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**Review of *Wilderness Issues in the Arid Lands of the Western United States* by Samuel I. Zeveloff and Cyrus M. McKell**

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**Wilderness Issues in the Arid Lands of the Western United States.** Samuel I. Zeveloff and Cyrus M. McKell, eds. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1992. xi + 145 pp. Bibliography, tables, figures, and index. \$29.95 cloth.

This is a set of papers on the problems of establishing and managing Western arid land wilderness. All are sensible, and together they provide a judicious and reasonably complete introduction to this specialized area of land management. The book begins with the editors' introduction, followed by Utah Congressman Wayne Owens' discussion of Utah's arid lands and their value as wilderness. This, a pleasant surprise, rises above the usual level of Congressional commentary for constituents. Three case studies follow. One concerns raptor preservation on the Snake River, another the conflicting interests of bighorn sheep and horses, the third fish preservation in desert waters. Each is detailed enough to give a feel for its subject; taken together they indicate the nature and range of problems connected with arid land wilderness. Cattlemen, whose activities are the major and continuing influence in the region, have the next chapter. Then there is a survey of Utah's wilderness lands, with a short section on each BLM area. The book ends with an economic analysis that takes into account the non-monetary benefits of wilderness and discusses in a cogent manner changes in economic definitions to accommodate environmental realities.

The balance of general concerns and specifics allows the reader both an overview and some idea of how ideas connect to practice. The concentration on a single issue in a limited geographical area gives it focus. The authors are aware of the complex mixture of forces, and the chapters present sides without

descending to polemics. The book's main interest, though, may lie in its treatment of a neglected part of nature. The wilderness idea and its associated political movement began with the defense of conventionally scenic areas (snow-capped peaks, lakes, shady glens) and the goal of eliminating human activity (except for wilderness advocates on foot). This collection, shows how the aesthetic category of wilderness is widening and makes the point that wilderness preservation cannot, realistically, aim at the complete elimination of human action. Managed wilderness is a paradox, but one we have to confront and live with. This volume is a short but useful survey of how to do it and what needs to be done to do it in the Great Basin. **Thomas R. Dunlap**, *Department of History, Texas A & M University*.