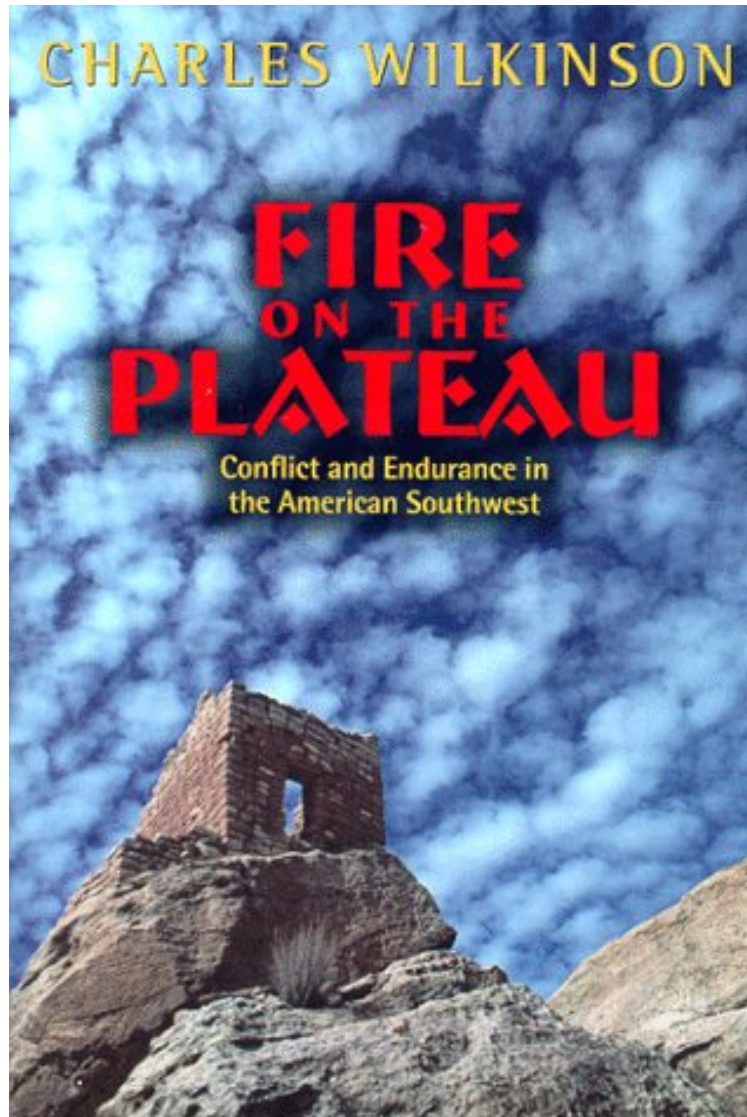


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Fire on the Plateau: Conflict And Endurance In The American Southwest

Charles F. Wilkinson

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Charles F. Wilkinson : Fire on the Plateau: Conflict And Endurance In The American Southwest before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fire on the Plateau: Conflict And Endurance In The American Southwest:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I like this lawyer. By Philip Carl Its definitely not everyday that I find a lawyer to admire, so Charles Wilkinson is that rare exception. A bit reluctant at first to pick up a first hand account

of recent resource and tribal issues on the Colorado Plateau as seen through the eyes of a lawyer, my attitude changed within a few pages. Charles Wilkinson writes with heart! It doesn't take long to see this writer has an obvious emotional investment in the clients and cases he goes to bat for. The book opens with a telling case of Navajo high schoolers commuting long hours to attend classes. Wilkinson and his firm made the case that long bus rides were leaving students tired before and after class and hurting their grades. With evidence and conviction, they got high schools built on the reservations. With each case recounted, I could sense Wilkinson's attachment to the Colorado plateau and its people grow and grow. Fire on the Plateau also provides a much broader telling of both the social and natural history of the Four Corners area. But what really set this book apart from others in my mind is Wilkinson's emergence from a lawyer who is just doing his job to someone who bonded to the land and the people he served. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. terrific history and definition of the colorado plateau By susan imhoff
birdcharles wilkinson writes clearly and with heart, describing the colorado plateau and his experiences with it. as an attorney who has worked with its native american tribes, his understanding of the area is rich and appreciative. he explains the development of the area and how we've come to be where we currently find ourselves. terrific read, packed with information, history, culture, and his obvious love of the land. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Carol Newman-Holitz A well-told history of this area. More interesting that I could have imagined.

Traces the history of the Four Corners region.

.com The Colorado Plateau of southern Utah, southwestern Colorado, and northern Arizona and New Mexico is the site of some of America's most prized national parks, among them Zion and Grand Canyon. It is also the center of ongoing conflict about the best use of natural resources, as the federal government, Indian nations, and ever-growing municipalities struggle to obtain control of water, minerals, and rangeland. As a former natural-resources attorney and now professor of law at the University of Colorado, Charles Wilkinson knows that struggle well, and his new book provides an on-the-ground overview of some of the most pressing conflicts. Some of his fieldnotes will come as no surprise to Westerners and students of the environment; others come as eye-opening news, whether the fact that Navajo Indian children are regularly bused to schools far away from home, traveling as much as 150 miles a day, or that radioactive waste and fallout from cold-war mining and testing remains a critical danger to public health across the plateau. Wilkinson's findings are often depressing; as he writes, "Thirty-five years ago I saw the West as clean and fresh, open and uncluttered. I no longer see it that way. I love it still, with all my heart, but I fear for it. For it is aging rapidly." Even so, he offers a few success stories to temper the bad news, notably the hard-won designation of large sections of the plateau as protected wilderness, with the promise of more extensive protection to come. --Gregory McNamee
About the Author Charles Wilkinson is Moses Lasky Professor of Law at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. Among his books are *Crossing the Next Meridian* (Island Press, 1992) and *The Eagle Bird* (Pantheon, 1992).