



THE MOUNTAINEERS BOOKS

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Skipstone, an imprint of Mountaineers Books
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A Photographic Journey Through “America’s Wild Heart”

Enraptured as a child by the novels of Jack London, a nature photographer born and raised in Germany made it his life’s work to showcase a region of America that is still surprisingly wild, free, and open—a legacy that Europe lost long ago



Why would a photographer from Germany spend ten years photographing the Rocky Mountains of North America? There are beautiful mountains in Europe, as well as ancient castles, medieval towns, and ruins that date back millennia. The answer is that we have nothing in Europe that matches the sheer size and scope of the Yellowstone to Yukon area, with its wide-open landscapes and incredible array of wildlife. Most significantly, we don’t have true wilderness. We have lost our wild lands. Large wild animals have long since perished. In North America, especially in the vast expanse of the Rocky Mountains, true wilderness still exists. It might be invisible on the surface, but it becomes vividly apparent when one is gazing in awe at a peak such as Mount Assiniboine, and a grizzly with her two cubs walk by. I can guarantee that would never happen at the Matterhorn. The great Rocky Mountain landscapes are a treasure for the world. In them, I see what we in Europe have lost. I don’t want that to happen here.

—**Florian Schulz**

On November 22, 2005, The Mountaineers Books will publish a tribute to a region of America that is still surprisingly wild, free, and open: a place where bison move across prairies, wolves converge on the hunt, elk bugle across valleys, river otters fish the streams, and grizzlies roam the mountains —outside the boundaries of any park. **YELLOWSTONE TO YUKON: Freedom to Roam**, a photographic journey by award-winning nature photographer **Florian Schulz**, features 200 full-color images of the Northern Rocky Mountain landscape and its inhabitants, animal, plant, and human (\$34.95 hardcover, ISBN 0-89886-989-7). Schulz’s images and stories of life in the field are paired with original essays by **Douglas Chadwick**, **Karsten Heuer**, **Ted Kerasote**, **David Quammen**, **Rick Bass**, and more, with a foreword by **David Suzuki** and an epilogue by **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** These noted writers, biologists, and conservationists write eloquently about their first-hand experiences on the land in the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) region. They also write of the need for connections, or wildlife movement corridors, between large stretches of wilderness, and practical ways to implement this strategy from establishing wilderness buffer zones to building wildlife highway overpasses. They introduce the principles of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, which provides a plan for smart growth and development that will benefit both people and nature. For there is still time to make a difference—if we act now.

The great Yellowstone to Yukon corridor is a dream worthy of the North American peoples. The superb photographs by Florian Schulz and authoritative essays by leading naturalists that accompany them give substance to that dream and added hope that it can be realized.

—**Edward O. Wilson, Professor Emeritus, Harvard University**

Images to Inspire

For most of the last decade, Florian Schulz has roamed deep into the wilderness of the northern Rockies, documenting one of the last intact mountain ecosystems in the world. He has devoted his life to celebrating its beauty—and to showcasing its value in connecting vital wildlife habitats. Says Schulz:

I have been in love with this region for as long as I can remember. As a child, growing up in southern Germany close to Lake Constance and the Alps, I read about the Rocky Mountains and northern regions. Adventure stories by Jack London fueled my imagination, filling my head with visions of a great landscape and its inhabitants. I had my own American dream—not a dream about becoming a millionaire, but a dream about a place where bison herds moved across the plains, grizzly bears roamed the mountainsides, moose browsed the willows, and the howl of the wolf echoed through lonesome valleys.

In **YELLOWSTONE TO YUKON**, Schulz presents spectacular images of imposing landscapes, of peaks reflected in clear mountain lakes and valleys lushly expansive. It offers an incredible display of wildlife, from coyotes and wolves to Cutthroat trout and migrating snow geese, from bison and elk to caribou in the high arctic, from sparring moose to foraging pronghorn, from tiny picas and playful foxes to the mighty grizzly: an intricate, unbroken web of life survives in the refuge of the mountains. Humans are a vital part of this landscape as well, be it natives who have lived in this region for generations, or people who respectfully enjoy its natural beauty.

