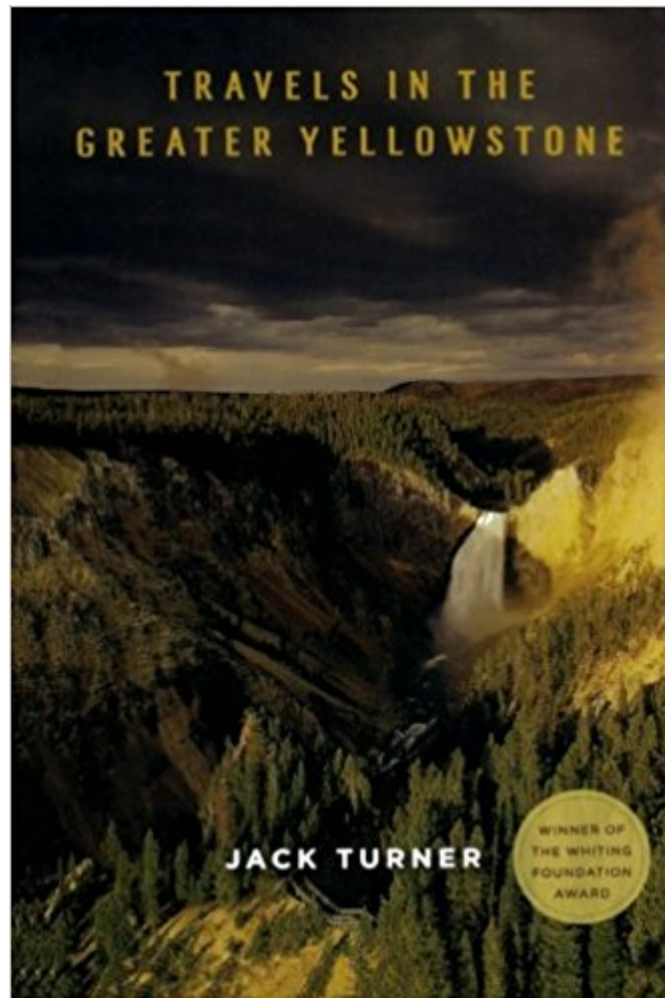




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# Travels In The Greater Yellowstone



## Synopsis

Award-winning nature writer Jack Turner directs his attention to one of America's greatest natural treasures: the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. In a series of essays, Turner explores this wonderland, venturing on twelve separate trips in all seasons using various modes of travel. He treks down the Teton Range, picks up the Oregon Trail in the Red Desert, and floats the South Fork of the Snake River. Along the way he encounters a variety of wildlife: moose, elk, trout, and wolves. From the treacherous mountains in the dead of winter to lush river valleys in the height of fishing season, his words and steps trace one of the most American of experiences—exploring the West. Turner—who has lived in Grand Teton for three decades—designates the Greater Yellowstone as ground zero for the country's conflict between preservation and development, and his accounts of the area's conflicts with alien species, logging, real estate, oil, and gas development are alarming. A mixture of adventure, nostalgia, and Americana, Turner's rare experiences and evocative writing transform the sights and sounds of Greater Yellowstone into an intimate narrative of travel through America's most beloved lands.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“There have been legendary Indians, mountain men, and mystics, but the West has never been loved by a greater poet-warrior than Jack Turner. In *Travels in the Greater Yellowstone*, he reveals treasures and threats to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem while taking us on the most intimate and informative tour of America's wildest lands.” —John Passacantando, executive director of Greenpeace USA “The essays are controversial, but part observation, part history, part rant, they

all are worth reading. • The Denver Post • Turner climbs the highest peaks and ventures out into the loneliest, most bear-haunted valleys to get a good look at Yellowstone before it well, not exactly disappears, but becomes something other than what it is. . . . Champions of Yellowstone and the truly wild West already know Turner's work. This one merits a wide audience, particularly in the Department of the Interior. • Kirkus Reviews

Jack Turner is the president of Exum Mountain Guides and School of American Mountaineering in Grand Teton National Park. He has led treks in India, Pakistan, Nepal, China, Tibet, Bhutan, and Peru. His first book was a collection of environmental essays, *The Abstract Wild*; it was followed by a memoir, *Teewinot: A Year in the Teton Range*. He is a visiting scholar at the University of Utah and has been honored with a 2007 Whiting Foundation Writer's Award. He lives in Grand Teton National Park with his wife, Dana, and their dog, Rio.

