

the big burn by timothy egan

The Big Burn by Timothy Egan: Unraveling a Fiery Chapter in American History

the big burn by timothy egan is not just a historical account of a devastating forest fire; it's a gripping narrative that delves deep into the forces shaping modern environmental policy and the birth of the U.S. Forest Service. Timothy Egan's masterful storytelling brings to life the catastrophic wildfire of 1910 that swept through the Northern Rockies, forever changing the American wilderness and its management. For anyone fascinated by environmental history, forestry, or the intersection of nature and human ambition, this book offers a compelling journey through one of the most dramatic natural disasters in U.S. history.

The Heart of the Story: What is The Big Burn About?

At its core, *The Big Burn* by Timothy Egan chronicles the Great Fire of 1910, also called the Big Blowup, which ravaged over three million acres across northeastern Washington, northern Idaho, and western Montana. This inferno was unlike any forest fire before or since, fueled by extreme drought, high winds, and a lack of effective fire control measures. The firestorm was so intense that it created its own weather system, producing tornado-like fire whirls and scorching everything in its path.

Egan's narrative doesn't just recount the facts; it introduces readers to the brave men who fought the fire, including the fledgling U.S. Forest Service crew led by Gifford Pinchot, and the legendary firefighter Ed Pulaski, whose quick thinking saved many lives. The book weaves personal stories with broader political and environmental themes, illustrating how this single event influenced the conservation movement and the government's approach to managing America's natural resources.

Timothy Egan's Approach to Environmental History

Timothy Egan has a reputation for transforming complex historical events into accessible and engaging stories, and *The Big Burn* is a sterling example. His background as a journalist shines through in the vivid descriptions and meticulous research. Egan paints a picture that goes beyond the flames, exploring how the logging industry, government policies, and public perception all played a role in the tragedy and its aftermath.

Blending Human Drama with Nature's Fury

One of the standout features of *The Big Burn* by Timothy Egan is how it humanizes the

disaster. Instead of simply detailing the scale of destruction, Egan introduces readers to the individuals impacted by the fire—from the firefighters risking everything to the families whose homes were lost. This human element makes the story resonate on a deeper level, offering insight into the courage, fear, and resilience that defined this moment in American history.

Environmental and Political Implications

The fire's aftermath was a turning point for forest management in the United States. Before 1910, wildfire was often seen as a natural, if unfortunate, occurrence. But the scale of the Big Burn prompted a shift toward aggressive fire suppression tactics and the strengthening of the U.S. Forest Service. Timothy Egan explores how this event helped shape the conservation policies championed by President Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, laying the groundwork for modern environmental stewardship.

Key Themes Explored in The Big Burn by Timothy Egan

The Big Burn is rich with themes that remain relevant today, especially as wildfires continue to pose challenges across the globe.

The Power and Unpredictability of Nature

Egan's detailed descriptions of the fire's behavior remind readers of nature's immense power and the unpredictability of wildfires. The 1910 firestorm was a result of a perfect storm of environmental conditions, illustrating how drought, wind, and human activity can combine to create disaster. This theme invites reflection on today's wildfire crises and the importance of understanding natural systems.

Human Impact and Responsibility

The book also grapples with humanity's role in shaping the landscape—how logging, land use, and fire suppression policies have long-term effects on forest health. Egan doesn't shy away from the complexities of managing forests for economic gain while trying to preserve them, a balancing act that remains contentious.

The Birth of Modern Conservation

Perhaps most compelling is how The Big Burn documents the birth of modern conservation efforts in America. The fire galvanized public opinion and government action, leading to significant reforms in forest management and fire prevention. This historical moment

underlines the importance of proactive environmental policies.

Why The Big Burn by Timothy Egan Matters Today

With increasing wildfire activity worldwide, *The Big Burn* by Timothy Egan offers valuable lessons. The book helps readers understand the historical context behind current wildfire management strategies and the ongoing challenges faced by forest managers. It also highlights the importance of respecting natural processes while mitigating human risk.

Insights into Wildfire Management

Wildfire management has evolved significantly since 1910, but many of the challenges remain. Egan's detailed account of firefighting tactics and the bravery of early forest rangers provides a foundation for appreciating modern techniques and technologies used to combat wildfires, such as controlled burns and advanced fire detection systems.

