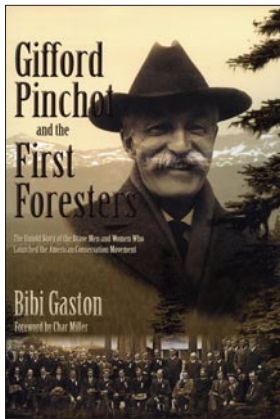


## BOOKS AND FILMS OF INTEREST

by James G. Lewis, Eben Lehman, and Jason Howard

As former U.S. Forest Service chief Gifford Pinchot began gathering materials for his memoir in the 1930s, he sent a letter to as many of his early employees as he could find, requesting that they send to him their recollections of the early days of the agency. He wanted them “to write down their memories of the time they spent in the Service, what obstacles they encountered, what battles won and lost, and why they had chosen forestry as a profession,” says author Bibi Gaston. In all, 226 men

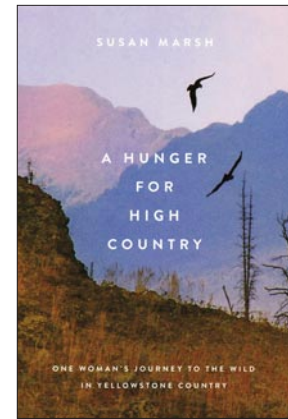


and women responded, humbled and surprised that their “Old Chief” even cared to hear their stories. Pinchot later did as promised and included their writings with his personal papers when he handed them over to the Library of Congress for safe-keeping. Gaston, Pinchot’s great-grandniece, came across them while conducting research for another project and knew she had found a treasure trove. She read through the five thousand pages of letters from this group he affectionately called the Old Timers and compiled and edited the more striking ones in her new book, *Gifford Pinchot and the First Foresters: The Untold Story of the Brave Men and Women Who Launched the American Conservation Movement* (Baked Apple Club Productions, LLC, 2016). After a first chapter explaining who the Old Timers were and how the project came about, Gaston introduces each of the twenty-seven former employees’ recollections with a mix of personal commentary about how the challenges

they faced inspire her (or can inspire Americans today) with topics like the history of the Forest Service or biography of Pinchot before giving a description of each contributor. Then the reader is treated to adventures, mishaps, or the mundane—there is nothing terribly exciting about being the stenographer who recorded land transactions. Yet in response to the contributor, Pinchot praised that person as recording history. All of the responders expressed pride in their work and their contributions to something greater than themselves—the cause of conservation. The book offers today’s readers a view into the Forest Service’s difficult beginnings, reminding us all of the debt of gratitude we owe both them and our current land managers. (JL)

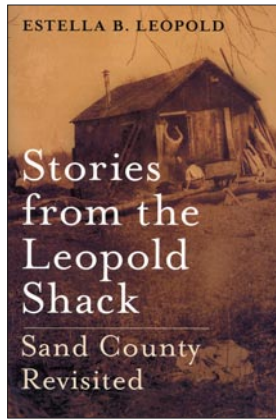
It is not surprising how few women are counted among Pinchot’s Old Timers, as the agency employed relatively few of them overall in his time and none for field positions. So it is revealing to read Susan Marsh’s memoir *A Hunger for High Country: One Woman’s Journey to the Wild in Yellowstone Country* (Oregon State University Press, 2014) along with Gaston’s book. Marsh’s Forest Service career started with a seasonal job in 1974 and concluded in 2005. She left the Fremont National Forest in 1982 and moved to the Gallatin National Forest in Bozeman, Montana, where her story picks up. It was a tumultuous time in the agency. The Forest Service was still reeling from the recently passed environmental laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act, which were forcing it to change its mission and hire nontraditional employees. When she arrived in Bozeman, Marsh writes, “I was warned of the three preordained strikes against me: I was female, first of all.” Having served as Federal Women’s Program Manager on the Fremont, she was thus branded a feminist for helping promote the hiring and advancement of women in federal employment. Second, because she had trained as a landscape architect, she was “a resource specialist, or

Ologist, the category into which professionals other than engineers and foresters were lumped,” and a group reluctantly hired to help implement those “pesky laws.” The third strike was that she held “an ardent love of wild land and a tendency to share my perspective on how it should be treated ...” Challenging the timber staff and the timber-first mentality in this era got one branded The Enemy. She spent six demoralizing years on the Gallatin fighting sexist, traditional, hide-bound thinking before



moving to the Bridger-Teton in Wyoming, a national forest more oriented toward wilderness preservation than timber and staffed with more progressive thinkers. There Marsh conducted inventories of rivers considered for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, assisted in range management work, and contributed to draft forest management plans, among other tasks. Her career coincided with the budget slashing of the mid-1990s, the shift to ecosystem management, and attempts to outsource Forest Service work—a time of eroding morale across the agency as employees were increasingly asked to do more with less. Woven throughout her professional tale is her personal one, and both are told extremely well. It is as much one woman’s journey as it is that of the agency she by turns loved and loathed. (JL)

Estella Leopold gives readers a great gift in her memoir, *Stories from the Leopold Shack: Sand County Revisited* (Oxford

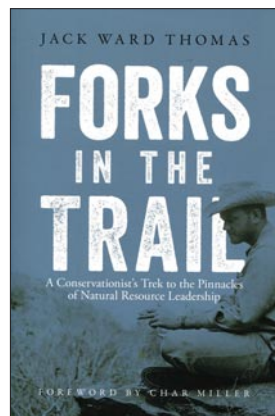


University Press, 2016). She is the youngest and last surviving child of Aldo Leopold, the forester, environmental writer, and author of *A Sand County Almanac*. In the 1930s he purchased 80 acres of exhausted farmland outside Baraboo, Wisconsin, where he could experiment with land restoration and put into practice his land ethic. Her father's classic work includes essays formed and shaped from the numerous activities at the family's cabin, known as the Shack. Estella, a widely respected professor of botany and forest sciences, offers us her recollections of her family's time at the Shack: the labor it took to turn a chicken coop into the family cabin, the planting of white pines and other trees to bring back the land, how the Leopold Bench came into being, the story behind one of her father's most famous essays "The Good Oak." Projects there "were daunting but fun" and brought the family together for common cause. By sharing these stories, she breathes life into this celebrated family (all five children became internationally renowned scientists in varied fields) that no biography has been able to fully capture. It is a biography of a place, of a family, and of the efforts to restore a piece of land. Readers will appreciate that Estella Leopold gives us such wonderful insight into the family and her father in particular, but her decision to include a chapter on the land after 1948, the year her father died, and another on how each child carried "The Shack Idea" to other locations around the world helps us better understand how central the Shack and the lessons learned there remained in each of their lives. The text is supplemented with photographs by her brother A. Carl Leopold. (JL)

