

## Two Boulders

by [Paul Willis](#) in the [March 2023](#) issue

On Panther Creek in the Sierra,  
I saw a boulder splashed  
with pale green crustose lichen,  
merged and matted all across its granite sides,  
just the way a sandstone boulder used to be  
in a small ravine beside our home.

Then a wildfire poured itself  
down that ravine, and the eucalyptus  
dripped with flame,  
scorching all that lovely lichen.

That was eight years ago,  
and the sandstone boulder  
shoulders only a ghostly palette,  
little outlines of charcoal shadows.

Some wounds are like that,  
some insults never heal.