Fire on the Plateau: Conflict and Endurance in the American Southwest

Charles F. Wilkinson
CHARLES F. WILKINSON, FIRE ON THE PLATEAU: CONFLICT AND ENDURANCE IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST (Island Press 1999) [abstract and table of contents only].

Reproduced with permission of the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment (formerly the Natural Resources Law Center) at the University of Colorado Law School.
Fire on the Plateau: Conflict and Endurance in the American Southwest


Legal scholar and writer Charles Wilkinson began working as an attorney for the Native American Rights Fund in the early 1970s. His work brought him into contact with the Navajo and Hopi peoples of the Colorado Plateau, and began a long journey towards a deeper understanding of Native American cultures.

In Fire on the Plateau, Wilkinson explores the history of Native peoples in the region, including conflicts with more recent populations, government, and industry over resources and land use, as well as increased environmental awareness in the region’s recent history. This history is combined with the personal insights of the author, based on his work as an attorney working with Native Americans.
FIRE ON THE PLATEAU
Conflict and Endurance in the American Southwest

CHARLES WILKINSON
FIRE ON THE PLATEAU
For Ann
Conflict and Endurance in the American Southwest

Illustrations by Diane Sylvain

ISLAND PRESS / Shearwater Books
Washington, D.C. • Covelo, California
Contents

Introduction: The Colorado Plateau  xi

PART ONE: Bedrock
1. Route 66  3
2. Mexican Hat  15
3. Deseret  35
4. Coyote  56
5. Vishnu  79

PART TWO: Conflicts and Conquests
6. Kykotsmovi  105
7. Jack  124
8. Uintah  148
9. Phoenix  172
10. Rosa  186
11. Cretaceous  207
12. Junction Dam  230

PART THREE: Endurance
13. Cedar Mesa Canyon  251
14. Black Mesa  276
15. Kachina  295
16. Druid Arch  314
17. Mount Blanca  339

Notes  351
Acknowledgments  393
About the Author  396
Index  397