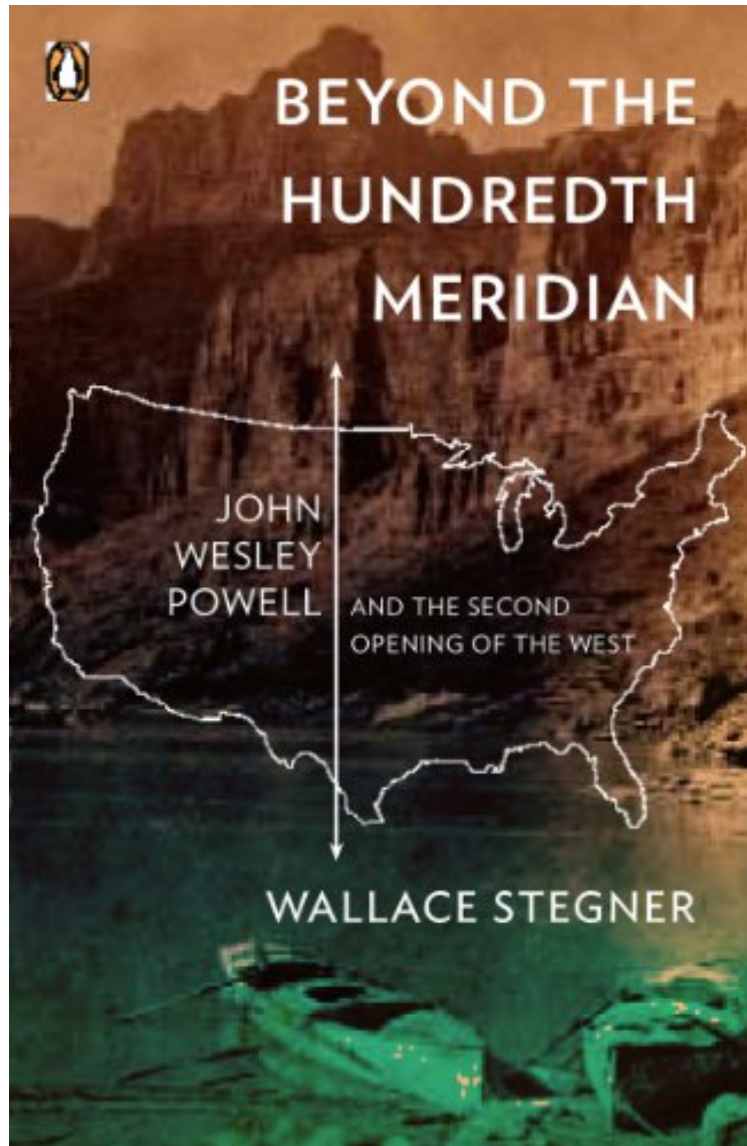


Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Wesley Powell and the Second Opening of the West

Wallace Stegner

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Wallace Stegner : Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Wesley Powell and the Second Opening of the West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Wesley Powell and the Second Opening of the West:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Important storyBy annapolis therapyWorth reading just for the

adventure of his Western explorations, but essential for understanding forces shaping Federal land and water policies. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Get to know the Man and the River By Rose Classic Must read to understand the River. It does drag at times, but great source of learning. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Much more than I expected - By Judith Schroedl purchased the text and audio version of this book and enjoyed them both. The audio version was wonderfully narrated in a voice Wallace Stegner would have approved, and the text version contained photos and survey drawings that brought the words to life. I expected an account of Powell's exploration of the Grand Canyon and Colorado Plateau, but learned so much more about this time in our western history. From the wranglings of Washington D C where support and money were distributed according to reputation over accomplishment; where men could lie without impunity and expected to be rewarded for it; where evidence was disregarded when it did not agree with political ambition. This one volume taught me more about the real west and how it took on the profile and culture that in some areas lives on today. Information on geology, anthropology and even western art fill the pages along with what (I hope) presents an accurate human portrait of a man I admire. Finally, the assessment of this Great American Desert reminds us that in only a little over 150 years, we have taken too many wrong turns and how much today we need a leader like John Wesley Powell.

From the dean of Western writers (The New York Times) and the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Angle of Repose* and *Crossing to Safety*, a fascinating look at the old American West and the man who prophetically warned against the dangers of settling it. In *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian*, Wallace Stegner recounts the successes and frustrations of John Wesley Powell, the distinguished ethnologist and geologist who explored the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon, and the homeland of Indian tribes of the American Southwest. A prophet without honor who had a profound understanding of the American West, Powell warned long ago of the dangers economic exploitation would pose to the West and spent a good deal of his life overcoming Washington politics in getting his message across. Only now, we may recognize just how accurate a prophet he was.

"This book goes far beyond biography, into the nature and soul of the American West. It is Stegner at his best, assaying an entire era of our history, packing his pages with insights as shrewd as his prose." Ivan Doig
About the Author Wallace Stegner (1909-1993) published more than two dozen books throughout his life, including the novels *Angle of Repose*, which won the Pulitzer Prize; *Crossing to Safety*; *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*; and *The Spectator Bird*, which won the National Book Award. An early environmentalist, Stegner was instrumental with his now famous *Wilderness Letter* in the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act.