While I enjoyed one of Jack Turner's books and tolerated another, I was barely able to finish this one. My difficulty is in his railing against others having homes in the area while he has the luxury of building a small cabin in Lupine Meadow, his comments against the energy industry in Wyoming, while enjoying the benefits of vehicles to describe his "adventures". The authors writings in this book are lacking. For several decades, those of us without the ability or desire to write environmental essays, have had to find ways to make a living in the west. Enjoying the beauty of the Yellowstone/GT is what I had hoped this book would be. Unfortunately, with the attack on everyone from the "meat fishing locals" to the "plundering" of the area by the energy industry, a more accurate title and signature for the book might be "The Sky Is Falling", by C. Little. Regardless, I will be putting Mr. Turner's "The Abstract Wild" on the shelf for another read soon. The other books will still be enjoyed this winter in the wood stove.

I have read Jack Turner's other two books and enjoyed them immensely. In *Travels in the Greater Yellowstone* I found an older, less patient Turner. His frustration with the decline of the Yellowstone ecosystem is obvious and in this work he voices the frustration of a conservationist who has obviously grown weary of the progress not made during his lifetime and a cynicism about what the future holds. But it is a good read ... he is an excellent writer ... and there is lots of thoroughly enjoyable nature writing here. I agree with some of the previous criticism about this book. He does seem to be much more forgiving of his own digressions than those of others. But I don't see him as an elitist. He slips in some subtle pokes at himself as well. There is more fly fishing content than I

would have preferred. You would have to be a true enthusiast to enjoy so much discussion about his choice of flies. But the majority of these travelogues are very informative and enjoyable. And his writing style, for the most part, is as good as ever. Not up to his previous efforts but still well worth a read. Just be open to forgive the occasional rant that surfaces like that of one with eco-tourette's syndrome."But the vista is so lovely, I forgive the perpetrators. Beauty has overwhelmed their sins."

My family vacations in the Greater Yellowstone every year. If I could live there, I would. In "Travels in the Greater Yellowstone", Jack Turner puts into finely crafted words my own experiences. I feel like I am with him, and he kindles all of my senses. When he says "I smell elk", my mind remembers that scent. When he talks about trout surfacing, I can see and hear the ripple of stream's surface. For people who love America's public lands, this book is mandatory reading. For people who are engaged in conservation and environmental protection, this book provides many examples of the subtle, yet rapid, changes occurring in natural landscapes due to climate change and other human activities. I highly recommend this to all readers. Rob Sisson, President, Republicans for Environmental Protection[...]

Not my favorite of Turner's writings, but still worth a read. Some of the info is a bit dated and his writing about flyfishing wasn't my cup of tea, since I don't fish. If you have any interest in the Yellowstone area, it's worth a read.

Informative and passionate description of issues and places in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Almost as good as being there.

Well written, passionate and important.

Turner writes with passion, conviction and insight too rarely encountered in the modern world. A lifelong adventurer-philosopher whose words deserve a wider audience and serious consideration by every thinking person.

Jack Turner is president of Exum Guides, based in the climbers' ranch in Grand Teton National Park. Fortunately, this gives him plenty of time to write in the winter, not to mention a surprising number of fly-fishing outings in the summer. In this book, Turner takes us through a year in the Greater Yellowstone region that he loves. We start with his first "climb" of each season, a hike up

Blacktail Butte, look for spring wildflowers, join his first fly-fishing trip of the year, go backpacking in the Teton, Wind and Wyoming ranges, go fly-fishing a few more times, and conclude with Christmas at Old Faithful. His essays on these outings are beautifully-written and convey the wonders of the landscape. If you've been to these places, you'll ache to go back; if you haven't been, I hope he convinces you to go. He may convince you to try new things - I'm a backpacker, not an angler, but he does make fly-fishing sound appealing. Unfortunately, not all is well in the Greater Yellowstone. Everywhere he turns, the ecosystem is broken. I'll let you hear his "rants" on the broken pieces yourself, but brace yourself. Everything looks pristine but everything is heavily impacted by the people who love it. Climate change and oil and gas development threaten the region from the outside. He acknowledges his own part in the mess, and doesn't offer easy solutions. Turner delivers that message in small pieces, wrapped in gorgeous scenery. The result is a stunning, memorable book with a hidden punch.

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