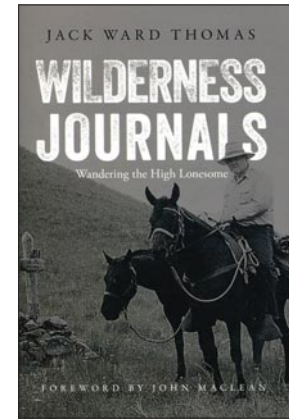
Like many forest rangers of old, former U.S. Forest Service chief Jack Ward Thomas kept a journal while working as

a wildlife biologist for the agency. In retirement he had the time to go back through them and edit them for publication. His first one, *Journals of a Forest Service Chief*, published in 2004, offered an unvarnished look at his three-year tenure (1993–96) at the helm of the agency he loved and was asked to lead during its rough transition from its emphasis on timber management to ecosystem management. That he had a hand in that transition as a result of his involvement in the northern spotted owl controversy starting in 1990 is also covered in it. But that book focused solely on his work, giving a narrow view of him. Now comes a three-volume set that rounds out his life and career: *Forks in the Trail: A Conservationist's Trek to the Pinnacles of Natural Resource Leadership*; *Wilderness Journals: Wandering the High Lonesome*; and *Hunting Around the World: Fair Chase Pursuits from Backcountry Wilderness to the Scottish Highlands* (Boone and Crockett Club, 2015). Each one is designed to stand alone, but *Forks in the Trail* should be read first because it provides the framework and background to better understand events in the other books. *Forks* will deepen the reader's understanding of why his packhorse trips with his friend and mentor Bill Brown into "the High Lonesome" backcountry area—the Eagle Cap and Hells Canyon wilderness areas in eastern Oregon—brought him such joy and unleashed the naturalist-poet inside.

*Forks in the Trail*—Thomas's phrase for turning points in his life—takes readers from his rise from a hard-scrabble child-

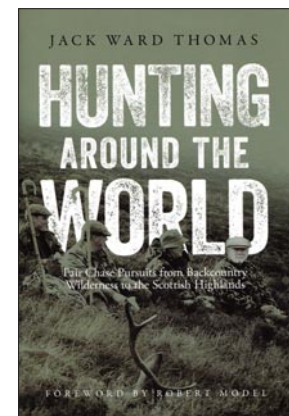


hood in Texas during the Great Depression to his appointment as Forest Service chief, then after retiring from the agency after thirty years in 1996, his time as the Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation at the University of Montana—the "pinnacles of natural resource leadership"



in the book's subtitle. This one is for all intents and purposes his memoir (which can be rounded out with *Journals of a Forest Service Chief*), and the one that can be used in a variety of classes, from history to wildlife management. Thomas helpfully explains and discusses the historical background or significance of a fork in the trail when necessary.

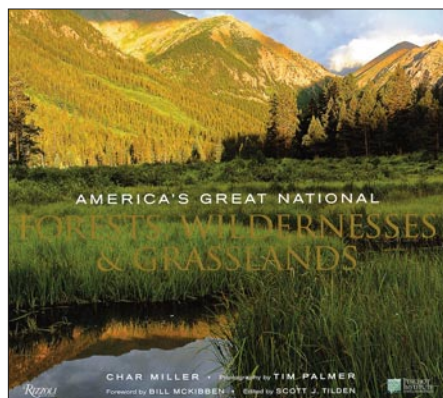
The other two volumes supplement and complement *Forks in the Trail*. *Wilderness Journals* covers a narrow but pivotal time in Thomas's life, from 1986 to 1999, when he found himself in the thick of the northern spotted owl controversy and then reluctantly serving as Forest Service chief. This book helps round out that period and is a nice complement to the earlier *Journals of a Forest Service Chief*. The High Lonesome area became a refuge from the pressures of work, a place to recreate and re-create himself. *Hunting* follows this lifelong outdoorsman from 1986 to his last hunting trip in 2004 in Scotland; the entries on Scotland



are the highlight of this book, but his entries about hunting on game farms versus a fair-chase pursuit offer much to think about. In each some entries are several pages long, though they never feel like they are dragging. Each book, in its own way, is an elegy to an outdoorsman's life well lived and an

ode to some beautiful places. Thomas had no regrets that he hung up his gun because of age and infirmities. He had his memories to look back upon, and now so have we. (For a complete review of all three books by FHS historian James Lewis, visit <http://bit.ly/1RcDpYc>.) (JL)

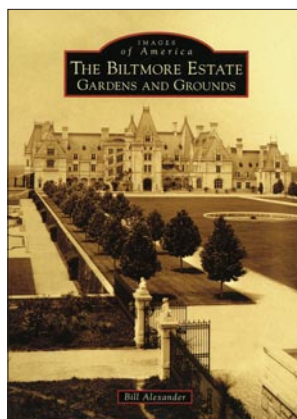
Char Miller, the foremost historian writing today about the U.S. Forest Service, pairs his engaging, insightful writing with the outstanding color photography of Tim Palmer in *America's Great National Forests, Wildernesses & Grasslands* (Rizzoli; Pinchot Institute for Conservation, 2016). At 10.5 by 10.5 inches, it is sized to be a



