



TURBULENCE

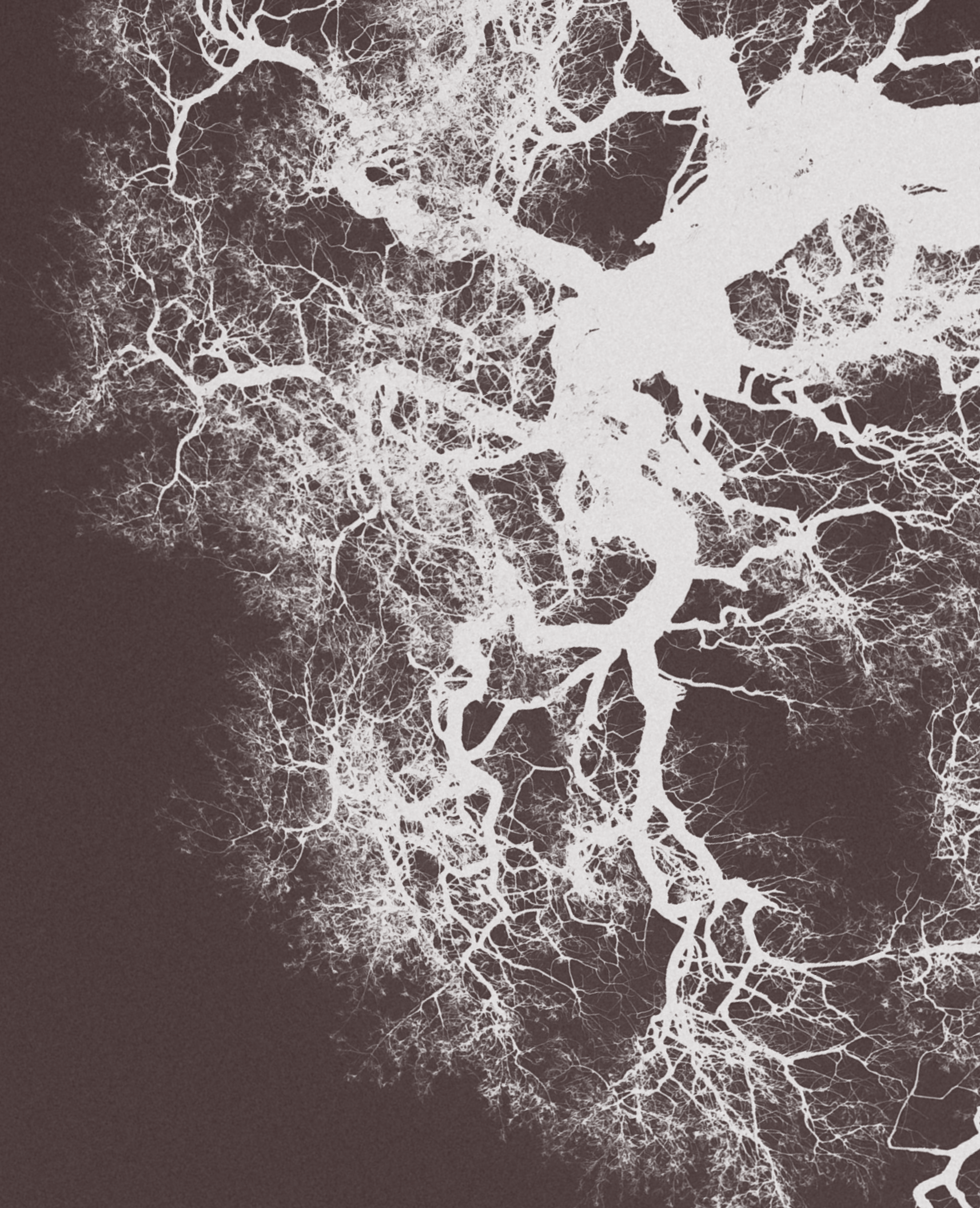
TURBULENCE



“Let their Indians plainly understand that the government would not tolerate hunting, fishing, destruction of timber within Yellowstone, and to adopt effective measures to keep the Indians away from the park or its vicinity” [1]

Commissioner of Indian Affairs in response to complaints from Captain Harris
May 23rd, 1988

Why are stories still being neglected and untold in Yellowstone? What if this narrative shifted to include more indigenous stories and input?