Encouraging Environmental Awareness

By bringing to life the raw power of the Big Burn, Timothy Egan encourages readers to think critically about our relationship with the environment. The book serves as a reminder that balancing economic interests with ecological preservation is crucial for sustainable forest management.

Reading Tips for The Big Burn by Timothy Egan

If you're planning to dive into *The Big Burn*, here are a few tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Focus on the historical context:** Familiarize yourself with early 20th-century American conservation efforts to better appreciate the political backdrop.
- **Take your time with descriptive passages:** Egan's vivid imagery helps you visualize the intensity of the fire and its impact.
- **Reflect on modern parallels:** Consider how the lessons from 1910 apply to today's wildfire challenges and environmental debates.
- **Explore additional resources:** Complement your reading with documentaries or articles about the Great Fire of 1910 and the U.S. Forest Service's history.

The Big Burn's Place in Environmental Literature

In the broader landscape of environmental literature, *The Big Burn* by Timothy Egan stands out as a seminal work that bridges history, nature writing, and policy analysis. It joins the ranks of influential books that have shaped public understanding of conservation, echoing the narratives of authors like Aldo Leopold and Wallace Stegner.

Egan's work not only preserves the memory of a catastrophic event but also deepens our appreciation for the ongoing struggle to protect and manage natural landscapes in the face of human development and climate change. For readers passionate about environmental issues, *The Big Burn* offers both a cautionary tale and a source of inspiration.

As wildfires continue to challenge communities and ecosystems, revisiting stories like the one Timothy Egan tells in *The Big Burn* helps us remember the past to make wiser decisions for the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Big Burn' by Timothy Egan about?

'The Big Burn' is a historical account of the devastating 1910 wildfire in the Northwestern United States and the birth of the U.S. Forest Service.

Who is the author of 'The Big Burn'?

The author of 'The Big Burn' is Timothy Egan, a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and historian.

When did the wildfire described in 'The Big Burn' occur?

The wildfire occurred in 1910, often referred to as the Great Fire or The Big Burn.

What impact did the 1910 wildfire have on U.S. forest policy?

The wildfire led to the establishment and strengthening of the U.S. Forest Service and changes in forest management and firefighting strategies.

Does 'The Big Burn' focus on any particular individuals?

Yes, the book highlights figures like Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and firefighters who battled the blaze.

What themes does Timothy Egan explore in 'The Big Burn'?

Themes include environmental conservation, human versus nature, the birth of modern wildfire management, and American industrial expansion.

Is 'The Big Burn' based on true events?

Yes, it is a nonfiction work based on extensive research about the 1910 wildfire and its aftermath.

How does Timothy Egan describe the scale of the 1910 wildfire in 'The Big Burn'?

Egan describes it as one of the largest and most destructive wildfires in American history, burning over three million acres.

Why is 'The Big Burn' relevant today?

The book provides historical context for current wildfire management challenges and highlights the ongoing relationship between humans and forest ecosystems.

Additional Resources

The Big Burn by Timothy Egan: An In-Depth Exploration of America's Deadliest Wildfire and Its Lasting Impact

the big burn by timothy egan offers a meticulously researched and gripping account of one of the most catastrophic wildfires in American history. Delving deep into the 1910 wildfire that ravaged over three million acres in the Northern Rockies, Egan's narrative blends historical facts with vivid storytelling, illuminating the transformative effects of the disaster on U.S. forestry policies and the environmental consciousness of the nation. This article presents a comprehensive analysis of the book's content, themes, and significance, while naturally incorporating relevant keywords such as "Northern Rockies wildfire," "forest conservation history," and "early 20th-century wildfires."

Contextual Background of The Big Burn

The 1910 wildfire, often referred to as the "Big Blowup" or "Big Burn," was unprecedented in scale and ferocity. Timothy Egan situates the event within the broader context of early conservation efforts and the burgeoning American environmental movement. The fire's devastation, which consumed vast stretches of forest in Montana, Idaho, and Washington, marked a turning point in how the U.S. government approached forest management and fire suppression.

