Books on Nature Writing, Natural History, and National Parks

Below is a partial list of the many books on the natural environment available in the Leatherby Libraries. To get started reading nature writing and other books about natural history and national parks, begin at the Leatherby Libraries homepage, http://www1.chapman.edu/library. Just search for the title under Library Catalog. If you need any more suggestions, please stop by the Reference Desk.

Walden by Henry D. Thoreau
PS3048.A2 S5 1971 - 2nd FL Humanities Books
Thoreau’s daily life on the shores of Walden Pond in Massachusetts are intertwined with his reflections on self-reliance, society, and other topics.

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
QH545.P4 C38 1994
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books
Influential in the history of the environmental movement, this classic book prompted revolutionary changes in environmental policy, including the banning of DDT.

A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold
QH81.L56 1970
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books
This is a classic text that explores the natural history of America. Originally published in 1949, it was written by Aldo Leopold, who believed in a mutually beneficial relationship between humans and nature.

Essential Muir by John Muir
QH31.M9 A3 2006
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books
This book is a varied collection of Muir's work that includes his scientific descriptions as well as writings that demonstrate his love for nature.

The Log from the Sea of Cortez by John Steinbeck
QL225.S74 1995
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books
An interesting mixture of science, philosophy, and adventure, this is an account of Steinbeck's journey to the Gulf of California with biologist Ed Ricketts.

The Measure of a Mountain by Bruce Barcott
F897.R2 B23 1998 - 2nd FL Humanities Books
This book describes the Mount Rainier, the largest volcano in the United States, intertwining accounts of trekking with natural and cultural history and a bit of philosophy.

Organ Pipe: Life on the Edge by Carol Ann Bassett
QH105.A65 B37 2004
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books
The beauty and mystery of the desert are portrayed in this book that explains the natural and cultural history of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona's Sonora Desert.

Gathering the Desert by Gary Paul Nabhan
QK211.N33 1985
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books
Divided according to the seasons of the year, this book looks at 12 native plants of the Sonoran desert and their uses by humans over time.
**A Place Called Grand Canyon** by Barbara J. Morehouse  
GF504.A6 M67 1996  
2nd FL Social Science Library Books

In this geographical history, Morehouse examines the "greater Grand Canyon," an area that extends well beyond the parks boundaries, looking at the changes that have taken place over time and the relationships of people with this landscape.

**Yosemite: The Embattled Wilderness** by Alfred Runte  
QH105.C2 R86 1990  
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books

This book is an environmental history of Yosemite National Park, focusing on the management of natural resources.

**Challenge of the Big Trees** by Lary M. Dilsaver and William C. Tweed  
F868.S4 D55 1990 - 2nd FL Humanities Books

Illustrated with helpful maps, this is a human history of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Included are discussions about the effort to preserve the big trees and the establishment of the parks.

**Yellowstone: The Creation and Selling of an American Landscape, 1870-1903** by Chris J. Magoc  
F722.M23 1999 - 2nd FL Humanities Books

This is an environmental history of the founding years of Yellowstone National Park, discussing the Euro-American perception of the park, wilderness values, tourism and the railroad, extraction of resources, and how the park's current ecological well-being may be threatened by tourism and industrial development.

**One Day at Teton Marsh** by Sally Carrighar  
QL215.C3 1955  
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books

In timeless nature writing, Carrighar describes the activities of individual animals that inhabit a marsh in Grand Teton National Park. The stories connect with one another, showing the interaction of the inhabitants of this environment.

**Ansel Adams in the National Parks** edited by Andrea G. Stillman  
E160 .A297 2010 - 2nd FL Humanities Books

Accompanied by commentary and essays, this book includes more than 200 photographs by Ansel Adams of national parks and wilderness areas.

**The Snow Leopard** by Peter Matthiessen  
QH193.H5 M37 1978  
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books

This book is about Matthiessen's travels to study Himalayan blue sheep and the snow leopard, but it is also a spiritual journey through the remote mountains of Nepal.

**An Island Called California** by Elna S. Bakker  
QH105.C2 B3 1971  
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books

This classic in ecology examines the diverse environments and natural communities found throughout the state of California.

**Natural State** edited by Steven Gilbar  
3rd FL Science & Technology Library Books

Essays, journal entries, and excerpts are included in this anthology of nature writing on California. Several well-known and less familiar authors are included, and the writings are arranged by geographic areas and features (e.g., mountains, the coast).