



I'm Dan Flores and I'm truly excited to have my latest book, *Wild New World*, become a featured May title for OverDrive's book club, Big Library Read. *Wild New World* is a book of "Big History" that tells the story of North America's wild creatures and of the impact humanity had on these animals as we repeatedly discovered this "wild new world." I wrote the book as a narrative, heavily based in story-telling, that starts in deep time and extends into America's present struggles to grapple with extinctions, endangered species, and an overheating planet. This is a kind of history few of us know. But since the past doesn't remain in the past, it's an American story probably most of us should know and understand.

Although my writing approach is to impart some of my own experiences as I let a book unfold, a work like this one obviously rests on a massive amount of research, a large percentage of it done in libraries. For *Wild New World* these ranged from time in the Library of Congress and the National Archives to the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana where I was a professor until a few years ago. Any writer of nonfiction not only spends many hours doing indispensable research in libraries, we often do many of our public talks there. I've had the fun of presenting talks on my books in places like the Los Angeles Public Library and the Denver Public Library, and in smaller venues like the Mill Valley Library in Marin County, California, or my local library in Eldorado, New Mexico, just outside Santa Fe. I've also housed the archives of my writing career at a library, in this case the Conservation Wing of the Denver Public Library in Colorado.

Having *Wild New World* reach so many people at the same time through the Big Library Read is a fantasy for a writer of a book whose big picture, as we head into our future, begs a wide readership. My hope is that the animals and the human characters who appear in *Wild New World* – and the compassion and empathy I hope the book engenders – give readers and listeners a chance to re-arrange the furniture in their heads about America's past, present, and future.

So I sincerely hope you enjoy and are enlightened by the many stories in *Wild New World*.

Dan Flores

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