Record Nr. Titolo	UNINA9910823822503321 Natural state : a literary anthology of California nature writing / /
Pubbl/distr/stampa	selected and edited by Steven Gilbar ; with a foreword by David Brower Berkeley, : University of California Press, c1998
ISBN	1-283-64631-5 0-520-92033-3
Edizione Descrizione fisica	[1st ed.] 1 online resource (396 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	GilbarSteven
Disciplina	508.794
Soggetti	Natural history - California Nature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 369-373).
Nota di contenuto	Natural State Front matter CONTENTS Foreword INTRODUCTION THE CREATION Grampa Ramsey and the Great Canyon THE MOUNTAINS An Elk Hunt Ramblings in Yosemite Lake Tahoe Climbing Matterhorn Peak A Mount for All Seasons Trumpets of Light The Fourth Dimension Climbing Half Dome THE HILLS AND VALLEYS Into the Valley The Sea Fogs On Sonoma Mountain Flight Spirits of the Valley A Reflection on White Geese In Condor Country Winter's Fog A Vanishing Land Remnants THE DESERT Desert Walking Death Valley Overlooking Carrizo Gorge The Palms in Our Hands THE COAST Gaviota Coast Trails Where the Mountains Meet the Sea Big Sur The Sundown Sea A Certain Moment Tapping the Source Santa Rosa Lost Coast EARTH, WIND, RAIN, AND FIRE Continental Drift The San Andreas Discrepancy A Wind-Storm in the Forest The Santa Ana Nurslings of the Sky The Storm After the Fire Afterword Coming into the Watershed FURTHER READING ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Sommario/riassunto	This is the first anthology of nature writing that celebrates California, the most geographically diverse state in the union. Readers-be they naturalists or armchair explorers-will find themselves transported to California's many wild places in the company of forty noted writers whose works span more than a century. Divided into sections on

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California's mountains, hills and valleys, deserts, coast, and elements (earth, wind, and fire), the book contains essays, diary entries, and excerpts from larger works, including fiction. As a prelude to the collection, editor Steven Gilbar presents two California Indian creation myths, one a Cahto narrative and the other an A-juma-wi story as told by Darryl Babe Wilson. Familiar names appear in these pages-John Muir, Robert Louis Stevenson, John McPhee, M.F.K. Fisher, Gretel Ehrlich-but less familiar writers such as Daniel Duane, Margaret Millar, and John McKinney are also included. Among the gems in this treasure trove are Jack Kerouac on climbing Mt. Matterhorn, Barry Lopez on snow geese migration at Tule Lake, Edward Abbey on Death Valley, Henry Miller on Big Sur, and Joan Didion on the Santa Ana winds. Gary Snyder's inspiring Afterword reflects the spirit of environmentalism that runs throughout the book. Natural State also reveals the many changes to California's landscape that have occurred in geological time and in human terms. More than a book of "nature writing," this book is superb writing about nature.