As seen through Schulz's lens, this land is still surprisingly wild and intact. With our support, and with careful planning, we can keep it so forever—if we act now. For science now confirms that isolated islands of national parks and preserves, as important as they are, cannot on their own keep wilderness or wildlife alive. “Since Yellowstone was declared a park, the field of biology has added 123 years’ worth of discoveries. And the findings are telling us that the notion of parks as outdoor museums where society can tuck flora and fauna away and come back at any time to find each perfectly preserved is quaint as a corset. If anything, trying to protect nature in isolated sanctuaries is a recipe for extinction,” says Montana-based biologist Douglas H. Chadwick in his essay, *Y2Y: The Power of Connections*.

Schulz includes stories of his experiences in the field in a series of illustrated vignettes. In “Swift Fox Pups,” for example, he reveals the rather unconventional method he used to get close enough to capture intimate images of the pups at play. Knowing that foxes are used to seeing cows on the plain, Schulz and his partner covered themselves with dark cloth and slowly “grazed” toward the fox den, crawling and rocking their bodies in cow-like fashion, mooing along the way. In “Thinking Like an Owl,” he describes how he lined himself up in the imaginary path an owl might fly, between the forest’s edge and the ideal perch. The waiting game began. Two hours later, sensing movement, he prefocused to a spot where he thought the owl would fill the frame—he caught his images, within the space of an instant. In “Ranching in Grizzly Country,” Schulz tells of meeting Karl Rappold, a rancher on Montana’s Rocky Mountain Front who employs wildlife-friendly practices to great success—he has grizzlies grazing alongside his cattle. These are just a few of the stories the Schulz tells throughout *Yellowstone to Yukon*.

About Florian Schulz

Florian Schulz is a professional wildlife and landscape photographer from Germany whose striking images have garnered international recognition. His stories and photographs have appeared in numerous publications including magazines, books, and calendar series. His photographs have won awards in, among others, the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition, the Nature’s Best International Nature Photography Awards, the Banff International Mountain Photography Competition, and the European Nature Photographer of the Year competition. Schulz spends eight to ten months a year in the field. He focuses on environmental conservation issues and uses his photography to instill in viewers a greater interest in both the natural and cultural diversity of the planet. For more information, please visit his web site at www.visionsofthewild.com.

Essays to Inform

David Suzuki	<i>Foreword</i>
David Quammen	<i>Preface</i>
Douglas Chadwick	<i>Y2Y: The Power of Connections</i>
Karsten Heuer	<i>The Wilder Side of a Wild Walk: Northern Y2Y</i>
Ted Kerasote	<i>Refuge: Southern Y2Y</i>
Rick Bass	<i>The Courage of Hope: Central Y2Y</i>
Dave Porter	<i>Dechenla: The Land at the End of the Trees</i>
Harvey Locke & Gary Tabor	<i>On the Ground with the Y2Y Movement</i>
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.	<i>Epilogue</i>

David Suzuki, from the *Foreword*:

“The Y2Y vision of an immense, continuous corridor extending from Yukon to Yellowstone, and connected to an even wider series of wilderness areas, offers a chance to provide a model of what can and must be done all over the planet. Human activity and demand are extending into the furthest reaches of the globe through logging, mining, dams, clearing for agriculture, and urban sprawl. Can human activity take place while protecting the necessary space and complexity that wild organisms need to flourish? That’s the promise of the Y2Y vision.”

David Suzuki is a highly acclaimed geneticist, environmental thinker, and the author of numerous books, including The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature.

Rick Bass, from his essay *The Courage of Hope*

“The Y2Y vision assembles and creates a larger community, helping to bring order to the similarity of our diverse desires for things as seemingly disparate as salamanders and grizzlies or loons and bog orchids, as well as the intangible and immeasurable necessities that define the region for all of us who are fortunate enough to live here: the sunsets and moonrises, the howling weather, the velvet folds of uncut forest, the sheer and breathtaking slabs of rock and ice.

