Jeff Antonelis-Lapp. *Tahoma and its People: A Natural History of Mount Rainier National Park*

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While prudently remaining home to avoid COVID, thoughts too frequently turn to the pleasure of wandering in the woods. Such prudence is made more difficult by reading Jeff Antonelis-Lapp's splendid new book *Tahoma and Its People*. Mr. Antonelis-Lapp vividly shares his special love of the Mount Rainier National Park region, undoubtedly leaving many readers craving an experience at a magical place for themselves. Through treatment deftly mixing natural history, anthropology, and a host of related topics, readers learn of a remarkable area probably best experienced on foot.

The book's strength is its breadth, integration of topics, and easy readability. It serves well as an introduction to this region and as a source identifying more in-depth material. Its first chapter begins by providing an overview of Mount Rainier's geology. Rather than being a purely technical chronicle, this chapter also provides anecdotal information about human interaction in investigating geology, and how geology affects the local population. It makes for enjoyable reading and should be of interest to many who would quickly numb to a listing of geologic features.

The second chapter focuses on archaeology, providing brief descriptions of some of the native peoples who lived on and around the mountain (and from whom the mountain's name *Tahoma* oriented before the British explorer George Vancouver re-named it Mount Rainer in 1792). Also

described are some of the early European American explorations of the area, followed by a recent history of archaeological research and preservation work being done at Mount Rainer National Park. Much like the first chapter, the reader gathers information in accessible prose, similar in tone and substance in many ways to that experienced in the very best of national park ranger talks.

The final five chapters of the book each explore a particular area around the mountain. Written somewhat as a first-person narrative, each chapter focuses on natural history while interspersing personal experiences and stories of local people. These chapters will not serve as stand-alone comprehensive natural history guides but rather as overviews of what visitors should expect. Reading all the chapters should be a great help in selecting a route for those interested in personally exploring the area, and careful reading of a particular chapter should help inform what other resources might be most useful if interested in more in-depth material. Antonelis-Lapp provides useful notes and references to help find appropriate materials for further research.

Tahoma and Its People may not be widely useful as a course text, other than those specifically focused on this region's natural history. Another exception may be for courses focused on communication and environmental education, as this book could serve as an outstanding example of effectively integrating topical material in an interesting and meaningful way. Perhaps its largest readership will be among those thinking about possibly visiting the area, and for those who already have plans to explore the mountain and are looking to maximize their experience. It's not the book I'd put in my hiking pack (preferring to carry field guides), but instead one that I'd read with care before starting my own exploration. I left this book wondering when would it be possible to schedule my own visit!

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