

The Douglas Legacy

The Footpaths of Justice William O. Douglas: A Legacy of Place

By Tom R. Hulst (iUniverse, Inc., 2004, \$21.95)

REVIEW BY JAN P. KLIPPERT

This book provides an invitation to share that sense of wonder, discovery, and freedom of mind that is affirmed by a sovereign people in a bountiful land.
—Tom R. Hulst

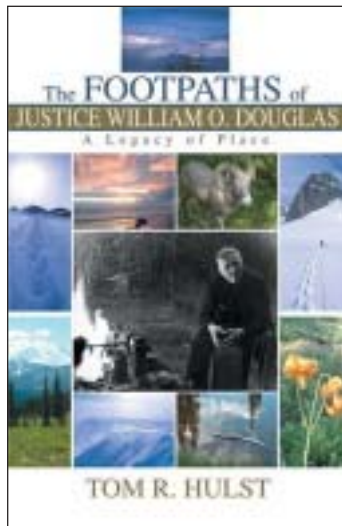
The spirit and legacy of Justice William O. Douglas has been reenergized in *The Footpaths of Justice William O. Douglas* by Tom R. Hulst. Supreme Court Justice Douglas, a native son of Washington, was an outdoorsman, conservationist, environmentalist and an advocate for wilderness. Hulst has done his homework and has added refreshing insight to help readers understand and enjoy Pacific Northwest wilderness.

Hulst first provides the reader with a brief biographical sketch Douglas. These chapters are followed by important discussions of subjects associated with individual liberties: freedom of religion, right to privacy and freedom of speech. Douglas addressed these topics while on the bench, and Hulst interprets Douglas' writings as they relate to contemporary society.

Douglas was a prolific writer. His autobiographical works, including, *Of Men and Mountains* and *Go East Young Man*, give us great understanding of Douglas' life. In these writings he mentions several of his hiking companions. Hulst has taken that a step further. He has researched and referenced many court cases, newspaper articles, writings by John Muir and recent books written by Pyle, Urofsky and Vickery. *Footpaths* documents Douglas' conversations with Bob Marshal, Aldo Leopold, Robert Wood, Bob Woodward, Scott Armstrong and many others. That research adds important background to the political dynamics of

the turbulent years from 1950 to 1980 with regard to issues of wilderness preservation, freedom of speech, individual liberties and conservation.

No book about Justice William O. Douglas can be complete without an appropriate discussion of *hikes as political action*.



William O. Douglas did more than write letters . . . On many occasions in his life, Douglas followed his own advice and got directly involved in political activity . . . He led protest hikes and other actions to preserve the Olympic Peninsula and . . . Glacier Peak in Washington State, the Buffalo River in Arkansas, Lake Erie, the Allagash River in Maine . . . He led his first protest hike, along the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal, that parallels the Potomac River, in 1954.

Mountaintops, broad ocean beaches, exposed ridges and deep canyons filled with swift water have been preserved in part because of the life, work and writings of Justice William O. Douglas. *Footpaths* explores each of the major wilderness areas of Washington that Douglas hiked. Hulst describes his own experiences with family and friends

hiking the same trails that Douglas had hiked many years before

For many years Hulst has hiked hundreds of trails throughout the Pacific Northwest, taught environmental education and written extensively for journals and other publications. Individual chapters are devoted to many wilderness areas that Douglas loved and helped protect, including Glacier Peak, Goat Rocks, Mount Rainier, Mount Adams, North Cascades and Olympic National Park

Footpaths is good and timely reading. Through its pages the reader can sense Douglas' presence, a sense of place. *Footpaths* offers similar verbal images and clarity found in the writing of William O. Douglas. Hulst rekindles the invitation to explore and experience the wild places that have been preserved, places which are an integral part of William O. Douglas' legacy in the Pacific Northwest.

It is the birthright of every citizen to observe a small rivulet trickling from Mount Olympus' Blue Glacier, to witness the last colors leap into thin air from Rainier's Sunset Amphitheater at sunset, and to venerate the flower fields of the Tatoosh Wilderness and Bird Creek meadows of Mount Adams.

—Tom R. Hulst ♦

Jan Klippert is a WTA member and former board member from Seattle.

Further Reading

Books by William O. Douglas:

Of Men and Mountains
Go East Young Man
My Wilderness: The Pacific West
An Almanac of Liberty
A Wilderness Bill of Rights