coffee-table book, and the large format gives Palmer's photos of lush forests and waterfalls the space they deserve. But Miller's text and Palmer's informative captions are clear indicators that this work is not your typical coffee-table book fare: Miller's writing could easily stand on its own as a solid contribution to Forest Service historiography. But instead of being two solo artists thrown together, Miller and Palmer complement each other like a folk duo, joining together in harmony to bring us both joyful, upbeat tunes about our national forests and grasslands but mixing in the right amount of truth and pathos so that when their show ends, we feel satisfied by the entertainment yet smarter and better citizens for having seen it. The book is divided into seven sections (it does not follow the Forest Service's division of the United States into nine regions), with four or five forests or grasslands highlighted in each. Each section opens with Palmer summarizing in about three paragraphs the regions' diverse topography and geography and the challenges he faced in photographing in wildly diverse conditions, followed by a few pages of Miller's own overview of the region's history and its challenges and issues, like pollution,

climate change, overuse, and invasive species, interspersed with Palmer's gorgeous photos and captions. Those are followed by chapters on selected national forests and grasslands. In each chapter, Miller delves into the history as a prelude to discussion of current and future challenges to the Forest Service in managing each of these places, effectively making the specific details of one forest help illuminate universal truths about all of them. As a result, readers get good, thoughtful prose to ponder while enjoying the images. (JL)

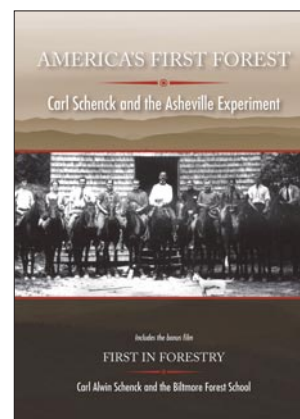
Long-time Biltmore Estate forest and landscape historian Bill Alexander brings his considerable knowledge of the famed estate's history to bear in his new book *The Biltmore Estate: Gardens and Grounds* (2015), an entry in the *Images of America* photobook series from Arcadia Publishing. What immediately separates this from most books in the series is Alexander's command of the subject matter and his ability to convey a great deal of information in the short descriptive captions. The Biltmore Estate began almost as a whim of George Washington Vanderbilt's when he visited Asheville, North Carolina, in the late 1880s. He fell in love with the mountainous area and set about buying thousands of acres of farmland and woodlands in need of rehabilitation. He engaged Richard Morris Hunt to design the house, still the largest private home in the United States, and Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture, to design



and develop the estate grounds. For Olmsted, the project became the capstone to an amazing life and career, one that also dominated the last seven years of his professional life. It is arguably his most important work: "Olmsted's success with Biltmore is greater than can easily be meas-

ured," Alexander writes in his introduction. "His vision was extraordinary and far-reaching and often ahead of its time. Some of his concepts in forest management and land restoration are now being rediscovered." In many ways, because of his successfully urging Vanderbilt to introduce forest management at Biltmore, Olmsted can be considered the father of American forestry, and Alexander gives him and his work their due. But carrying out Olmsted's vision for the gardens and landscaping around the house, which is the focus of this book, fell to Chauncey Beadle, who served the Vanderbilts for more than sixty years, first in the estate's nursery department, then for nearly half a century as the estate superintendent. Alexander pays tribute to Beadle by giving over a brief chapter to this important figure in the estate's history. (JL)

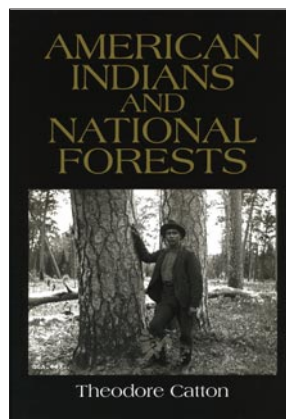
Bill Alexander's book can also be seen as one of two de facto companion books to the new film *America's First Forest: Carl Schenck and the Asheville Experiment* (Forest History Society, 2015). The other is *Cradle of Forestry in America: The Biltmore Forest School, 1898-1913*, the memoir of Carl Alwin Schenck, the forester who emigrated from Germany in 1895 and served as the Biltmore Estate chief forester for fourteen years. The film *America's First Forest* employs an actor reading quotes from Schenck's memoir as well as an omniscient narrator to help tell the story of Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School, the first of its kind in America. The school and its graduates, as well as Schenck, its founder and primary



instructor, made a substantial yet underappreciated contribution to the nascent forest conservation movement. Hired by Vanderbilt in 1895 to replace departing estate forester Gifford Pinchot, Schenck strove to bring his employer's land under scientific forest management, and his efforts

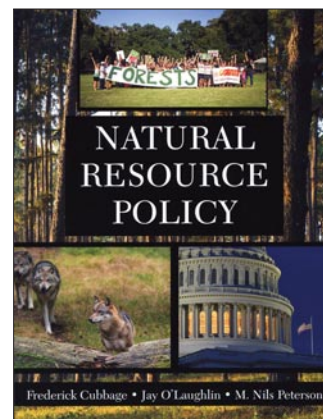
began attracting attention around the country. This was the first time anyone had applied forestry techniques on a landscape scale in America, and young men curious about this “new” profession approached Schenck about serving as apprentices. After a time, Schenck decided to formalize their training, and in 1898 he opened his school. Produced for public television and now available on DVD, the fifty-four-minute film tells this story by first introducing us to Vanderbilt, Olmsted, and Pinchot and the forestry plans they crafted before bringing viewers the story of Schenck’s remarkable life and career, and then concludes with assessments of Schenck’s legacy for forestry and conservation. It mixes historical photographs and film footage with reenactment scenes and intersperses interviews with historians and writers, including Pinchot biographer Char Miller, Biltmore Estate historians Bill Alexander and Ellen Rickman, and the Forest History Society’s own James Lewis, who served as an executive producer and writer. Also available on the DVD is a shorter version of the film, which is ideal for classroom use. The twenty-eight-minute *First in Forestry: Carl Alwin Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School* focuses on Schenck and his time at the Biltmore by condensing the background information on Vanderbilt, Olmsted, and Pinchot and the information about Schenck’s life after the school closed and he returned to Germany in 1913. (JL)

The relationship between Native American tribes and the federal government, including the U.S. Forest Service, has been contentious, to say the least. In the case of the Forest Service, the land now managed by the agency once belonged to Native Americans. And although the Bureau of Indian Affairs managed Indian forests from Gifford Pinchot’s time until the 1980s, when tribal governments started taking over Bureau forestry operations, the Forest Service periodically tried to take charge of them. Following that change in control, the Forest Service established its tribal relations program in 1988. But to explain the state of relations today between the U.S. Forest Service and Native Americans, Theodore Catton wisely begins his history of *American Indians and National Forests* (University of Arizona Press, 2016) in the colonial era. The tribal perspective of history, Catton says in his introduction, is based on cultural memory, which can stretch back decades and even centuries.