Egan's narrative sheds light on the socio-political environment of the era, highlighting the

clash between industrial logging interests and the nascent conservationist ideals promoted by figures such as Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service. By weaving this historical fabric, the book underscores the complexity behind the wildfire's causes and consequences, distinguishing it from mere natural disaster chronicles.

Detailed Examination of Themes and Narrative Style

Timothy Egan employs a journalistic style that combines investigative rigor with compelling prose. This approach makes "the big burn by timothy egan" not only informative but also accessible to a broad readership, from historians to environmental enthusiasts. The book's narrative oscillates between the human drama of firefighters battling the blaze and the administrative struggles within the Forest Service, offering a multifaceted perspective.

The Human Element: Firefighters and Communities

One of the book's strengths lies in its portrayal of the individuals who confronted the inferno. Egan vividly reconstructs the experiences of the firefighters, many of whom were ill-equipped and overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the fire. The personal stories of courage and tragedy provide a human face to the disaster, fostering a deeper understanding of the risks and sacrifices involved.

Government Response and Policy Shifts

"The Big Burn" also meticulously explores the governmental aftermath. The wildfire exposed significant weaknesses in the Forest Service's capacity to manage large-scale fires, prompting reforms and expanded funding. Egan details how the catastrophe galvanized public opinion, leading to a more aggressive stance on fire suppression and forest conservation. This policy shift has had lasting implications, shaping wildfire management strategies well into the 21st century.

Comparative Analysis: The Big Burn in the Context of Wildfire Literature

Compared to other works on wildfires and environmental disasters, Timothy Egan's "the big burn" stands out for its comprehensive integration of ecological, political, and human dimensions. While many wildfire narratives focus predominantly on the environmental impact or firefighting heroics, Egan balances these elements with an analysis of institutional and cultural transformations.

For instance, when juxtaposed with later wildfire accounts such as Timothy Ingalsbee's

"Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy," Egan's work is notable for its historical depth and storytelling flair. This makes it a valuable resource for readers seeking a foundational understanding of how early 20th-century wildfires shaped contemporary forest management.

Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths:** Egan's thorough research, engaging narrative style, and balanced treatment of diverse perspectives enhance the book's credibility and readability.
- **Limitations:** Some readers might find the detailed historical exposition dense, and the focus on policy may overshadow ecological nuances that modern environmentalists emphasize.

The Big Burn's Relevance to Contemporary Wildfire Issues

The lessons from the 1910 Northern Rockies wildfire remain pertinent in today's context of increasing wildfire frequency and intensity, driven by climate change. Egan's exploration of early fire suppression policies provides critical insights into the long-term consequences of human intervention in natural fire regimes.

By understanding the origins of modern wildfire management through works like "the big burn by timothy egan," policymakers and environmentalists can better grapple with current challenges such as forest fuel buildup and community vulnerability. The historical perspective encourages a nuanced approach, balancing fire prevention with ecological restoration.

Implications for Forest Conservation and Climate Adaptation

Egan's narrative implicitly supports the notion that forest conservation strategies must evolve. Contemporary wildfire management increasingly recognizes the role of controlled burns and ecological balance, concepts that were largely absent during the early 1900s. "The Big Burn" thus serves as a cautionary tale about rigid policies and the complexities of managing vast natural landscapes.

Key Takeaways and Final Reflections

In sum, "the big burn by timothy egan" is a seminal work that transcends a simple retelling of a wildfire event to become an essential study of environmental history, policy development, and human resilience. Its detailed portrayal of the 1910 wildfire and the subsequent shifts in forest management continues to inform discussions on wildfire mitigation and environmental stewardship.

By combining rigorous historical analysis with evocative storytelling, Timothy Egan crafts a narrative that resonates with both academic and general audiences. The book's enduring relevance makes it a critical read for anyone interested in the interplay between natural disasters and public policy, as well as the evolving relationship between Americans and their wilderness.

