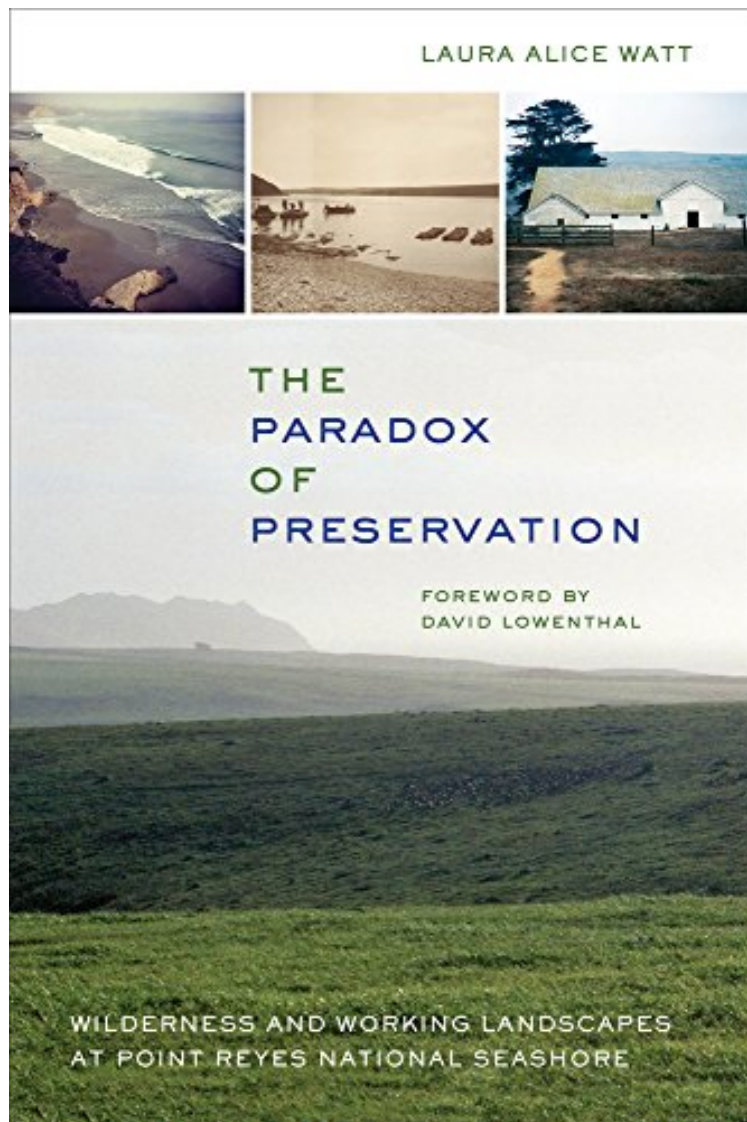


(Get free) The Paradox of Preservation: Wilderness and Working Landscapes at Point Reyes National Seashore

The Paradox of Preservation: Wilderness and Working Landscapes at Point Reyes National Seashore

Laura Alice Watt

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#849886 in Books 2016-11-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .82 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0520277082368 pages | File size: 43.Mb

Laura Alice Watt : The Paradox of Preservation: Wilderness and Working Landscapes at Point Reyes National Seashore before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Paradox of Preservation: Wilderness and Working Landscapes at Point Reyes National Seashore:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wilderness and Working Landscapes Need Not ConflictBy Sarah A.

Rolph This is a scholarly work, with detailed notes and references, yet it is very accessible to the general reader. The book is a much-needed discussion of the highly flawed management practices that are all too common at the National Park Service, with Point Reyes National Seashore, sadly, being a case in point. Watt traces the history of this interesting and unusual National Seashore, showing how the original vision for the Seashore is being compromised—in ways that cause harm to local families and to the local economy. Watt takes an even-handed approach to the material, providing enough facts for readers to draw their own conclusions about the actions of Seashore officials in a number of specific instances. The book puts these specifics into context, with a thought-provoking discussion of what it means to "preserve" a place. The author challenges the assumption that wilderness requires the removal of people and commerce, presenting a more benevolent vision for land use planning that takes into account both people and nature, embracing working landscapes. Watt gives us not only her insights into the faulty premises underlying Park Service mismanagement, but also good, clear recommendations on rational policy directions for the future. While the book doesn't shy away from presenting unpleasant facts, its tone, spirit, and intent are refreshingly constructive. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Finally, a definitive and careful history of Point Reyes National Seashore. By Festus Laura Watt has waded through thousands of pages of archival records to tell this history of an iconic American landscape. This is the definitive history not only of one of the nation's most significant (and weirdest) national parks. And she offers a history to think with: What are the lessons of a century of setting aside "natural wonders" to preserve them? How can rural economies survive and flourish while we also protect ecologically and aesthetically important spaces? Grounded in careful research examples like the battle over an oyster farm at Drakes Bay, Watt offers her own views about how to resolve that paradox of preservation. The best thing about this book is that we don't have to agree with Watt to accept her arguments. She writes from evidence, not opinion. Unlike other books on parks (and especially on the oyster farm), Watt gives a full history drawn from all the evidence, including those who disagree with her conclusions. That is refreshing, and admirable, and important for a time when facts matter more than ever. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A refreshing read in a challenging, post-fact, anti-environment Washington regime. By Judy Laura Watt has synthesized a world of information about the history of national parks and the National Park Service and its culture, and then examined that history in the context of evolving environmental and cultural protection standards, using Point Reyes National Seashore experiences to illustrate her observations about the conflicts that emerge. She's done it without rancor, although she served as an advocate in the oyster farm conflict, and she's done it with extensive citation to the factual bases for her statements in footnotes that don't slow the average reader but will satisfy anyone not content with living in a "post-fact" world. And she's done it in such graceful prose, that a college student friend exclaimed, "it reads like poetry!"

Point Reyes National Seashore has a long history as a working landscape, with dairy and beef ranching, fishing, and oyster farming; yet, since 1962 it has also been managed as a National Seashore. *The Paradox of Preservation* chronicles how national ideals about what a park "ought to be" have developed over time and what happens when these ideals are implemented by the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to preserve places that are also lived-in landscapes. Using the conflict surrounding the closure of the Drakes Bay Oyster Company, Laura Alice Watt examines how NPS management policies and processes for land use and protection do not always reflect the needs and values of local residents. Instead, the resulting landscapes produced by the NPS represent a series of compromises between use and protection—and between the area's historic pastoral character and a newer vision of wilderness. A fascinating and deeply researched book, *The Paradox of Preservation* will appeal to those studying environmental history, conservation, public lands, and cultural landscape management, and to those looking to learn more about the history of this dynamic California coastal region.

From the Inside Flap "Laura Watt casts a remarkable and highly significant new light on the process of creating our national parks, monuments, and seashores. Her astute, critical analysis of the history of Point Reyes National Seashore reveals how private grazing and farming remained within this potential 'wilderness,' while 'cultural' artifacts were allowed to deteriorate. A must-read for anyone interested in the complex meanings and histories associated with the nation's public lands."—Carolyn Merchant, Professor of Environmental History, Philosophy, and Ethics, University of California, Berkeley "Point Reyes National Seashore is both a fascinating and a contentious place, and Laura Watt is not afraid of contention. I happen to come down on a different side of some of the controversies she discusses, but I do not disagree that the controversies are real and important. She knows the park and its history as well as any scholar and writes about them with power and feeling. This is an important book."—Richard White, Professor of History, Stanford University