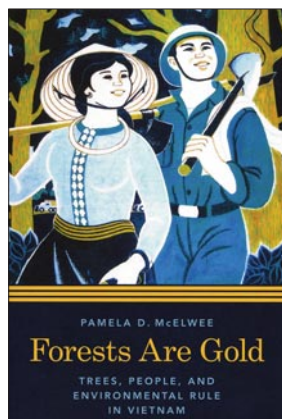
The Forest Service’s perspective, on the other hand, is based on institutional memory, which “is notoriously short,” lasting in some cases only as long as an employee is in a position. That might be only a couple of years and rarely more than a few decades, or the length of an employee’s career. Thus, events from what may seem a “remote” time to whites are often seen as “recent” to Indians and still have a vitality and resonance today. The players’ dramatically different perspectives influenced the author’s decision to place the administrative history of the Forest Service tribal relations program in the larger context of the history of federal-tribal relations. With that understanding, Catton explores not only natural resource management on tribal lands but also the management of sacred sites like Medicine Wheel on the Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming, places often coveted by non-Indians for the natural resources found on or under them. The issue is important enough that Catton dedicates a chapter to the topic. Alaska, where there are no reservations or treaties, as in the Lower Forty-Eight, receives its own chapter. So does the Nez Perce tribe: a case study that typifies the contemporary relationship but “also reminds us that tribes and the Forest Service have different stories about the past and different perspectives about the journeys that brought them together.” This is an excellent contribution to the historiography of the Forest Service and of Native Americans. (JL)

Many of the books considered in this column are appropriate for use in the college classroom but are not published explicitly for that purpose. Conversely, occasionally a textbook may appeal to a broader audience in search of good background on a topic. Such is the case with *Natural Resource Policy*, by Frederick Cubbage, Jay O’Laughlin, and M. Nils Peterson (Wave-



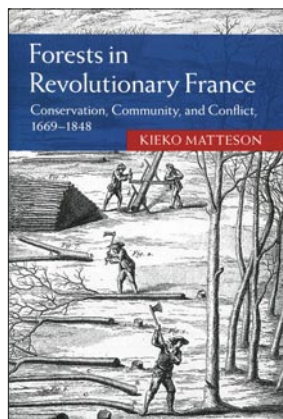
land Press, 2016). It was written for students considering careers in the natural resource fields as varied as forestry, wildlife management, and conservation biology, whether in the public or the private sector, so that they can understand “how natural resource policies can be used to achieve sustainable development” in the United States. But for the experienced worker, it can provide a good refresher about how and why natural resource policies are made (Chapter 1), the general process by which policy issues arise and are considered by governments (Chapter 2), and how policy-making processes work and how decisions are made and evaluated (Chapters 3, 4, and 5). The next four chapters review environmentalism, conservation, ethics, and professionalism, and then the principal participants involved in making policy. The last six chapters summarize current natural resource policy programs. The authors adroitly synthesize a great deal of material and ground it in history because, overall, they are looking at the evolution of institutions and processes. A nice touch that assures readers this isn’t their fathers’ policy textbook is the inclusion of editorial cartoons and current comics like “Pearls Before Swine,” which convey the points being made in the main text—whether it is about the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill or how super PACs extend the boundaries of legal political contributions. (JL)

The evolution of forest policy over the last century and a half in Vietnam is the subject of Pamela D. McElwee’s *Forests Are Gold: Trees, People, and Environmental Rule in Vietnam* (University of Washington Press, 2016). A professor of human ecology at Rutgers University who trained as an anthropologist and environmental scientist, McElwee has a very different perspective from a historian. Starting in 1996, she spent several years off and on in Vietnam not



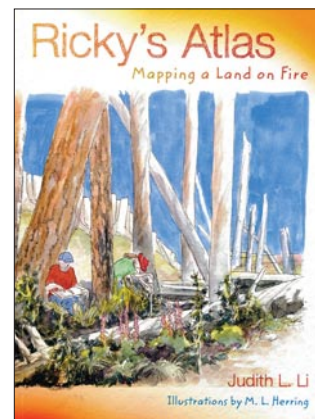
only doing archival research but also field studies, during which she discovered that the accepted forest restoration narrative about the nation was not quite what it seemed. From 1998 to 2010, even though the Vietnamese were planting trees on such an enormous scale in some areas that the effort was hailed as a green success story, high deforestation rates continued elsewhere, primarily in the country's biodiverse natural forests. Vietnam was a global leader in tropical deforestation and afforestation simultaneously. Further, in 2000–2001 McElwee was witness to government afforestation efforts in north-central Vietnam that created “a nightmare of overreliance on introduced fast-growing but low-value trees that displaced native flora and fauna.” The government's afforestation policy brought social changes: the poor and women lost their land rights to men who claimed it for new forest plantations. She argues that the common thread throughout the nation's forest history, beginning with the arrival of the French in 1862 and continuing to the present, is that environmental policy was often not about improving natural conditions but about managing people through what she calls “‘environmental rule,’ whereby states, organizations, and individuals use environmental explanations to justify policy interventions in other social areas, such as populations, markets, or cultural identities.” How environmental rule changed with power structures and governments—whether colonial or postcolonial—can tell us much about other former colonies in Asia and Africa grappling with deforestation and afforestation issues. The forests of Vietnam, as seen through McElwee's eyes, provide an illuminating case study of environmental rule. (JL)

Vietnam being a former French colony, it is useful then to examine the history of



