Theme Essay

Wilderness has deep roots in American history and the cultural imagination. In Idaho, the connection to wilderness is particularly strong: ranchers, hikers, anglers, hunters, kayakers, snowmobilers, mountain bikers – people of a wide variety of vocations and avocations – care about wild places. As 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, this reading and conversation series aims to reflect on how we have mapped wilderness over time, in public policy but also in stories, poems, land management guidelines, and all kinds of discourse. We will consider how we view wilderness today, from the vantage points of modern-day campsites, canyons, and suburban cul-de-sacs, tracing maps that are both material and mythological. Each session will be led by a different scholar and will include a presentation and discussion of the readings for that week.

Book List

*American Wilderness A New History*, by Michael Lewis

*Indian Creek Chronicles, A Winter Alone in the Wilderness*, by Pete Fromm

Additional Reading Selections provided