Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Books & Profiles

Roundtable Review of *Wired Wilderness* by Etienne Benson

Hamblin, Jacob D., ed.

Hamblin, Jacob D., ed. Roundtable Review of *Wired Wilderness: Technologies of Tracking and the Making of Modern Wildlife*, by Etienne Benson. *H-Environment Roundtable Reviews* 3, no.1 (2013). https://www.h-net.org/~environ/roundtables/env-roundtable-3-1.pdf .

Introduced by American wildlife biologists in the 1950s, the practice of fitting animals with radio transmitters proved so useful to scientists and nonscientists that it became global by the 1980s. *Wired Wilderness* is the first book-length study of the origin, evolution, use, and impact of these now commonplace tracking technologies. Etienne Benson traces the radio tracking of wild animals across a wide range of institutions, regions, and species and in a variety of contexts. He explains how hunters, animal rights activists, and other conservation-minded groups gradually turned tagging from a tool for control into a conduit for connection with wildlife. Drawing on extensive archival research, interviews with wildlife biologists and engineers, and in-depth case studies of specific conservation issues—such as the management of deer, grouse, and other game animals in the US upper Midwest and the conservation of tigers and rhinoceroses in Nepal—Benson illuminates telemetry's context dependent uses and meanings as well as commonalities among tagging practices. Scholars of and researchers involved in wildlife management will find this history both fascinating and revealing.

(Text adapted from The Johns Hopkins University Press website.)

H-Environment's Roundtable Book Reviews provide multiple perspectives on books and allow the authors the opportunity to respond. This unique dialogue can be a valuable insight into recent scholarship.

Copyright © 2012 H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online. H-Net permits the redistribution and reprinting of this work for nonprofit, educational purposes, with full and accurate attribution to the author, web location, date of publication, H-Environment, and H-Net: Humanities & Social Sciences Online.

Download:
Roundtable Review
https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/roundtable_review_of_benson_wired_wilderness.pdf

Related links:

- H-Environment Roundtable Reviews
  http://www.h-net.org/~environ/roundtables.html
- The John Hopkins University Press featuring this book
  http://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/ecom/MasterServlet/GetItemDetailsHandler

Websites linked in this text:

- https://www.h-net.org/~environ/roundtables/env-roundtable-3-1.pdf