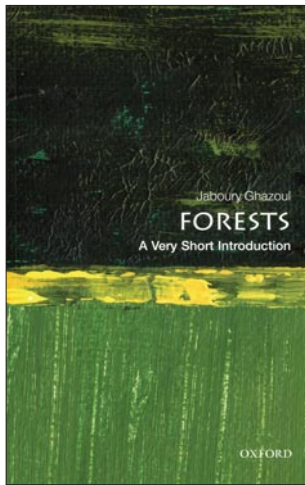
forest management in France during the two centuries immediately preceding its takeover of Southeast Asia. In *Forests in Revolutionary France: Conservation, Community, and Conflict, 1669–1848* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), Keiko Matteson takes us from the apex of Louis XIV's reign in the 1670s to the beginning of the Second Empire in 1848. She focuses on Franche-Comté, one of France's most densely wooded and remote areas, in the eastern part of the country. Much of what happened there was typical of what happened in other regions, starting with the fifty-year implementation of the 1669 *Ordonnance des eaux et forêts*, “a landmark of comprehensive, top-down timber controls and woodland management.” In an age of total dependence on wood for fuel and nontimber forest products, such intrusion from the central government was not welcomed. As Matteson notes, regardless of who owned the forests, they were defined and governed in terms of use rights: rights to wood, rights of pasturage, and “secondary rights,” or the rights to gather fruits and sod. It was not the tragedy of the commons—the depletion of common property by unregulated users who compete for resources—but rather a case of resource exploitation by external actors and loss of local control over the land. Power and the extent of control over private lands by the forest administration ebbed and flowed, and did not ameliorate the problem but rather exacerbated it. She concludes with a look at the present, providing “an instructive coda to the history of forest use in France.” (JL)

In her sequel to *Ellie's Log: Exploring the Forest Where the Great Tree Fell*, Judith Li recounts for middle-school readers the story of a boy's adventures in the eastern Cascade Mountains in *Ricky's Atlas: Mapping a Land on Fire* (Oregon State



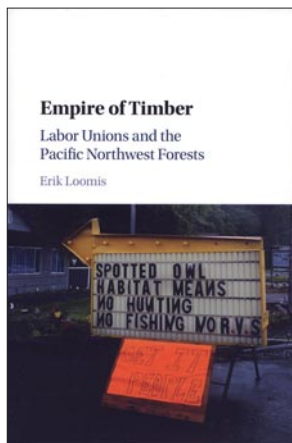
University Press, 2016). Ricky and his mother travel to his uncle's ranch in the eastern Cascades. As they are arriving, a massive thunderstorm is passing overhead. Ricky begins to document the events of the storm and what follows in his notebook. Lightning triggers a wildfire and the family and local firefighters have to mobilize. While firefighters work to extinguish the fire, Ricky's family and neighbors rush to defend their homes and round up cattle. In the aftermath, Ricky and his friend Ellie witness how humans, plants, and animals adjust and recover from wildfire. With much enthusiasm, the two document weather patterns, tree species, fossils, and wildlife. They also learn about fire and its effects in the semiarid landscape. Ricky and Ellie create a colorful diary of the fire, with maps and a timeline of events. Though the book is fiction, once again Li has made a great learning tool. A retired stream ecologist, she bridges the gap between fact and fiction by combining history and scientific observations in the story. The book has wonderful color pen-and-ink drawings by M. L. Herring, and the captions offer details on plants, animals, firefighting, and ranching. The story gives Li opportunity to cover the landscapes and Native Americans of the West and convey historical and scientific information about the Cascades. (JH)

Forests are arguably the richest lands on the planet. Early human cultures were dependent on forests because they provided shelter and resources, and although farming and natural disasters have diminished forests over time, they remain resilient. Jaboury Ghazoul explains the human relationship with forests in a global context in *Forests: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2015), an entry in a series of brief texts on a wide variety of topics. The first three chapters cover



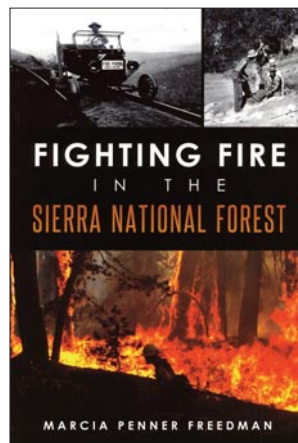
cultural histories of forests, definitions and descriptions of forests around the world, and the evolution of trees and forests. Another chapter explains the consequences of disturbances, such as fire and pests, and is followed by one on the goods and services different cultures derive from forested lands. The last chapter, “Past, Present, and Future,” focuses on deforestation and how it could affect human civilization. Ghazoul has packed considerable information into this succinct volume. If one is seeking general information or a solid, engaging introductory text about forests, Ghazoul’s book is a good starting point. (JH)

The rapid expansion of the timber industry in the Pacific Northwest at the beginning of the twentieth century transformed the region in many ways, reshaping the environment and economy of the region and profoundly affecting the lives of those laboring in the region’s forests and sawmills. These everyday workers are the focus of a new book by Erik Loomis. In *Empire of Timber: Labor Unions and the Pacific Northwest Forests* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), Loomis places the struggles of timber workers at the center



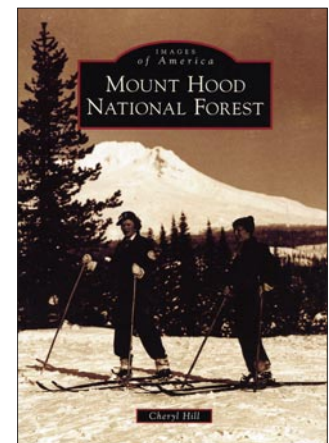
of the greater narrative of twentieth-century American forest history. These laborers joined unions and cooperatives to advance their personal and political goals. The groups also had varying responses to both the rapid industrialization of the forest and the rise of environmentalism later in the twentieth century. Loomis’s work focuses on five labor organizations to examine the multifaceted nature of workers’ activism in the region: the Industrial Workers of the World, the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen, the International Woodworkers of America, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, and the countercultural reforestation workers of the 1970s and 1980s. At different times these groups worked for improved working conditions, advocated for sound natural resource policies, and also opposed environmental regulations that would reduce jobs. The history of these struggles also helps illustrate the need for stronger alliances among future green and labor organizations in the face of global capitalism, job loss, and reduced environmental protections. Loomis addresses many basic questions: What were the root causes of the labor and environmental struggle? Did loggers not care about the forest? Did environmentalists not care about loggers’ jobs? His impeccable scholarship provides an invaluable contribution to the disciplines of labor, environmental, and forest history. (JH)

