

BOOKS

Who Saved the Redwoods? The Unsung Heroines of the 1920s Who Fought for Our Redwood Forests (Algora Publishing, 2019), by Laura and James Wasserman, details a grassroots efforts to stop the Pacific Lumber Co. from logging several thousand acres of redwoods in the 1920s. The answer to the title’s question is the Women’s Save the Redwood League of Humboldt County, a local organization of middle- and upper-class women led by Laura Perrott Mahan and others who lived nearby. Their efforts led to the establishment of Humboldt Redwoods State Park, the largest expanse of surviving old-growth redwoods on earth. The Wassermans also document the group’s struggle to take their movement national via

the General Federation of Women’s Clubs and the Garden Club of America, and how they publicized their efforts to preserve these forests. (EL)

Two recent books focus on the pecan tree. John Gifford’s **Pecan America: Exploring a Cultural Icon** (University Press of Kansas, 2019) proposes that the pecan tree and its nuts be viewed as an American cultural icon. The book details the historical significance of the pecan in American society, how and where it’s grown, how it’s marketed based on demand, its nutritional benefits, and its place in folk art and culture. Gifford, a freelance journalist, provides an intimate view of the contemporary pecan industry through interviews with researchers, growers, and harvesters. **Pecan: America’s Native Nut Tree** (University of Alabama Press, 2017), by

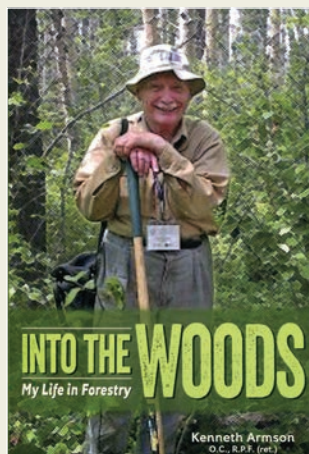
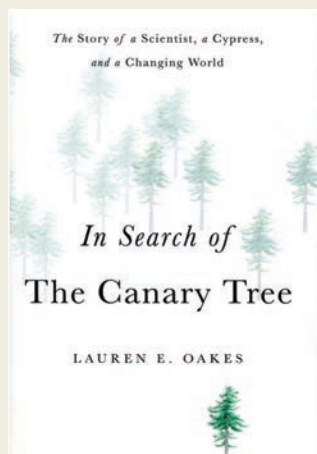
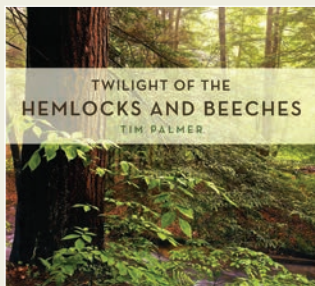
Lenny Wells, takes a more academic approach in his environmental history of the pecan tree. Wells explores early uses and European settlers’ discovery of the pecan, its cultivation and domestication, and the development of a multimillion-dollar crop. Together the books provide an excellent overview of the pecan’s importance to the culture and landscape of the American South. (EL)

Another book focusing on an individual tree species is **Ponderosa: People, Fire, and the West’s Most Iconic Tree** (Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2015). Forest researchers Carl E. Fiedler and Stephen F. Arno recount the long history of human interaction with the ponderosa pine forests of the western United States. They also provide information on the ecological importance of

fire to these forests and look at recent ponderosa pine restoration efforts. The second half of the book serves as a travel guide to notable ponderosa pine forests in 15 states and British Columbia. (EL)

Twilight of the Hemlocks and Beeches (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2018), by writer-photographer Tim Palmer, is a detailed, illustrated exploration of hemlock and beech, two species that have dominated America’s eastern forests for more than a thousand years. Palmer discusses the threats these trees face from exotic insects and various pathogens while also documenting their survival, restoration, and recovery. (EL)

For her doctoral work, ecologist Lauren E. Oakes spent six years studying yellow cedar (*Callitropsis*



nootkatensis; sometimes called yellow cypress) in southern Alaska, chronicling what happens to a forest after a large-scale die-off. On the day she defended her dissertation, she realized that she had stripped away the human connections to the tree and the beauty of nature generally in the name of scientific investigation. In her debut book, ***In Search of the Canary Tree: The Story of a Scientist, a Cypress, and a Changing World*** (Basic Books, 2018), Oakes tells the story she really wanted to on that day—a first-person account of her adventures in remote Alaskan wilderness and what she discovered as she collected data and from the data, the experiential appreciation of the species she learned from the indigenous people, and the resiliency of the forests and the people closest to them in the face of climate change. (JL)

