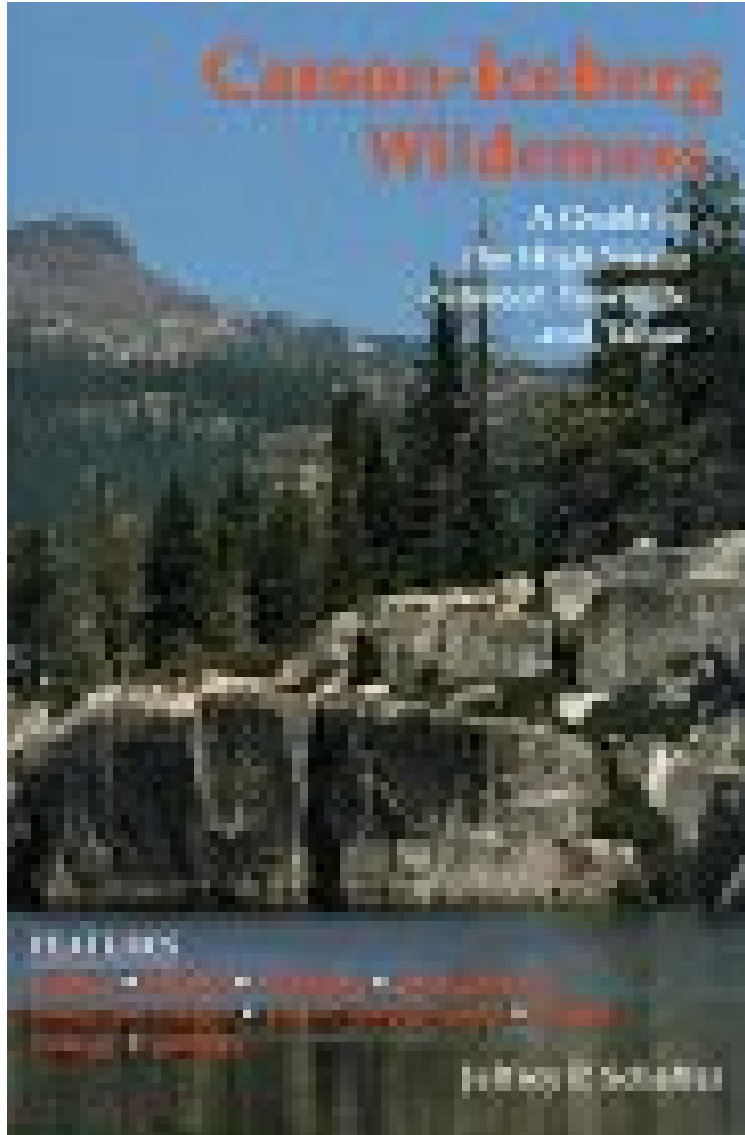


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Carson-Iceberg Wilderness

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Jeffery P. Schaffer, Jeffrey P. Schaffer : Carson-Iceberg Wilderness before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Carson-Iceberg Wilderness:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. They don't Make Outdoor Writers Like Jeffrey Schaffer AnymoreBy Fritz R. WardI recently picked up a copy of Jeffrey Schaffer's 'Carson-Iceberg Wilderness,' last printed in 1992. This is but one of dozens of Wilderness Press titles that Schaffer, a consummate field geologist, topographer, and hiker produced for what was then the premier outdoor press for the western US. I've read many of these books, and used

them to plan vacations. And taken these books for granted. Imagine an outdoor guide that devoted extensive chapters to the physical geography of a region, ecosystems found within each microclimate of the guidebook, fishing opportunities, hunting, and of course hiking. These used to be commonplace, in part because the writing of Jeffrey Schaffer in books like this one established it as the norm for outdoor writing. And as I read this book, I realized just how much outdoor writing has changed since his "retirement" from active guidebook writing. This book will likely not see another edition, and that will be a tragedy. It should go without saying that this is still the definitive guidebook to that underused section of the Sierra south of Lake Tahoe and north of Yosemite. Here volcanism is much more prominent than in the "high" Sierra, and lakes are comparatively fewer, but this is still beautiful country, overlooked by most hikers except the growing number of PCT hikers who get to experience this wonderful land on their way to Canada. Since the guide was printed, fishermen (who still dominate wilderness users in this area) are no longer allowed to fish in several streams where dwindling populations of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, a rare and protected fish, still exist. But even the chapter on fishing still contains valuable information on how to enjoy success in this sometimes difficult area to fish. Finally, you get Schaffer's hand drawn map with meticulous attention to each and every turn in the trail. Few outdoor authors can match his skill in this area. But what I as reader really enjoy about Schaffer's work is that his natural history chapters are not simply a recapitulation of what one can find in popular science treatments. Schaffer, from his earliest books to his latest always utilized his own personal research, even when it conflicted with recognized authorities who did their work in the library and not in the field. Thus he notes that the idea meadows are glacial lakes which have filled in is essentially a "geologic folk tale." Of course, as he notes, given enough time and a drying climate, this will eventually happen, but lakes in the region are only 15,000-30,000 years old and in that entire period have only accumulated about a foot of sediment. His evidence? His own field research on lake sediments as opposed to the "models" that still dominate scholarship in geology. Nor is Schaffer shy in noting what should be obvious, namely that what little warming has actually occurred recently is nothing compared to what earth has experienced in the past. We are, he notes, in an interglacial period and in all likelihood it will be brief. Another ice age is far more likely than continued global warming. No doubt the scientific "consensus" will disagree, but I would put my money on Schaffer's actual field research in the long run. And if you want to explore this stunningly beautiful and relatively lonely region, you would do well to put your money on any edition of this book you can find. Guidebooks like this are just no longer written and not only will you discover a beautiful landscape, you will also learn more about the country you plan to hike.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars
By Kristine
The maps were not included and I really was looking forward to the maps.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book is helpful, but the map that is ...
By Heidi Ho
The book is helpful, but the map that is sold with the book was not included. The map is "key" for finding routes, etc.

Straddling the crest in the central part of the Sierra Nevada, this wilderness preserves the glaciated High Sierra lands between Highway 4 and Highway 108. The vast majority of the wilderness is easily accessible, yet lightly used. Schaffer covers all the trails in this wilderness of glaciated canyons and spectacular views. Both trails and cross-country routes are shown on the book's foldout topographic map, which shows elevations at all trail junctions plus distances between junctions. Hikes range from easy dayhikes to multi-day backpacks.

.com Between Lake Tahoe and Yosemite near the California-Nevada border is a remote region of high Sierra peaks and forest that sees little of the congestion found around its two more famous neighbors. The Carson-Iceberg Wilderness is a place in which to lose yourself. This guide to the area is suited to the well-rounded outdoors enthusiast, with chapters on geology, history, wildlife, fishing, and a variety of backcountry excursions. Included is a handy fold-out topographic map.