The Sierra National Forest is 1.3 million acres of beauty and splendor, but those who decide to live near the forest are also choosing to live with wildfire. Every year during fire season, the area is under constant threat. Residents become accustomed to clearing brush from around their homes, preparing for potential evacuations, and dealing with weeks of smoke-filled



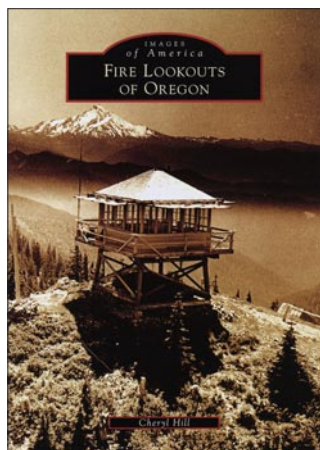
air. Because of expanding wildland development, firefighting in the Sierra National Forest is constantly evolving. In *Fighting Fire in the Sierra National Forest* (History Press, 2015), Marcia Penner Freedman examines the history of firefighting and fire management on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. While hiking with friends in the Sierra National Forest, Penner witnessed a helicopter picking up water. That prompted her to investigate the subject, and her growing interest became her motivation to write the book. Her work traces the long history of fire suppression and fire management in the Sierra National Forest. This history also documents the shift in the U.S. Forest Service’s policy on fire, from all-out suppression to a more ecological approach. Freedman details the personal stories of the early-twentieth-century rangers and firefighting crews battling blazes at all costs. She explores the adaptive management strategies of the middle and later parts of the century, as well as the challenges of dealing with the high-intensity fires of the twenty-first century. This is an excellent overview of the evolution of fire policy focused on one forest location. (JH)

It was established in 1892 as the Bull Run Forest Reserve, and then in 1908 it was merged with Cascade National Forest. Finally in 1924 it was renamed Mount Hood National Forest. In *Mount Hood National Forest* (Arcadia Publishing, 2014), librarian and Oregon native Cheryl Hill presents a visual history of this stunning area. Hill has gathered historic photos to tell stories of living, working, and leisure in and around Mount Hood. She begins with images of Lieutenant William E. Broughton and Peter Skene Ogden, two early explorers taken in by the beauty of the landscape, and the Native American



peoples who lived there. The second chapter is filled with those of U.S. Forest Service employees, surveyors, rangers, and many others who worked the lands. The next chapter is about early transportation, highlighting the mule pack trains and dirt roads for navigation, as well as railroads and the various roads built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The remaining chapters are of early campsites, summer homes, and tours around Mount Hood (“Recreation”); the variety of lodges and hiking shelters (“Places”); and the famous Timberline Lodge. Nothing compares to actually seeing Mount Hood, but Hill has captured the majesty of it while giving the reader a rich history. (JH)

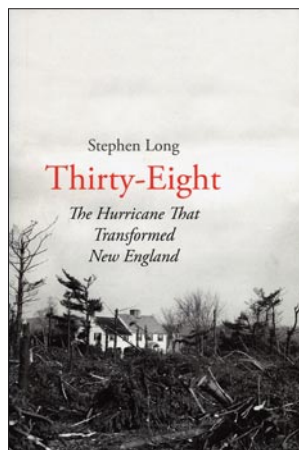
Also from Cheryl Hill is *Fire Lookouts of Oregon* (Arcadia Publishing, 2016). In 1910, devastating fires burned millions of acres in the American West. The following year, the young U.S. Forest Service adopted a new agency-wide policy for fire protection. Soon, lookout towers were being constructed on national forests throughout the country. Some of the early towers were primitive, just meager structures nested in trees or perched on windswept mountaintops. But building designs improved and construction intensified over the following decades. New inventions like the Osborne



Fire Finder helped make lookouts an important first line of defense against forest fires. Heavily forested Oregon has a long history of using fire lookout towers. Of the hundreds of towers built, fewer than 175 remain today, and only about half of those are staffed. Hill presents a fascinating photographic history of these impressive structures. In seven chapters the book covers every region of Oregon. For each lookout, Hill describes an interesting event that took place in that area. She also found

amusing and interesting anecdotes about the many men and women who served as fire lookouts. Her storytelling, accompanied by historical photos, makes this book a valuable addition to the libraries of lookout aficionados and forest history enthusiasts alike. (JH)

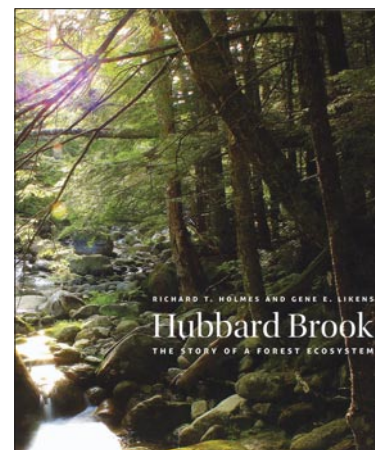
Seventy-eight years ago one of the biggest hurricane-induced forest disturbances in United States history occurred in the Northeast. Hurricane number 4 of the 1938 season cut a devastating path through New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine and up into Canada. The storm killed more than 700 people, destroyed thousands of homes, and caused massive forest damage throughout the entire region. The story of this storm is the subject of Stephen Long’s new book, *Thirty-Eight: The Hurricane That Transformed New England* (Yale University Press, 2016). Long focuses on the region’s forested landscape: the hurricane caused extensive forest damage in 35 percent of New England’s total land area, toppled an estimated 2.6 billion board feet of timber, and caused approximately \$5 billion (in today’s money) of damage to the region’s infrastructure. The ecological effects were far reaching, both from the storm and from the cleanup



efforts that followed, and Long details how the makeup of New England’s forests was profoundly affected for decades to come. The book begins with accounts of the storm and its immediate devastation, including the personal account of one Fred Hunt, who as a 14-year-old survived the storm by taking shelter under a pine tree that had just fallen in front of him while he was walking home. He rode out the storm under there only to emerge afterward to find nearly every tree around him

had blown down. Long describes the responses of residents and the federal government in the aftermath. Concerns over the imminent threat of fire due to the massive amount of flammable debris led the U.S. Forest Service to create the New England Forest Emergency program to protect populated areas. Most downed trees required immediate attention, though. In true New Deal-era fashion, a new federal program was established: the Northeastern Timber Salvage Administration (NETSA). Staffed by Forest Service personnel and assisted by Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration workers, NETSA worked to salvage the timber. A project of this scale was not without its difficulties, and Long recounts the conflicts between the federal government and local lumbermen. In the end, the cleanup and salvage effort was viewed as a success, with the government recovering 92 percent of the program’s total cost. Long concludes by looking at the ecological changes since 1938 and discussing how the next “Thirty-Eight” might affect New England’s forests today. (EL)

