





Living Wilderness

Kevin Ebi

Living Wilderness Nature Photography

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A Living Wilderness

My vision for my nature photography was set decades before I even owned a camera. And I got a camera years before I became a photographer.

The earliest seeds of the vision were planted on May 18, 1980. I was in kindergarten, growing up on a small farm in Puyallup, Washington, about an hour north of Mount St. Helens. I remember intently watching the surging ash column tower over the hillside as the volcano erupted on that Sunday morning.

As dramatic as that was, the regular trips my family made to Mount St. Helens after it stopped rumbling made an even bigger impression on me. These visits gave me a benchmark to measure changes in nature similar to the way parents chart their children's growth with pencil marks on the kitchen wall.

In our earliest trips the view was completely gray — the land, the water, the air. Ash coated everything in sight, reducing what had been a vibrant, pristine wilderness to a scene more resembling a black-and-white television show. Even gentle steps sent the ash airborne, obscuring our footprints in a harsh, gritty fog.

But just as the mountain's perfect cone hadn't been permanent, neither was the barren, monochrome post-eruption landscape. Over time, the ash was carried away by rain, melting snow, and tourists. It took years, but the rivers once again flowed in color.

The area was declared a national monument and new hiking trails gradually crossed the landscape. One of my favorites is the Hummocks Trail. Just a few miles from the volcano itself, the trail winds past ragged mounds of white, yellow and reddish rocks that once made up the mountain's peak. With each passing year, the landscape becomes a little less ragged. Erosion will do that.

Twenty years after the massive eruption, almost to the day, the first wildflowers appeared along the trail. Ten years later, trees have grown so tall there is now welcome shade in spots along the trail where there was none before. And today, a chorus of birds sings where once there was only the whirl of the wind. Life finds a way.

Because of the dramatic devastation at Mount St. Helens, it's relatively easy to notice the changes in nature there. But all of nature is dynamic and change is everywhere. A meadow of wildflowers never looks the same two summers in a row. A waterfall can produce blinding mist one month yet be nearly dry the next. The Grand Canyon is at least one grain deeper than it was when you opened this book.

Earth is just as alive as we are.

My work, and this book, are meant to celebrate our Living Wilderness. Please celebrate with me.

Kevin Ebi
Bothell, Washington



MOUNT ST. HELENS, DECEMBER 2004 STEAM ERUPTION
Silver Lake, Washington



Portfolio 1: Perspectives

Moraine Lake and the Valley of the Ten Peaks, Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada



STORMY SUNRISE OVER TOROWEAP
Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona



