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University Press of Colorado

The following review appeared in the January 2016 issue of CHOICE:

Earth Science

53-2225 QE517 CIP
Wohl, Ellen. **Transient landscapes: insights on a changing planet.** University Press of Colorado, 2015. 236p bibl
index afp ISBN 9781607323686, \$27.95.

When they first consider changes in natural history, geologists usually think in terms of geologic time. Wohl (Colorado State University) instead looks at changes on the scale of human experience and how those changes play out on the Earth’s surface. She defines landscape as an ecosystem that includes landforms, animals, and plants. Her book comprises brief vignettes describing places she has visited around the world—places that are being transformed by geologic and hydrologic processes, by seasonal changes over time, and by the pressures of development. Each chapter offers vivid descriptions of flora, fauna, landforms, and the water that sculpts the surface. Wohl is not a neutral observer; she recounts her joy in experiencing these landscapes and her frustration and anger at those who would destroy the few remaining wild places. Among the most compelling chapters are those describing Wohl's treks in the Alaskan Arctic. This is not a science book per se. Rather it is a book that shows how an earth scientist brings into focus the many subtle changes affecting natural systems. The landscapes readers encounter through Wohl's book will prompt them to experience and value the natural world themselves.

--L. S. Zipp, State University of New York College at Geneseo

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readers.