

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910970898903321
Autore	Edwards Steve <1974->
Titolo	Breaking into the backcountry / / Steve Edwards
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lincoln, : University of Nebraska Press, c2010
ISBN	9786613050977 9780803267954 0803267959 9781283050975 1283050978 9780803234185 080323418X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (189 p.)
Disciplina	818/.6 B
Soggetti	Authors, American - 21st century Outdoor life - Oregon Oregon Description and travel
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
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Sommario/riassunto	In 2001 Steve Edwards won a writing contest. The prize was seven months of "unparalleled solitude" as the caretaker of a ninety-two-acre backcountry homestead along the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River in southwestern Oregon. Young, recently divorced, and humbled by the prospect of so much time alone, he left behind his job as a college English teacher in Indiana and headed west for a remote but comfortable cabin in the rugged Klamath Mountains. Well aware of what could go wrong living two hours from town with no electricity and

no neighbors, Edwards was surprised by what could go right. In prose that is by turns lyrical, introspective, and funny, *Breaking into the Backcountry* is the story of what he discovered: that alone, in a wild place, each day is a challenge and a gift. Whether chronicling the pleasures of a day-long fishing trip, his first encounter with a black bear, a lightning storm and the threat of fire, the beauty of asteelhead, the attacks of 9/11, or a silence so profound that a black-tailed deer chewing grass outside his window could wake him from sleep, Edwards's careful evocation of the river canyon and its effect on him testifies to the enduring power of wilderness to transform a life.

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