The Yellowstone Narrative

THE CURATED YELLOWSTONE

When people hear the name Yellowstone a lot of target words come into mind such as 'the wild west', 'wildlife', 'thermal features', and 'untouched wilderness'. But this Narrative that Yellowstone projects to the world isn't the full story.

The Wild West

Yellowstone is often associated as the classic wild west. Imagery of cowboys and cowboy memorabilia shows up in many shops and even on television shows.

Thermal Features

Yellowstone is arguably most famous for its thermal features that are more numerous than any other place in the world.

Wildlife

Wildlife from mule deer to wolves can be found all throughout the park and is commonly associated with the visitation of Yellowstone.

“Untouched” Wilderness

Yellowstone has been quoted to be the Alaska of the lower 48. Visitors come to this park expecting a wilderness that has been left untouched and uninterrupted by the hand of man.

The Neglected Narrative

STORIES LEFT UNTOLD

A visit to Yellowstone National Park leaves users missing a large chunk of history of the area. Past events such as indigenous removal, the slaughter of bison to near extinction and the over regulation of animals are all stories that cannot be found within the park.

Indigenous Removal

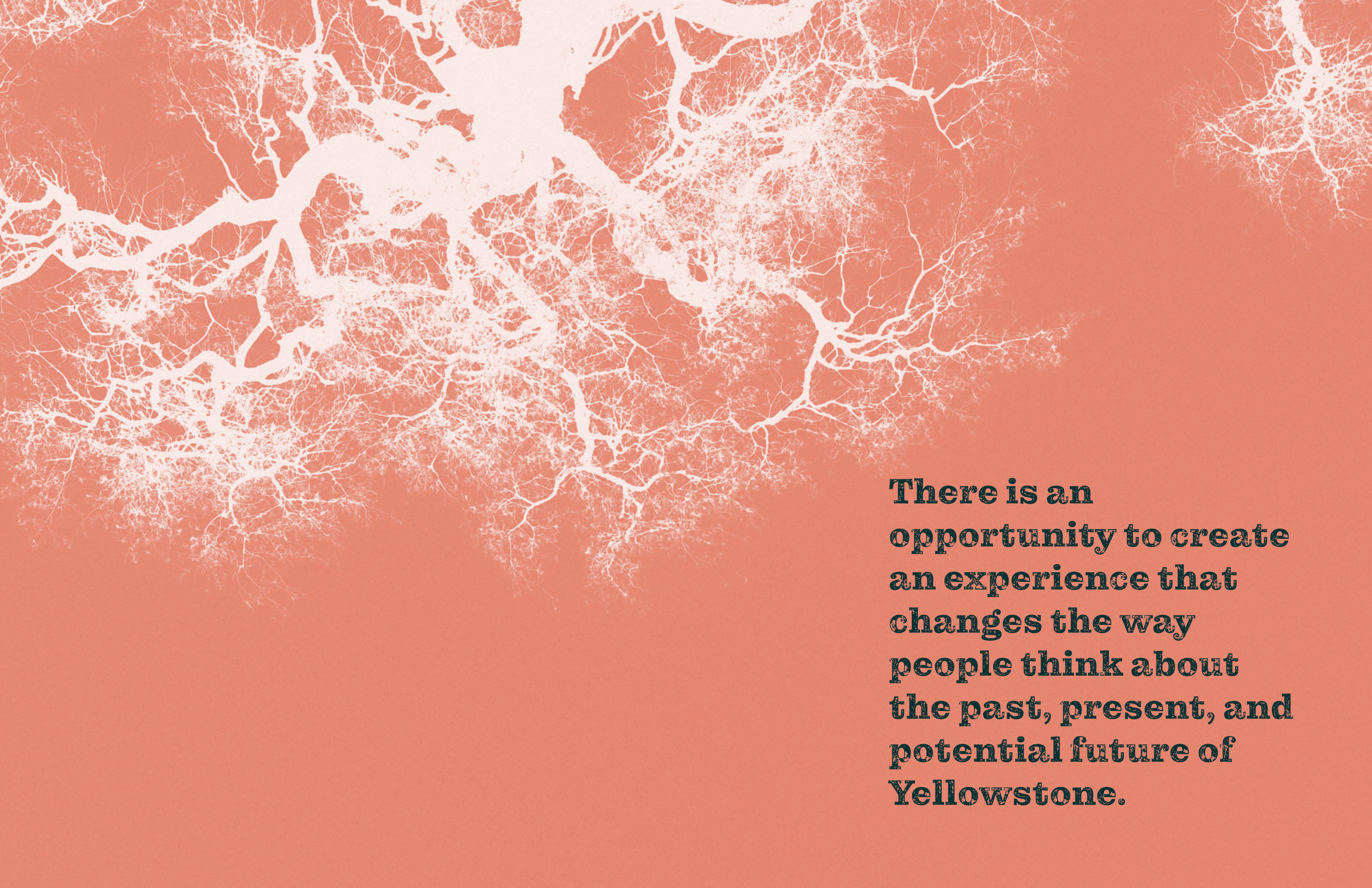
The treaties of Fort Bridger and Fort Laramie in 1868 ensured that indigenous groups would still be able to use the land for hunting and ceremonies. After the Lacey Act in 1994 indigenous groups were aggressively persecuted and removed from the park for hunting and using the lands.

