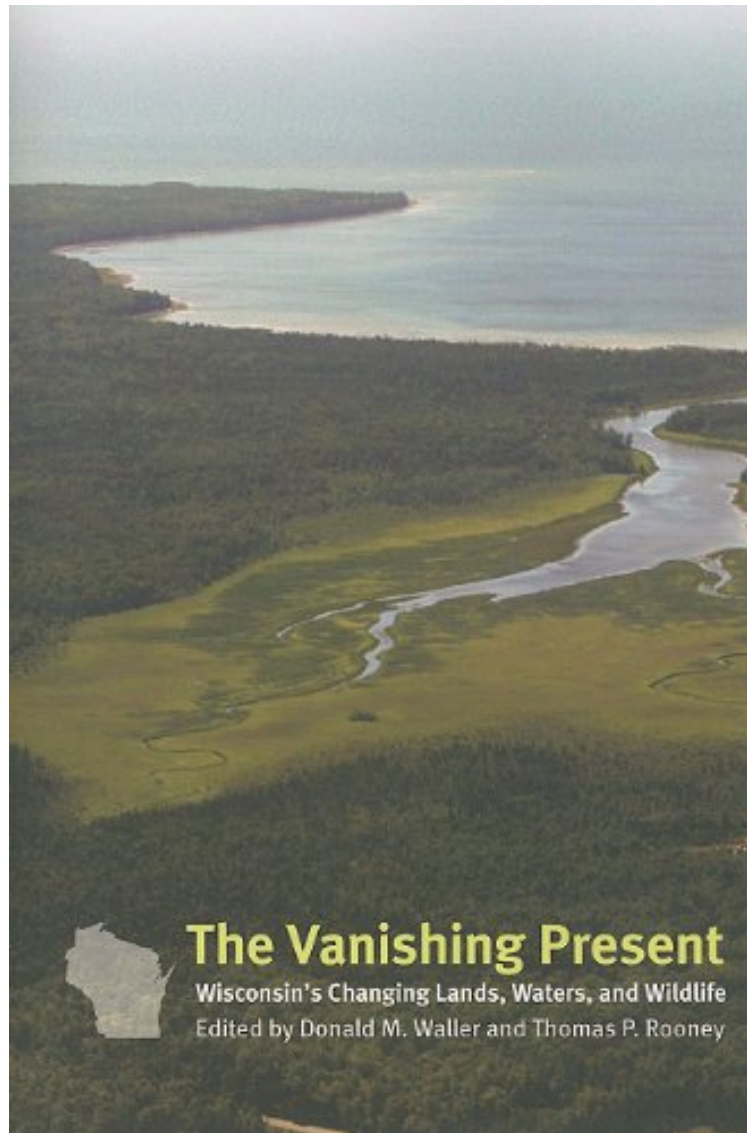


(Free pdf) The Vanishing Present: Wisconsin's Changing Lands, Waters, and Wildlife

# The Vanishing Present: Wisconsin's Changing Lands, Waters, and Wildlife

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**From University Of Chicago Press : The Vanishing Present: Wisconsin's Changing Lands, Waters, and Wildlife** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Vanishing Present: Wisconsin's Changing Lands, Waters, and Wildlife:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well written!By D PfaffI bought this as background information for

a class I teach and I have not had enough time to really read every essay, those that I have used were fantastic. I have shared it with friends and students who agree. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. essential for those concerned about wildlife and habitat change  
By BotanyBob  
This is a superb collection of essays and papers on how our rich natural heritage is changing before our eyes, and how radically it may be already altered from conditions prior to European settlement in the 19th century. It covers a multitude of subjects and many types of biota, even lichens, and is written by a top notch group of regional experts. You can't go wrong with this book.

Straddling temperate forests and grassland biomes and stretching along the coastline of two Great Lakes, Wisconsin contains tallgrass prairie and oak savanna, broadleaf and coniferous forests, wetlands, natural lakes, and rivers. But, like the rest of the world, the Badger State has been transformed by urbanization and sprawl, population growth, and land-use change. For decades, industry and environment have attempted to coexist in Wisconsin and the dynamic tensions between economic progress and environmental protection makes the state a fascinating microcosm for studying global environmental change. The Vanishing Present brings together a distinguished set of contributors including scientists, naturalists, and policy experts to examine how human pressures on Wisconsin's changing lands, waters, and wildlife have redefined the state's ecology. Though they focus on just one state, the authors draw conclusions about changes in temperate habitats that can be applied elsewhere, and offer useful insights into the future of the ecology, conservation, and sustainability of Wisconsin and beyond. A fitting tribute to the home state of Aldo Leopold and John Muir, The Vanishing Present is an accessible and timely case study of a significant ecosystem and its response to environmental change.

Our cultural obsession with unlimited growth has a dark side and that is the inexorable environmental deterioration that accompanies economic expansion. Habitat destruction is obvious, but less obvious human interventions such as pollution, fire suppression, overabundant deer, and changes in forestry and agricultural practices all extract a price in lost biodiversity. Each disturbing chapter of this retrospective on Wisconsin's priceless natural heritage is a reminder of how far we are as a society from achieving the nirvana of sustainable development.