[The Big Burn By Timothy Egan](#)

the big burn by timothy egan: The Big Burn Timothy Egan, 2009-10-19 National Book Award-winner Timothy Egan turns his historian's eye to the largest-ever forest fire in America and offers an epic, cautionary tale for our time. On the afternoon of August 20, 1910, a battering ram of wind moved through the drought-stricken national forests of Washington, Idaho, and Montana, whipping the hundreds of small blazes burning across the forest floor into a roaring inferno that jumped from treetop to ridge as it raged, destroying towns and timber in the blink of an eye. Forest rangers had assembled nearly ten thousand men to fight the fires, but no living person had seen anything like those flames, and neither the rangers nor anyone else knew how to subdue them. Egan recreates the struggles of the overmatched rangers against the implacable fire with unstoppable dramatic force, and the larger story of outsized president Teddy Roosevelt and his chief forester, Gifford Pinchot, that follows is equally resonant. Pioneering the notion of conservation, Roosevelt and Pinchot did nothing less than create the idea of public land as our national treasure, owned by every citizen. Even as TR's national forests were smoldering they were saved: The heroism shown by his rangers turned public opinion permanently in favor of the forests, though it changed the mission of the forest service in ways we can still witness today. This e-book includes a sample chapter of SHORT NIGHTS OF THE SHADOW CATCHER.

the big burn by timothy egan: Summary of Timothy Egan's The Big Burn Everest Media,, 2022-06-13T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 Gifford Pinchot was a bit odd, but he was self-aware enough to know that he was considered strange. He knew Roosevelt from sportsmen circles in the Empire State, and they came to the governor's mansion in Albany with Christopher Grant La Farge, son of the painter John La Farge, a close friend of Teddy's. #2 The two men talked about the forest protection and the fear of a coming timber famine caused by industrial-age logging. They agreed that Americans had become too shortsighted with the continent they now straddled. #3 Roosevelt and Pinchot agreed to a boxing match. Pinchot was a backup quarterback on the football team at Yale, and he was quick on his feet for a big man. He was a little worried about his six-inch height advantage over T. R. , who stood five feet eight inches. #4 Roosevelt had a very delayed adolescence, as he was always looking out for his best interests. He married the beautiful Alice Hathaway Lee in 1884, and was elected to the New York Assembly the same year. He was Republican minority leader at twenty-five.

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the big burn by timothy egan: The Big Burn Timothy Egan, 2004

the big burn by timothy egan: *Present at the Creation* Michael C. Blumm, 2011 This review of Timothy's Egan's 2009 book, *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt & the Fire That Saved America*, lauds Egan's storytelling while questioning the title of his book. Egan tells a gripping tale about the largest wildfire in North America, a 1910 blaze in the Bitterroot Mountains along the largely unroaded Idaho-Montana border that cost a hundred people their lives and burned an area fifty percent larger than Yellowstone National Park. Egan claims that the big wildfire secured the young U.S. Forest Service's role as a public land manager and established conservation as a politically viable policy that encouraged Theodore Roosevelt to attempt to recapture the presidency in 1912. However, at the center of Egan's story is not Roosevelt, but Gifford Pinchot, whom Roosevelt appointed the first chief of the Forest Service in 1905. Pinchot convinced Roosevelt to preserve more public land (outside of Alaska) than any president before or since, and he made the Forest Service into one of the most respected government agencies in twentieth century America. But the Big Burn's legacy also led Pinchot's successors to give priority to fighting public land wildlives, which damaged the ecology and, ironically, led to larger wildfires. The review suggests that the Pinchot-Roosevelt conservation era produced more public support for environmental protection than ever in American history, and that the political lessons of that era may be useful in a twenty-first century challenged by catastrophic oil spills and global climate change.

the big burn by timothy egan: Brand Resilience Jonathan R. Copulsky, 2025-04-16 As the recent Tiger Woods scandal illustrates, brand reputation is more precarious than ever before. True and false information spreads like wildfire in the vast and interconnected social media landscape and even the most venerable brands can be leveled in a flash—by disgruntled customers, competing companies, even internal sources. Here, veteran marketing executive Jonathan Copulsky shows companies and individuals how to play brand defense in the twenty-first century. Five Signs that You Need to Pay More Attention to the Possibility of Brand Sabotage: A group of uniformed employees posts embarrassing YouTube videos, in which they display unprofessional attitudes towards their work. One of your senior executives publicly blames a supplier for product defects, even though they predate your relationship with the supplier. Your competitor's ads trumpet their solution to the performance problems associated with your most recent product. A customer unhappy with changes made to your product design launches a Facebook group, which attracts 5,000 fans. Your outsource partner is prominently featured in numerous blogs and websites describing allegations of worker mistreatment and workplace safety hazards.

