

INVISIBLE BOUNDARIES

EXPLORING YELLOWSTONE'S GREAT ANIMAL MIGRATIONS

IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED that Yellowstone National Park is a year-round sanctuary for wildlife—a landscape that protects animals within park boundaries from human impacts. But the Park alone can neither contain nor sustain many of the wide-ranging species that people generally associate with it. Populations of large mammals, raptors, waterfowl, and many other species require space far beyond park boundaries during at least part of each year, to secure the resources necessary to survive and reproduce. To these creatures, the boundaries of our parks, forests, and ranches are invisible.

In this publication and the museum exhibition it accompanies, noted authorities in several fields explore the invisible boundaries of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem from diverse perspectives. Eminent conservation biologist Thomas Lovejoy places Greater Yellowstone in a global context, identifying the implications of animal movements for ecosystem conservation in our fragmented world. Ecologist and wildlife biologist Charles Preston reviews the genesis of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem concept and how it holds up to our current knowledge of wildlife movements and changing environments inside and outside Yellowstone National Park. Ecologist Arthur Middleton explains why elk and their spectacular annual migrations through the rugged country in and around Yellowstone are ideal vehicles to help us understand the challenges of cross-boundary movements. Wildlife photojournalist Joe Riis takes us along on the journeys of elk and other wildlife through Greater Yellowstone's magnificent backcountry, sharing his ground-breaking photography along with insights from nearly a decade of field work documenting these monumental journeys. Further extending the dialogue, artist James Prosek explores elk and other animal migrations through original artwork, freeing us from scientific and documentary boundaries to consider Yellowstone, conservation, and nature's fluidity from a different plane of human experience. Art historian Karen McWhorter ties everything together with observations and historical perspectives on collaborations among scientists, artists, and photographers toward increasing appreciation and understanding of the complex natural phenomenon of Yellowstone's great animal migrations.

BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST

720 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, Wyoming 82414 | centerofthewest.org



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THIS PUBLICATION WAS FUNDED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF
THEODORE C. ROGERS

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE EXHIBITION *INVISIBLE BOUNDARIES: EXPLORING YELLOWSTONE'S GREAT ANIMAL MIGRATIONS* HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY FRAN AND LENOX BAKER, THE BOBBY MODEL CHARITABLE FUND IN HONOR OF REBECCA MARTIN, BOLE AND KLINGENSTEIN FOUNDATION, THE BROOKS FOUNDATION, BILL AND MARY ANNE DINGUS, JOAN C. DONNER, FRED AND LINDA DOWD, THE DUNCAN FUND, THE GEORGE L. OHRSTROM, JR. FOUNDATION, FRANK AND BETSY GOODYEAR, MR. MARK GORDON AND MRS. JENNIE MUIR-GORDON, KATHRYN WILMERDING HEMINWAY, J BAR 9 RANCH, ROBERT AND MICHELE KEITH, MR. AND MRS. PETER W. KUYPER, SUSAN AND RIP MCINTOSH, ROBERT MODEL, LINDA AND REID MURCHISON, THE NANCY-CARROLL DRAPER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF WYOMING, ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION, SAGE CREEK RANCH, LARRY TODD, HAL AND LIS WACKMAN, GREG AND REBECCA WATSON, SAM AND MARSHALL WEBB, TIM WHITE, THE WILLIAM H. DONNER FOUNDATION, DAVID AND SUSIE WORK, YALE INSTITUTE FOR BIOSPHERIC STUDIES AND YALE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, AND OTHERS WHOSE PASSION FOR YELLOWSTONE'S EXTRAORDINARY WILDLIFE HAS NO BOUNDS.

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