Now, more than ever, a continent of stressed and changing human lives needs some extra territory in which to dream, and hike, and remember what it is like to be human; to remember peace, and to know the awe of creation on a scale far more vast than anything we could ever make, or even have imagined.

That which seems like a fantastic dream is *not* a dream, but a reality; it still exists, even if tenuously, into this new century. The pictures in this book are real, the animals are real, the places are real, as are the spaces between them: in need of connectivity, and waiting to be reconnected.”

A keen observer of ecological issues and the author of seventeen books, Rick Bass wrote The Roadless Yaak: Reflections and Observations About One of Our Last Wilderness Areas. His short stories have been collected in The Best American Short Stories.

Douglas H. Chadwick, from his essay *Y2Y: The Power of Connections*

“Both a practical strategy and a unifying vision, Y2Y may be thought of as a blueprint for bringing the forces of culture, economics, and ecology into balance. This seems like the most sensible goal in the world. Since it also seems among the hardest to achieve, maybe a better definition for Y2Y is: a much needed experiment in the grandest of laboratories.

And Y2Y’s animals . . . ah, the beasts that give the backcountry eyes. They form the biggest, brawniest, fiercest, shaggiest, longest-legged, far-rambling array in the western hemisphere. It is a pleasure just to be able to give the roll call: grizzly, black bear, wolf, coyote, cougar, lynx, wolverine, fisher, otter, mountain goat, mountain sheep, moose, bison, caribou, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, golden eagle, bald eagle, osprey, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, tundra swan, trumpeter swan, sandhill crane, whooping crane, harlequin duck, Pacific giant salamander, tailed frog, chinook salmon, bull trout . . . The list goes on.

And on, down canyons with free-flowing white waters, up palisades and scree slopes, across glaciers, and on through range upon mountain range. To find a more enthralling collection of megafauna amid megavistas in the New World, you would have to time-travel back to the Ice Ages.”

Douglas H. Chadwick is a Montana based biologist and author who writes regularly for National Geographic. His books include The Fate of the Elephant and Yellowstone to Yukon: Heart of the Rockies Bioregion.

Karsten Heuer, from his essay *The Wilder Side of a Wild Walk: Northern Y2Y*

“Pull out a road map of the Y2Y region and you’ll see the shape and color of my thinking as I planned my hike from Yellowstone to the Yukon. To the south, protected areas like Yellowstone, Montana’s Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, and the Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park already appear as islands in a grid of red lines and yellow dots.

But to the north, lesser-known parks like the Willmore Wilderness, the Cariboo Mountains, the Tombstones, the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, the Spatsizi Plateau, and Nahanni National Park still float in an undisturbed matrix of green. Trace a 400-mile-wide swath across all of it, run it to the Arctic Circle, and the scope of the northern half of the Y2Y vision begins to hit home: half of northern British Columbia, a sixth of the Northwest Territories, two-thirds of the Yukon, and the vast majority of undeveloped watersheds left in the Rocky, Cassiar, and Mackenzie mountains.

It is a land where wildlife trails outnumber roads ten million to one.”

Wildlife biologist Karsten Heuer hiked, skied, and paddled 2200 miles from Yellowstone to Yukon in 1998-99 to see if the Y2Y Conservation Initiative could be implemented on the ground. He is the author of Walking the Big Wild: From Yellowstone to Yukon on the Grizzly Bear’s Trail and Being Caribou.

David Porter, from his essay *Dechinla: The Land at the End of the Trees*

The Kaska and other northern groups are more fortunate than most. The land has sustained our people for millennia and many aboriginal people still depend on wildlife in our territory for subsistence. We appreciate all that we have and view ourselves as stewards of the land. We believe that it is our duty to care for the land and to ensure that it will sustain our people in the future as well as it has in the past.

David Porter is a Kaska leader and was the founding chairman of Northern Native Broadcasting Corporation, Yukon and deputy premier of the Yukon. In 2004 he was elected to the First Nations Summit, which works on behalf of the treaty negotiation process in British Columbia.

Yellowstone to Yukon: Freedom to Roam

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