HORSESHOE MESA
Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona



BETLE TRAVELING ACROSS RIPPLED DUNE
Juniper Dunes Wilderness, Washington



SNAIL TRACKS IN SAND
Shi Shi Beach, Olympic National Park, Washington

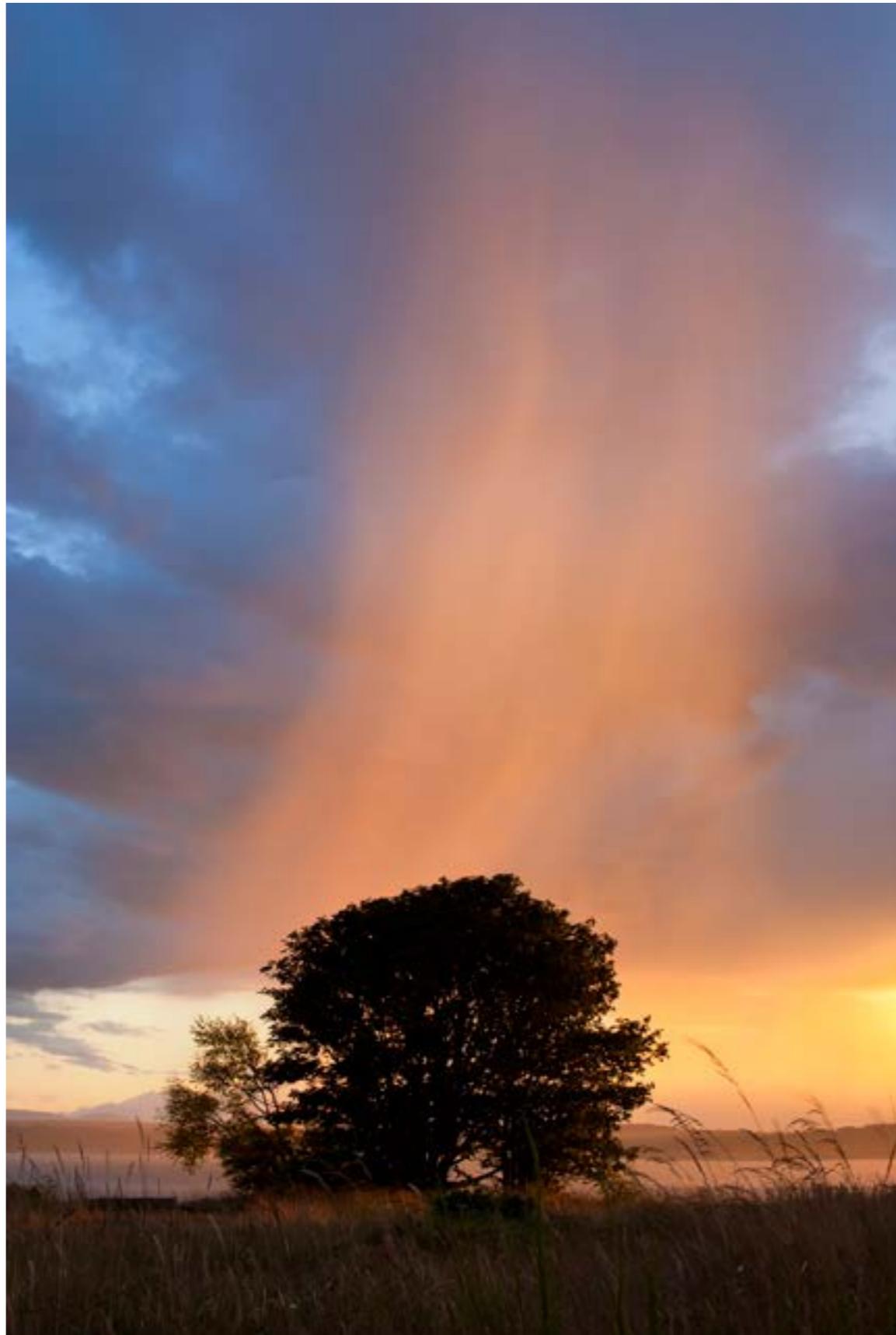


WINDOW TO MYRTLE FALLS
Mount Rainier National Park, Washington



Portfolio 2:
Living Landscapes

Wild Horse Mesa, Navajo Nation, Arizona



VIRGA OVER PUGET SOUND
Discovery Park, Seattle, Washington



RAINBOW OVER VERMILION CLIFFS
Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Arizona



CLOUD STREAKS OVER DEVILS TOWER
Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming



FIVE WATERFALLS NEAR THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
Glacier National Park, Montana



Portfolio 3:
Life in the Wilderness

Mallard Ducklings on Log, Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle, Washington



BLACK-TAILED DEER
Cape Disappointment, Washington



BALD EAGLE CRYING AT MOON
Kirkland, Washington



Portfolio 4:
Intimate Wilderness

Floating Leaf, Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle, Washington

PEELING BARK, ARBUTUS TREE
Strathcona Provincial Park,
Vancouver Island, Canada





CURVED PASSAGE IN THE WAVE
Coyote Buttes, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Arizona

Imprint

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The images in this book are available as fine-art prints and for licensing through Living Wilderness Nature Photography, www.LivingWilderness.com.

All images were created from 2000 to 2014. Most were captured using digital 35mm format SLR cameras, including the 1Ds, 1Ds Mark III, and 1D Mark IV from Canon. Film images were captured on Fujichrome Velvia 50.

Software tools were used to remove dust spots and other minor imperfections, and to adjust color and tone to accurately portray the feel of the natural scene. No adjustment materially changed the original image as captured.

To Jennifer for her unwavering support; to John who, since the beginning, has provided invaluable field assistance; to my parents for introducing me to the wilderness.

Next page: Mammoth Lenticular Cloud and Mount Rainier, Bonney Lake, Washington

Last page: Sayulita Jungle, Nayarit, Mexico

Back cover: Na Pali Coast, Kaua'i, Hawai'i



Photo by Rex Lavoie

About the photographer

Kevin Ebi fell in love with nature early in life; it took many more years for him to discover his passion for photography.

Growing up, Kevin went on many outings with his parents to Pacific Northwest parks. As an adult, he began carrying a camera on hikes so he could show others what he saw, but over time discovered that the patience and keen observation photography required helped him appreciate nature even more.

His images are used regularly by major calendar and greeting card lines, and have appeared in a wide range of publications including *National Wildlife*, *Smithsonian*, *Lonely Planet* guides, and *Outdoor Photographer*.

He has authored or co-authored four photography books, including *Year of the Eagle*, which shows how eagles learn to fly and start families of their own, and *Running in Circles*, which tells the story of the cycle of water by figuratively following a drop of water from the ocean to storm clouds to the Arctic ice to mountain lakes and rivers.

He lives near Seattle, Washington, and has photographed more than half of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, Iceland, and New Zealand.