Indigenous Culture

Indigenous culture is nowhere to be found within the park. Remnants from indigenous life in the park was destroyed or erased long ago. Indigenous management and input within the park is still very limited and curated.

Wildlife Management

Annual bison culling results in the slaughter of 800 to 1,100 bison. Wolves went extinct from the over regulation of predator species in Yellowstone. The near-extinction of Bison in the West was a direct result of efforts to destroy indigenous groups that depended on them for their survival and livelihood.

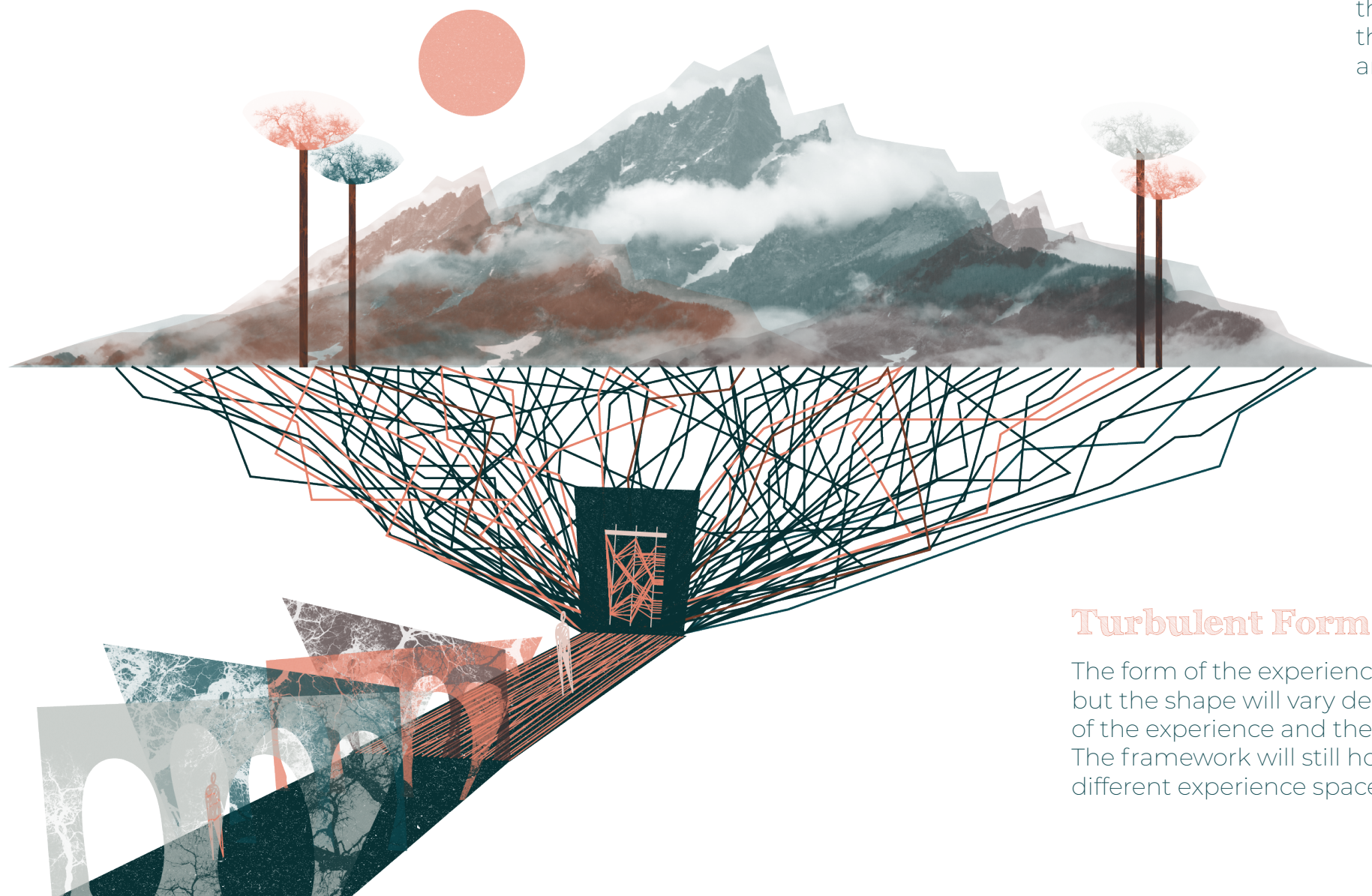


There is an opportunity to create an experience that changes the way people think about the past, present, and potential future of Yellowstone.

The Turbulence Form

What it looks like

This experience is designed to go anywhere and be adaptable to different subjects, spaces, and parameters. The graphic below is meant to be an illustrative example of what the form and experience is designed to feel like.



Turbulence Visual

At the end of the experience there will be a visual that shows users their path and every other user's path vs. Yellowstone's path. This visual will vary, but the framework will always be the same.

Question Thresholds

In every experience users will be forced to answer questions by walking through the thresholds of the path they want to take. This will give users the feeling that they're creating their own path and that their desired path holds weight.

Different Paths

There will be different lines on the floor and beyond the experience that show users the many different paths that can be taken from three simple questions. This will take the experience beyond the confines of the form and into the real world. This part of the experience is meant to show users that many paths can be taken, and that they can be carried out and made into a reality in the future.