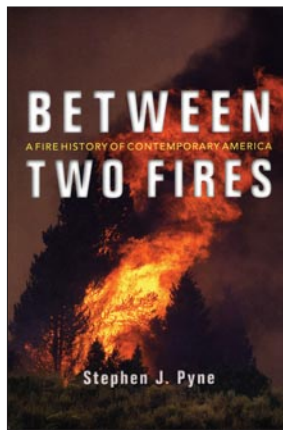
The 1938 hurricane illustrated the need—and created the opportunity—for studying the long-term recovery of forest ecosystems after major disturbances. This is just



one of the many topics studied at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Operated by the U.S. Forest Service, the site has produced numerous important ecological findings that continue to influence forest research throughout the world and is the subject of a new book, *Hubbard Brook: The Story of a Forest Ecosystem* (Yale University Press, 2016), by Richard T. Holmes and Gene E. Likens. The book explores the history of research at Hubbard

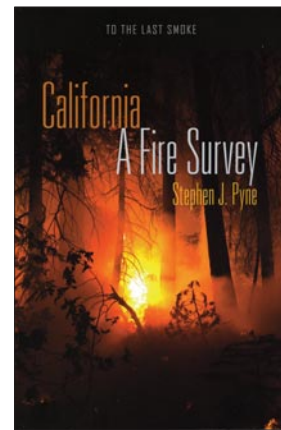
Brook and its implications for environmental policy, forest management, and ecological debates locally and throughout the world. Beginning in 1963, the Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study pioneered the small watershed technique as a method of studying ecosystem processes, using the forests of north-central New Hampshire as a living laboratory. Scientists began detailed investigations into the functions of all aspects of the forest ecosystem. Holmes and Likens look at why Hubbard Brook is such an important site, examining its environmental history and ecological characteristics. They highlight notable research findings and major scientific discoveries that came out of Hubbard Brook, including the discovery of acid rain—research that directly affected environmental policy throughout the world. Other important research that has received public attention was the investigation into the decline of migratory songbird populations. These and many other invaluable ecological discoveries have made Hubbard Brook a model for long-term forest ecosystem studies throughout the world. Though packed with detailed information on ecological research, the book remains accessible to nonscientists, aided in part by its beautiful layout and design. With its large size and numerous full-color photos, maps, and figures, the book would look at home on display atop a coffee table. It is a fitting tribute to half-century of perhaps the most influential long-term research study of a forest ecosystem. (EL)

In 1982 Stephen J. Pyne published *Fire in America: A Cultural History of Wildland and Rural Fire*, the definitive account of the role of fire in shaping the American landscape from prehistoric to contemporary times. Since then, Pyne, the leading scholar of wildland fire and its place in human history, has focused more on fire history outside the United States. With his new book, *Between Two Fires: A Fire History of Contemporary America* (University of Arizona Press, 2015), he returns his attention to the United States, directly building on his classic 1982 work. *Between Two Fires* focuses on the past fifty years of American fire management, covering new ground and shedding light on contemporary debates over wildland fire policy. He opens with a look at the 1961 fire season, one of the most devastating of the mid-twentieth century. This is coupled with an examination of the first Tall Timbers Fire Ecology



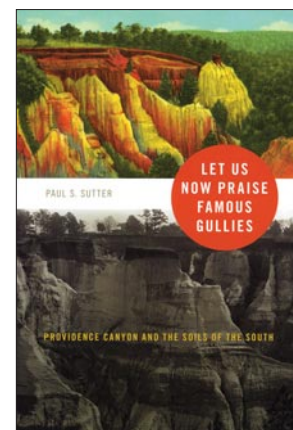
Conference in 1962, an influential event that “forced the fire establishment to accept fire’s role in landscape ecology and management.” Tall Timbers represented a shift toward accepting the use of prescribed fire by government land management agencies. This paradigm shift in fire management strategy was not a one-size-fits-all fix, however, since wildfire characteristics vary across the country. Pyne also devotes attention to the U.S. Forest Service and its struggles to redefine its role in the national fire landscape. One interesting component of the book is its discussion of the influence of national politics on fire management, illustrated in what Pyne refers to as the “lost decade” of the 1980s, when fire management policy was completely divorced from the greater environmental movement. Interspersed between chapters are brief examinations of catastrophic blazes that altered public perceptions of fire and public policy, ending with a look at the Wallow Fire of 2011, the largest fire recorded in Arizona history. As a whole, the book stands as a companion to *Fire in America* and demonstrates why Pyne remains such an important voice on both the past and future of American fire policy. (EL)

Luckily for those interested in American fire management, Stephen Pyne has extended his examination in a new series titled *To the Last Smoke* (University of Arizona Press, 2016). Pyne describes this work using the metaphor of a sports broadcast: whereas *Between Two Fires* is the play-by-play announcer, the series is the voice of the color commentator, discussing the stories and people behind the scenes in a specific region. The first four volumes focus on seminal regions in the history and development of American fire policy: *Florida*, *California*, *The Northern Rockies*, and *The Southwest*, each subtitled *A Fire*



*Survey*. More a collection of journalistic essays rather than a scholarly or scientific treatment, the books give an overview of fire management in each region, along with some historical context, personal stories, and interesting anecdotes. Regional approaches to fire management are presented in an engaging style, comfortable for general audiences and fire experts alike, and the ground-level look provides insights into the challenges of fire in the twenty-first century. We look forward to future volumes in the series as Pyne covers other regions of the country. (EL)

