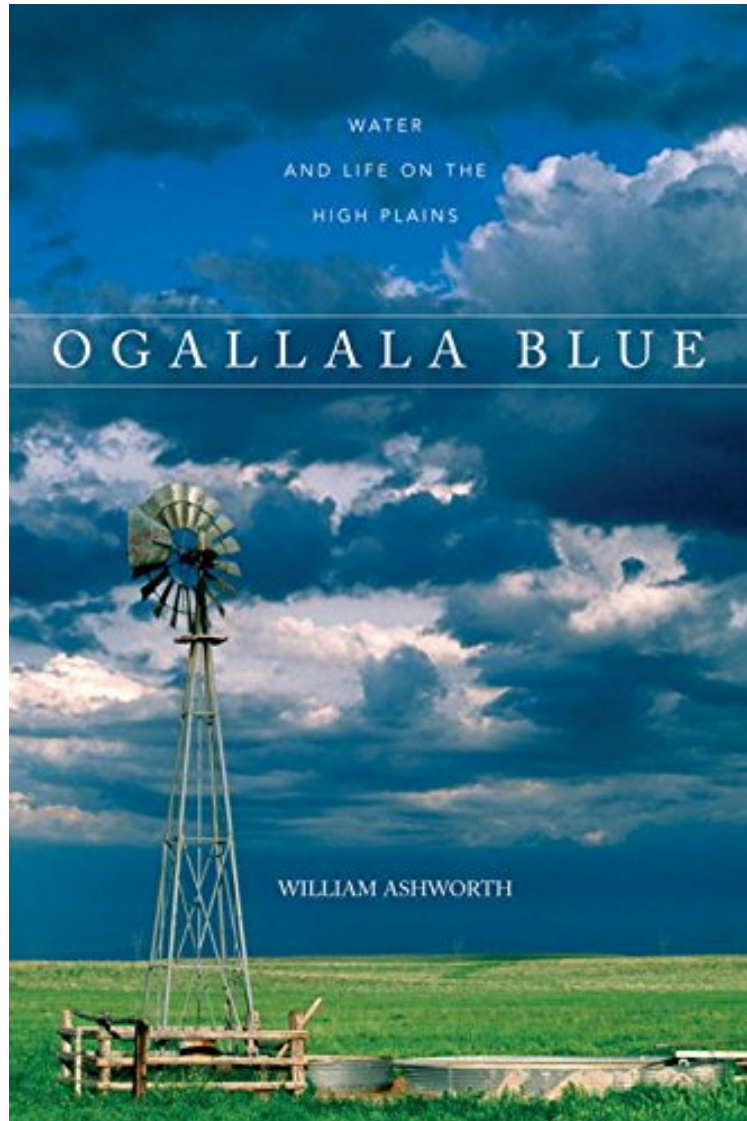


(Ebook pdf) Ogallala Blue: Water and Life on the Great Plains

Ogallala Blue: Water and Life on the Great Plains

William Ashworth

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#907988 in Books William Ashworth 2007-07-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.101, 1.04 #File Name: 0881507369352 pages Ogallala Blue Water and Life on the High Plains | File size: 67.Mb

William Ashworth : Ogallala Blue: Water and Life on the Great Plains before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ogallala Blue: Water and Life on the Great Plains:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful treatment of a timely topic By Liz I. Looking for a description of the Ogallala aquifer, which has special significance to me as a Nebraskan, I stumbled across this wonderful book. Once I started reading it, I couldn't put it down. Combining geology, hydrology, history and sociology, it reads like a novel--and yet has wonderfully specific, and at times poetic, imagery. I just wish it were

available for the Kindle, as I'd love to keep it in my permanent library.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. west and the Great Lakes regionBy Jesse S. RoaMust readings to understand the upcoming battle between the artificially propped, drought stricken, west and the Great Lakes region.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Bought this books as as reading material for a Water ...By Jason W. OrtonBought this books as as reading material for a Water Leaders group that I help put together. Very well received by all attendees.

A story of a crucial, dwindling natural resource: an invisible ocean of fresh water under the High Plains. The Ogallala Aquifer that lies deep beneath the Great Plains from Texas to Colorado contains enough water to fill Lake Erie nine times! Every year five trillion gallons are pumped out for irrigation, and if (or when) the aquifer goes dry, \$20 billion worth of food and fiber grown with that irrigation will disappear. William Ashforth tells the fascinating history of the Ogallala from its formation millions of years ago to glimpses of the future when the Great Plains could return to their Sahara Desert-like past.1 map

From Publishers WeeklyPeople of the Great Plains have been drawing on the underground water of the sprawling Ogallala Aquifer for centuries. But it took a failed tinkerer's single inspired invention in 1948the center-pivot sprinkler systemto precipitate this century's looming crisis over access to potable water, on land stretching from South Dakota to Texas and from Colorado almost to Iowa. The sprinkler (followed by ever more sophisticated water extraction systems) sprayed water across fields of corn and cotton more efficiently, reports Ashworth (The Late, Great Lakes). But this in turn led to an increase in land under cultivationa situation that, compounded by suburban sprawl in the southwest, means that for the past half-century, water that had collected below the surface over many millennia is now being consumed far more quickly than nature can replenish it. Ashworth recounts some conservation efforts that could achieve a "tenuous balance" between supply and demand, but he doesn't hold out much hope that years of rampant mining of the aquifer's once-vast liquid resources can be reversed. Firsthand vignettes about efforts to introduce dryland farming techniques and reintroduce buffalo herds add some zip to the narrative, but for a doomsday book about a dire situation, the text is often pretty dry. Map. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistHidden below the eight states that compose the Great Plains lies a vast ocean known as the Ogallala Aquifer. Supporting 14 million acres of crops that represent one-fifth of the country's total agricultural harvest, this primary source of groundwater affects everything from the food we eat to the clothing we wear. Deep enough to fill Lake Erie nine times over, it is immense, but it is not infinite, and this precious aquifer is going dry. It is a question of when, not if, and the management of this essential resource will be one of the most daunting challenges of the twenty-first century. Tracing the dramatic history of the aquifer from its Ice Age formation to its current precarious state, Ashworth presents a state-by-state montage of the people who have both championed its preservation and orchestrated its destruction. Ashworth deftly clarifies and personalizes the critical economic, environmental, and humanitarian issues at stake, forcefully connecting the geology of the planet's past with the ecology of this country's future. Carol HaggasCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorWilliam Ashworth is an award-winning author of numerous environmental and natural history books. He lives in Ashland, OR.