Turbulent Form

The form of the experience will reflect turbulence, but the shape will vary depending on the size of the experience and the confines of the space. The framework will still hold true with every different experience space.

The Turbulence Experience

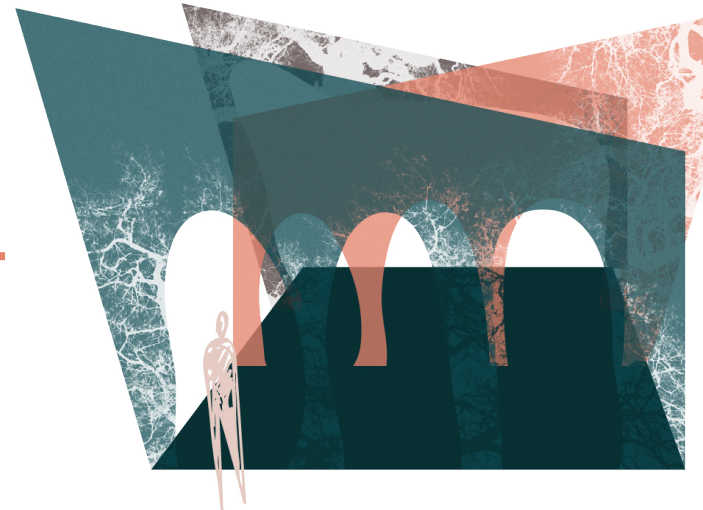
What goes inside

This form is meant to be adaptable, temporary and inviting. The experience that is meant to go within the form can take on many different types of content and still function. The questions asked in the experience are meant to engage different ways of thinking while also posing alternatives.

QUESTIONS

Questions asked in the experience

These questions are meant to force users to re-think how Yellowstone operates currently, while also posing alternatives. The questions are meant to be confronting yet simple so they can easily be expanded upon and go into more depth for larger experiences. This experience and style of questions can take on many different subjects while retaining the basic design and framework.



Who should control the land?

The Army

The Indigenous

The Government

ADDRESSES:

Ownership and Land Use

This question is meant to show users that there were and are alternatives to who runs the park system. It is also forces them to acknowledge that there were indigenous in the area when Yellowstone was being explored by settlers.

Should Yellowstone remain a National Park?

YES

NO

ADDRESSES:

The creation of the parks system

The decision to create Yellowstone and set it aside for preservation was one of the biggest decision in America's history. Giving the users the chance to rethink the idea of National Parks and them being a fundamental part of America will push them out of their comfort zones and into new ways of thinking.

Who can hunt on the land?

