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# Breaking into the Backcountry

Steve Edwards

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### Book Synopsis:

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.

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## Book Description

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 a steelhead, 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.

## Pre-Publication Praise

“Steve Edwards’s Rogue River wilderness is a place that offers many gifts, among them the words in this beautifully rendered, wonder-filled book. On its pages, we are invited to move beyond cynicism, loss, and fear—as he does—in order to embrace the life-changing ‘miracle of solitude.’” —John T. Price, author of *Not Just Any Land* and *Man Killed by Pheasant and Other Kinships*

“Steve Edwards left Indiana for seven months of solitude in Oregon’s Rogue River Canyon. As he offered himself up to his fears, his loneliness, a pathway of heart and mindfulness opened from within to lead him through his sojourn and into this story. Quietly and clearly told, unflaggingly honest, *Breaking into the Backcountry* joins a growing body of contemporary writing in the American contemplative tradition. It’s a beautiful book.” —John Daniel, author of *The Far Corner* and *Rogue River Journal*

## Post-Publication Praise

Please visit this book’s [Web page](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Breaking-into-the-Back-country,674653.aspx) (<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Breaking-into-the-Back-country,674653.aspx>) for the most current post-publication praise.

## Author Biography



**Steve Edwards** lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, with his wife and young son.

Photo by Allison Garrett

## Additional Information

### Events

For an up-to-date listing of author appearances, visit the Author Events and Book Signings page on the UNP Web site at: <http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/Catalog/ProductEvents.aspx?SearchOnLoad=true>

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