the big burn by timothy egan: The Sensitives Oliver Broudy, 2021-07-20 Over fifty million Americans endure a mysterious environmental illness that renders them allergic to chemicals. Innocuous staples from deodorant to garbage bags wreak havoc on sensitives. No one is born with EI; it often starts with a single toxic exposure. Symptoms include extreme fatigue, brain fog, muscle aches, inability to tolerate certain foods. Broudy investigates this disease, and delves into the intricate, ardent subculture that surrounds it--Adapted from jacket

the big burn by timothy egan: Our Common Ground John D. Leshy, 2022-03-01 The

little-known story of how the U.S. government came to hold nearly one-third of the nation's land and manage it primarily for recreation, education, and conservation. A much-needed chronicle of how the American people decided--wisely and democratically--that nearly a third of the nation's land surface should remain in our collective ownership and be managed for our common good.--Dayton Duncan, author of *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. America's public lands include more than 600 million acres of forests, plains, mountains, wetlands, deserts, and shorelines. In this book, John Leshy, a leading expert in public lands policy, discusses the key political decisions that led to this, beginning at the very founding of the nation. He traces the emergence of a bipartisan political consensus in favor of the national government holding these vast land areas primarily for recreation, education, and conservation of biodiversity and cultural resources. That consensus remains strong and continues to shape American identity. Such a success story is a bright spot in an era of cynicism about government. This book is essential reading for anyone who cares about public lands, and it is particularly timely as the world grapples with the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.

the big burn by timothy egan: *A Great Aridness* William deBuys, 2012-04-01 With its soaring azure sky and stark landscapes, the American Southwest is one of the most hauntingly beautiful regions on earth. Yet staggering population growth, combined with the intensifying effects of climate change, is driving the oasis-based society close to the brink of a Dust-Bowl-scale catastrophe. In *A Great Aridness*, William deBuys paints a compelling picture of what the Southwest might look like when the heat turns up and the water runs out. This semi-arid land, vulnerable to water shortages, rising temperatures, wildfires, and a host of other environmental challenges, is poised to bear the heaviest consequences of global environmental change in the United States. Examining interrelated factors such as vanishing wildlife, forest die backs, and the over-allocation of the already stressed Colorado River--upon which nearly 30 million people depend--the author narrates the landscape's history--and future. He tells the inspiring stories of the climatologists and others who are helping untangle the complex, interlocking causes and effects of global warming. And while the fate of this region may seem at first blush to be of merely local interest, what happens in the Southwest, deBuys suggests, will provide a glimpse of what other mid-latitude arid lands worldwide--the Mediterranean Basin, southern Africa, and the Middle East--will experience in the coming years. Written with an elegance that recalls the prose of John McPhee and Wallace Stegner, *A Great Aridness* offers an unflinching look at the dramatic effects of climate change occurring right now in our own backyard.

the big burn by timothy egan: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations for 2014 United States. Congress. House. Committee on Appropriations. Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, 2013

the big burn by timothy egan: *Nature and Bureaucracy* David Jenkins, 2022-09-08 This book questions how bureaucracies conceive of, and consequently interact with, nature, and suggests that our managed public landscapes are neither entirely managed nor entirely wild, and offers several warnings about bureaucracies and bureaucratic mentality. One prominent challenge facing scientists, policymakers, environmental activists, and environmentally concerned citizens, is to recognize that human influence in the natural world is pervasive and has a long history. How we act, or choose not to act, today will continue to determine the future of the natural world. Western-style management of nature, mediated by economic rationality and state bureaucracies, may not be the best strategy to maintain environmental integrity. The question is, what kinds of human influence, conceived of in the widest possible sense, will produce ideal environments for future generations? The related question is, who gets to choose? The author approaches the problem of analyzing the mutual influence of human and natural systems from two perspectives: as an objective scholar investigating bureaucracies and natural systems from the outside, and over the last decade as an inside practitioner working in various roles in federal land management agencies developing policies and regulations involved in the control of natural systems. This book will be of great interest to students and scholars of natural resource management, policy and politics, and professionals working in environmental management roles as well as policymakers involved in public policy and administration.