No One

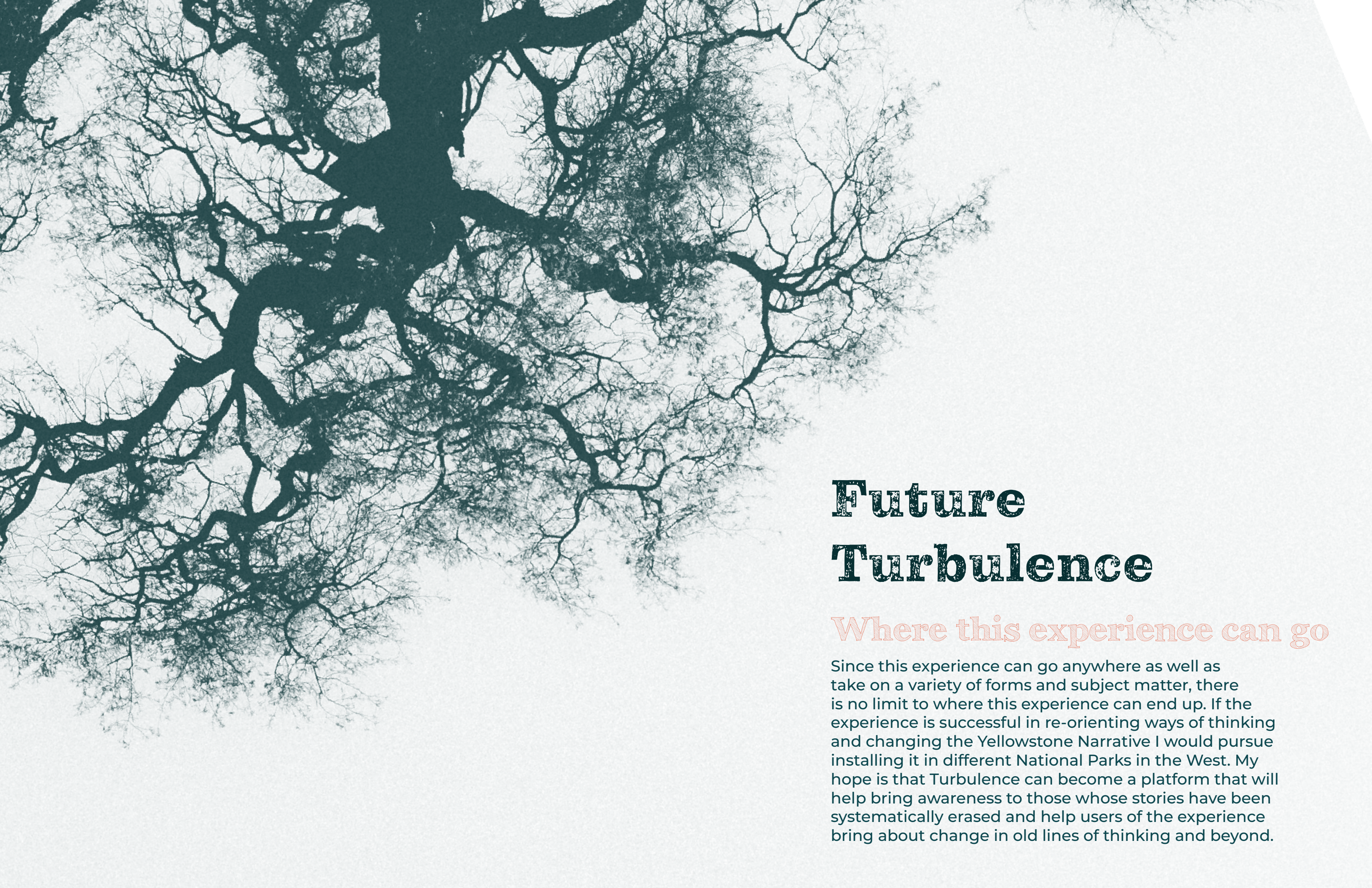
The Indigenous

Everyone

ADDRESSES:

Wildlife Protection and Management

This question poses alternatives to the Lacey Act (1994) that condemns all hunting within the National Park. The Lacey act violated treaty rights that ensured Indigenous could use the land for hunting after the treaties of Fort Bridger and Fort Laramie of 1968 ensured that Indigenous could still use the land for hunting and ceremonies.



Future Turbulence

Where this experience can go

Since this experience can go anywhere as well as take on a variety of forms and subject matter, there is no limit to where this experience can end up. If the experience is successful in re-orienting ways of thinking and changing the Yellowstone Narrative I would pursue installing it in different National Parks in the West. My hope is that Turbulence can become a platform that will help bring awareness to those whose stories have been systematically erased and help users of the experience bring about change in old lines of thinking and beyond.