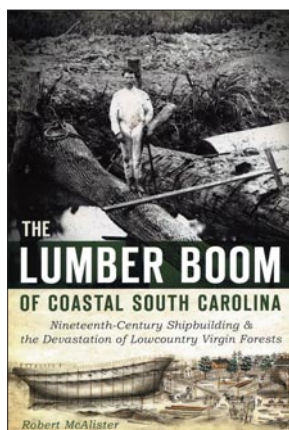
Providence Canyon State Park in southwestern Georgia features a striking network of red and orange canyons up to 150 feet deep. Known as the “Little Grand Canyon,” Providence Canyon is recognized as one of the state’s “Seven Natural Wonders.” Unlike the Grand Canyon in Arizona, though, Georgia’s version has a much more recent history, one tied directly to human failure. How this came to pass is the subject of Paul Sutter’s *Let Us Now Praise Famous Gullies: Providence Canyon and the Soils of the South* (University of Georgia Press, 2015). The book explores the irony of a natural area destination that is almost entirely an artifact of human



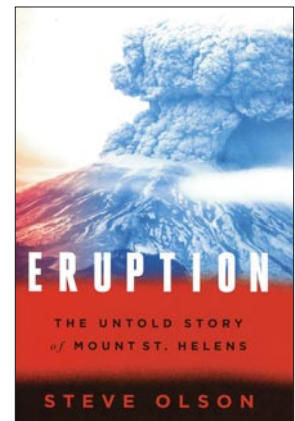


origin. The beautiful canyons that park visitors admire are actually a severely degraded landscape. Sutter details the environmental history of the area, revealing how poor farming practices during the nineteenth century led directly to the massive erosion responsible for the canyons seen today, placing the landscape within the broader context of soil erosion in the American South. More interestingly, he also looks at twentieth-century debates over how the Providence Canyon area should be interpreted. The contests over the site's meaning pitted New Deal-era soil conservationists who viewed the canyon as a strong cautionary tale against regional boosters who wanted the area preserved as a park to promote tourism. Ultimately, Sutter argues that our national parks and wilderness areas are all cultural products to some degree, and that Providence Canyon more than deserves its protected status. Though it may be human induced, Providence offers the opportunity for broader thinking and discussion about natural areas as cultural products. By the book's end Sutter has effectively made the case that Providence Canyon is much more important than just a cautionary tale: it is an important subject for those interested in both the environmental history of the South and the cultural history of American parks. (EL)

Another important yet sometimes overlooked chapter from the environmental history of the American South is examined by Robert McAlister in *The Lumber Boom of Coastal South Carolina: Nineteenth-Century Shipbuilding and the Devastation of Lowcountry Virgin Forests* (The History Press, 2013). The environmental, commercial, and social history of Antebellum South Carolina's rice plantations have already been well explored; McAlister focuses on



the lumber industry. He finds a direct tie between nineteenth-century shipbuilding in Maine and logging in South Carolina in the person of Henry Buck. Visiting from Maine, Buck marveled at South Carolina's coastal forest and saw the potential for turning its longleaf pine, bald cypress, and oak into lumber for northern shipbuilders. He established the first steam-powered sawmill in South Carolina in 1828 and quickly expanded his lumber operations, which eventually supported the new communities Bucksport and Bucksville. Although the Civil War interrupted production—and Buck's wealth contracted from \$1 million to \$1,000—the business survived and was passed along to his son following Buck's death in 1870. William L. Buck then presided over a fascinating episode in South Carolina shipbuilding history: the construction of the *Henrietta* in 1875. The idea began with the realization that the cold winters and shallow river where he and two partners had been building ships in Maine limited the construction season and the size of the vessels. McAlister details how instead of shipping lumber north for ship construction, Buck and his partners brought skilled Maine labor and materials south to construct the largest wooden vessel ever built in South Carolina. A massive undertaking, the *Henrietta* measured more than 200 feet long and carried 24 sails. The Downeast-style cargo ship was larger than and nearly as fast as the earlier Clipper ships; this one would ultimately run trade routes all over the world for decades. McAlister also addresses the devastating effects of the lumber industry on the area's environment. Forest loss was exacerbated by the extensive mill complex of the Atlantic Coast Lumber Corporation, built in Georgetown in 1900. After clearcutting old-growth pine forests and bald cypress wetlands, the company abandoned the area in the early 1930s. McAlister rounds out his narrative on a more upbeat note, discussing how International Paper came in and eventually adopted and implemented sustainable forestry practices. The twentieth century would also see more conservation efforts and the creation of state parks and national forests in South Carolina. Despite its brevity—just over 100 pages—the book provides insight into the fascinating relationship between Maine shipbuilders and South Carolina loggers and sawmills and the long-term consequences for the region's landscape. (EL)



In spring 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano, on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington, began releasing ash and gases and blue flames, and growing both a dome and a crater. Then at 8:32 a.m. local time on May 18, a 5.1-magnitude earthquake directly below the north slope triggered a landslide, one of the largest in recorded human history. In an instant, the mountain dropped in height at least a thousand feet, and the forests surrounding the volcano were flattened. The subsequent explosion, volcanic mudflows, and spewed ash claimed the lives of fifty-seven people, half of whom were never found. Among the dead were scientists studying the volcano and campers and residents who had ignored warnings to evacuate. Writer Steve Olson, a native of the region, wondered what had drawn them to the volcano and motivated them to remain despite the clear danger signs. In his outstanding account, *Eruption: The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens* (W. W. Norton, 2016), Olson vividly captures their stories along with the gripping tales of the many survivors, as well as the aftermath—both environmental and political—and recovery of the land. He also weaves together the activities of the Weyerhaeuser Company, which was logging on land adjacent to the volcano, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Mount St. Helens Protective Association and other environmental groups that since 1970 had been trying to stop the logging to preserve the old-growth forest. All these players debated about whether and how to salvage some of 4 billion board feet of damaged or destroyed timber, and whether to leave some areas untouched as a laboratory so that scientists and ecologists could monitor how the flora and fauna, and the land, responded. In the end, all these things happened, and the area around the volcano was declared a national monument. (JL) □