the big burn by timothy egan: *Fighting Fire in the Sierra National Forest* Marcia Penner Freedman, 2015-03-09 To live in the foothills on the periphery of the Sierra National Forest is to live with the certainty of summer wildfires. Each year, from April forward, Californians watch the sky and sniff the air for telltale signs of smoke. While fire remains a constant threat, the strategy for combating it has evolved with the understanding of its beneficial role in the forest environment. Marcia Penner Freedman traces the history of firefighting and fire management from the forest's early years through the policy shifts that began in the 1960s and the measures used today.

the big burn by timothy egan: *Theodore Roosevelt, Conservation, and the 1908 Governors' Conference* Leroy G. Dorsey, 2016-04-15 Among Theodore Roosevelt's many initiatives, one of the most important accomplishments was his effort to convince the nation that conserving the environment was crucial to its continued existence. Years of national tours, presidential edicts, and policy wrangling culminated in an unprecedented conference of governors at the White House in 1908. Leroy G. Dorsey explores the rhetorical power of Roosevelt's address at this historic conservation summit, specifically examining how the president popularized the notion of conservation in the public consciousness. Much has been written on Roosevelt's conservation policy, but surprisingly little attention has been given to this pivotal moment in the rhetorical rally on its behalf. This book fills an important void in the history of conservation for all who seek a deeper understanding of a president so identified as a champion of the environment.

the big burn by timothy egan: *Montana's Waldron Creek Fire* Dr. Charles Palmer, 2015-11-02 On August 25, 1931, five men died fighting the devastating Waldron Creek Fire west of Choteau, Montana. Lacking training and preparation, Herbert Novotny, Frank Williamson, Hjalmer G. Gunnarson, Ted Bierchen and Charles Allen dashed into the flames and never stood a chance. The Teton County coroner added insult to injury, noting that each had no one to blame but himself. Three men were buried in unmarked graves. Records show that the body of the fifth was returned to his family, but no burial site is known. Only one has a headstone. National Smokejumper Association chief historian Dr. Charles Palmer shines a light on this important story, finally honoring the heroic sacrifice that led to critical changes in wildland firefighting.

the big burn by timothy egan: *Alaska in the Progressive Age* Thomas Alton, 2019-09-15 The growth of modern-day Alaska began with the Klondike gold discovery in 1896. Over the course of the next two decades, as prospectors, pioneers, and settlers rushed in, Alaska developed its agricultural and mineral resources, birthed a structure of highway and railroad transportation, and founded the Alaska cities we know today. All this activity occurred alongside the Progressive Age in American politics. It was a time of widespread reform, as Progressive politicians took on the powerful business trusts and enacted sweeping reforms to protect workers and consumers. Alaska in the Progressive Age looks at how this national movement affected the Alaska territory. Though the reigning view is that Alaska was neglected and even abused by the federal government, Alton argues that from 1896 to 1916 the territory benefitted richly in the age of Progressive Democracy. As the population of Alaska grew, Congress responded to the needs of the nation's northern possession, giving the territory a delegate to Congress, a locally elected legislature, and ultimately in 1914, the federally funded Alaska Railroad. Much has been written about the development of modern-day Alaska, especially in terms of the Gold Rush and the origins of the Alaska Railroad. But this is the first history to put this era in the context of Progressive Age American politics. This unexplored look at how Progressivism reached the furthest corners of the United States is an especially timely book as the Progressive Movement shows signs of affecting Alaska again.

the big burn by timothy egan: *Making America's Public Lands* Adam M. Sowards, 2022-04-15 In the United States, the federal government owns more than a quarter of the nation's landscape—nearly 640 million acres; or more than a million square miles, which, if consolidated, would make it the tenth largest nation on earth. Primarily managed by four federal agencies—the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service—American public lands have been central to developing the American economy, state, and identity. The history of these lands intersects with critical components of the

