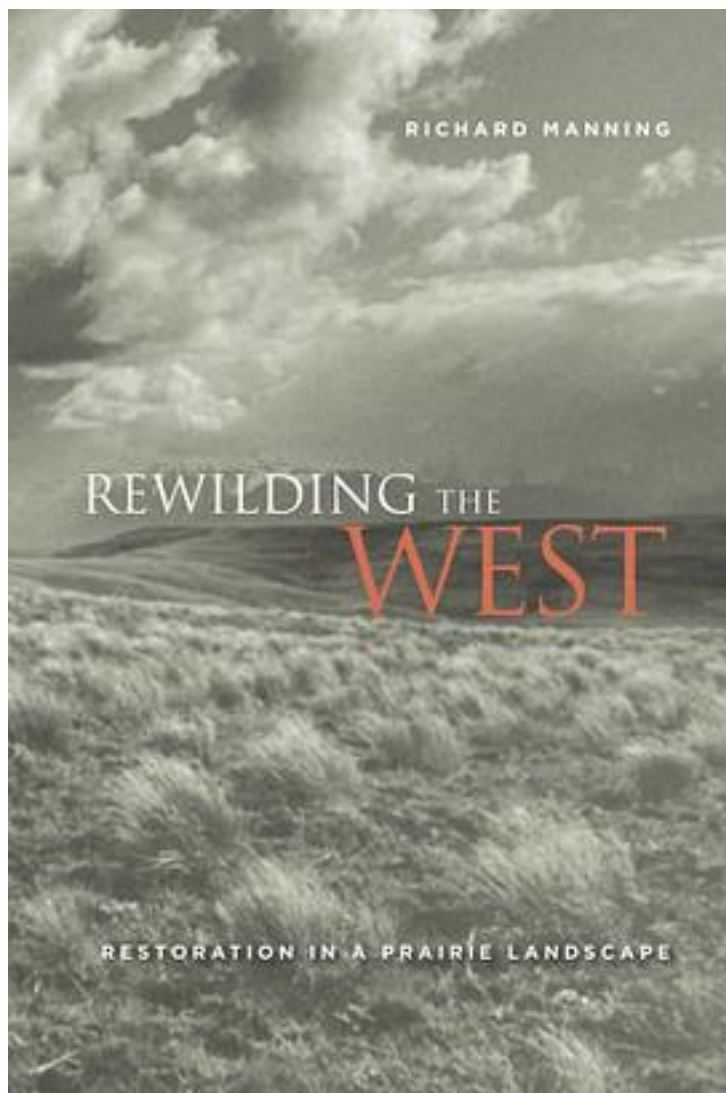


# Rewilding the West



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'The most destructive force in the American West is its commanding views, because they foster the illusion that we command,' begins Richard Manning's vivid, anecdotally driven account of the American plains from native occupation through the unraveling of the American enterprise to today. As he tells the story of this once rich, now mostly empty landscape, Manning also describes a grand vision for ecological restoration, currently being set in motion, that would establish a prairie preserve larger than Yellowstone National Park, flush with wild bison, elk, bears, and wolves. Taking us to an isolated stretch of central Montana along the upper Missouri River, Manning peels back the layers of history and discovers how key elements of the American story - conservation, the New Deal, progressivism, the yeoman myth, and the idea of private property - have collided with and shaped this incomparable landscape. An account of great loss, "Rewilding the West" also holds out the promise of resurrection - but rather than remake the plains once again, Manning proposes that we now find the wisdom to let the prairies remake us.

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