



Mni Wiconi

Water Is Life

Honoring the Water Protectors at Standing Rock
and Everywhere in the Ongoing Struggle
for Indigenous Sovereignty

John Willis

with contributions from Lakota people and allies,
a foreword by Terry Tempest Williams,
and an afterword by Shaunna Oteka-McCovey

MARKETING

- National Review & Feature Attention
- Online Media and Promotion
- Advertising
- Author Events

CONTACT

Lauren Stead
610.853.9131
lauren.stead@casematepublishers.com

Mni Wiconi

Water Is Life

Honoring the Water Protectors at Standing Rock and
Everywhere in the Ongoing Struggle for Indigenous Sovereignty

Viewing *Mni Wiconi* (Sacred Water of Life) and the No Dakota Access Movement as an isolated happening without acknowledging historical, cultural, and systematic circumstances leading up to it makes no sense. We cannot erase this past nor change it. In order to move forward in a better way, however, we must acknowledge the truthful foundation and recurring practices complicating what to some feel like isolated incidences. The pervasive and growing presence of extreme economic inequality in America is a worsening condition. Few situations reveal this inequality more than the conditions that Native Americans live under within their own homeland.

This book raises awareness of Water Protectors for those who were not at Standing Rock and honoring those who were, through experiences at the Oceti Sakowin Camp, the indigenous-led resistance movement by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe against the Energy Transfer Partners project to build the Dakota Access Pipeline on sacred land. The goal is to acknowledge and better understand the dedication of the Water Protectors, as they chose to be called, standing up for the health of Mni Wiconi and so many other related causes for the seven generations representing the past, present, and future health of all.

People throughout the world, including members from between 240–300 indigenous tribes, were attracted to the cause and came to Standing Rock in full support of the protests. Even American military veterans, distressed by what they saw, came by the thousands determined to stand between the Water Protectors and police in defense of the rights for non-violent expression of resistance.

The book's powerful photographs by John Willis are complimented by many Lakota voices and those of other allies through interviews, poetry, Lakota artwork, music through a downloadable CD, and historical ephemera. Essays by Terry Tempest Williams and Shaunna Oteka-McCovey provide new insights into age-old problems facing native people.

November 2019 • 9781938086663 • \$45.00
10 x 11 inch • hardback • 244 pages
George F. Thompson Publishing



ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

John Willis is Professor of Photography at Marlboro College and a co-founder of the In-Sight Photography Project (www.insight-photography.org) and Exposures Cross Cultural Youth Photography Program (www.exposures-program.com). He was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in Photography after *Views from the Reservation* was first published in 2010. His photographs are in more than sixty collections, including the Amon Carter Museum, Center for Creative Photography, George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, J. Paul Getty Museum, Heard Museum, High Museum of Art, Library of Congress, Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, National Gallery of Art, National Museum of the American Indian, Nelson-Adkins Museum of Art, Princeton University Art Museum, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Whitney Museum of American Art, and Yale University Gallery of Art. His other books are *Recycled Realities*, a collaborative effort with photographer Tom Young (Center for American Places, 2005) and *Views from the Reservation: A New Edition* (George F. Thompson Publishing, 2019).

www.jwillis.net



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Terry Tempest Williams is an environmental activist and the author of fifteen books, including *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* (Pantheon Books, 1991), *Finding Beauty in a Broken World* (Pantheon Books, 2008), and *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2015).

Shaunna Oteka-McCovey, a member of the Yurok Tribe, is an environmental lawyer, writer, and poet, and the author of *The Smokehouse Boys* (Heyday Books, 2005).

MARKETING

- National Review & Feature Attention
- Online Media and Promotion
- Advertising
- Author Events

CONTACT

Lauren Stead
610.853.9131
lauren.stead@casematepublishers.com