American past—namely nature, politics, and economics. From the beginning, the concept of “public” has been the subject of controversy, from visions of homesteaders realizing the ideal of the Jeffersonian republic to western ranchers who use the open range to promote a free enterprise system, to wilderness activists who see these lands as wild places, free from human encumbrance. Environmental historian Adam Sowards synthesizes public lands history from the beginning of the republic to recent controversies. Since public lands are located everywhere, including iconic national parks like Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon, Americans at large have a stake in these lands. They are, after all, ours. In a real sense, this book is for those citizens who camp in the national forests, drive through the national parks, or admire distant wilderness landscapes. These readers will gain a greater appreciation for the long and complex history of the range of these places.

the big burn by timothy egan: *Read On...History* Tina Frolund, 2013-10-21 Make history come alive! This book helps librarians and teachers as well as readers themselves find books they will enjoy—titles that will animate and explain the past, entertain, and expand their minds. This invaluable resource offers reading lists of contemporary and classic non-fiction history books and historical fiction, covering all time periods throughout the world, and including practically all manner of human endeavors. Every book included is hand-selected as an entertaining and enlightening read! Organized by appeal characteristics, this book will help readers zero in on the history books they will like best—for instance, titles that emphasize character, tell a specific type of historical story, convey a mood, or are presented in a particular setting. Every book listed has been recommended based on the author's research, and has proved to be a satisfying and worthwhile read.

the big burn by timothy egan: *Leading Matters* John L. Hennessy, 2018-09-04 In *Leading Matters*, current Chairman of Alphabet (Google's parent company), former President of Stanford University, and Godfather of Silicon Valley, John L. Hennessy shares the core elements of leadership that helped him become a successful tech entrepreneur, esteemed academic, and venerated administrator. Hennessy's approach to leadership is laser-focused on the journey rather than the destination. Each chapter in *Leading Matters* looks at valuable elements that have shaped Hennessy's career in practice and philosophy. He discusses the pivotal role that humility, authenticity and trust, service, empathy, courage, collaboration, innovation, intellectual curiosity, storytelling, and legacy have all played in his prolific, interdisciplinary career. Hennessy takes these elements and applies them to instructive stories, such as his encounters with other Silicon Valley leaders including Jim Clark, founder of Netscape; Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. Secretary of State and Stanford provost; John Arrillaga, one of the most successful Silicon Valley commercial real estate developers; and Phil Knight, founder of Nike and philanthropist with whom Hennessy cofounded Knight-Hennessy Scholars at Stanford University. Across government, education, commerce, and non-profits, the need for effective leadership could not be more pressing. This book is essential reading for those tasked with leading any complex enterprise in the academic, not-for-profit, or for-profit sector.

the big burn by timothy egan: *Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations for 2014: National Park Service FY 2014 budget oversight hearing; Fish and Wildlife Service FY 2014 budget oversight hearing; U.S. Forest Service FY 2014 budget oversight hearing; Bureau of Land Management FY 2014 budget oversight hearing; Environmental Protection Agency FY 2014 budget oversight hearing* United States. Congress. House. Committee on Appropriations. Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, 2013

the big burn by timothy egan: *Outdoors in the Southwest* Andrew Gulliford, 2014-04-18 More college students than ever are majoring in Outdoor Recreation, Outdoor Education, or Adventure Education, but fewer and fewer Americans spend any time in thoughtful, respectful engagement with wilderness. While many young people may think of adrenaline-laced extreme sports as prime outdoor activities, with *Outdoors in the Southwest*, Andrew Gulliford seeks to promote appreciation for and discussion of the wild landscapes where those sports are played. Advocating an outdoor ethic

based on curiosity, cooperation, humility, and ecological literacy, this essay collection features selections by renowned southwestern writers including Terry Tempest Williams, Edward Abbey, Craig Childs, and Barbara Kingsolver, as well as scholars, experienced guides, and river rats. Essays explain the necessity of nature in the digital age, recount rafting adventures, and reflect on the psychological effects of expeditions. True-life cautionary tales tell of encounters with nearly disastrous flash floods, 900-foot falls, and lightning strikes. The final chapter describes the work of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, and other exemplars of "wilderness tithing"—giving back to public lands through volunteering, stewardship, and eco-advocacy. Addressing the evolution of public land policy, the meaning of wilderness, and the importance of environmental protection, this collection serves as an intellectual guidebook not just for students but for travelers and anyone curious about the changing landscape of the West.

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