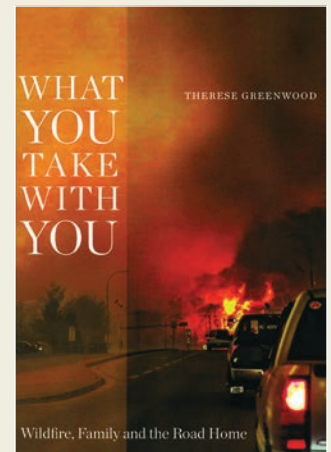
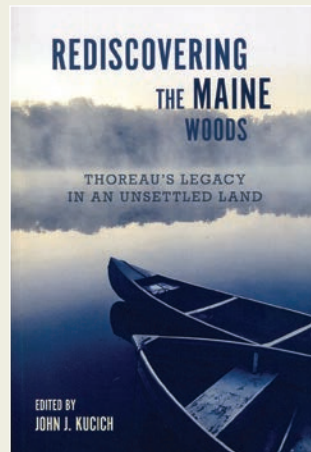
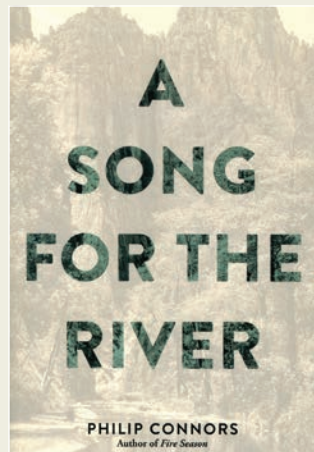
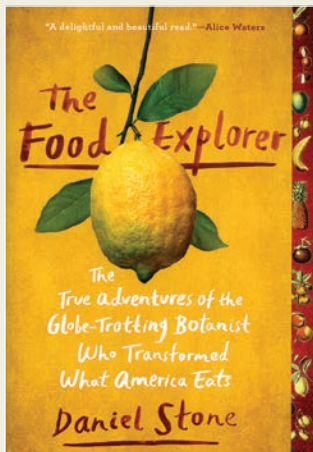
Kenneth Armson's long career as a forester in Ontario spanned more than 50 years in teaching, research, policy, and administration. He was a professor of forestry at the University of Toronto for 26 years and has been a leading advocate for sustainable forest management across Canada for six decades. In 1979 he became the chief forester and executive coordinator of the Forestry Resources Group in the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and then was appointed in 1986 as Ontario's first and only provincial forester. Arguably, his two biggest accomplishments are forging forest management agreements, under which the forest industries and governments worked together to ensure that harvested areas regenerated and thrived on Crown land, and the founding of the Forest History Society of Ontario. All of this and

more is in his memoir ***Into the Woods: My Life in Forestry*** (Burnstown Publishing House, 2019). (JL)

Those interested in the history of national parks and graphic design will enjoy ***Parks: United States National Park Service Maps and Brochures from the Collection of Brian Kelley*** (Standards Manual, 2019). Kelley is a photographer and avid collector with no formal connection to the Park Service. This record of more than 300 national park publications takes the reader on a visual journey through more than a century of promotional materials. Of special note is the work of designer Massimo Vignelli, whose titles in the Helvetica font, white on a black bar, became synonymous with park publications beginning in the 1970s. (EL)

The Food Explorer: The True Adventures of the Globe-Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats (Dutton, 2019), by Daniel Stone, documents the work of botanist David Fairchild, who traveled the world during the early twentieth century in search of exotic foods and plants, and then managed the Office of Seed and Plant Introduction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1904 to 1928. Many of the 200,000 edible and useful plants he brought to American shores are now products we take for granted, including watermelon, avocado, kale, lemon, peach, and soybean. Fairchild's worldwide adventures fill in an overlooked aspect of American environmental and agricultural history. (EL)

In ***A Song for the River*** (Cinco Puntos Press, 2018), by Philip Connors,



a veteran fire lookout on the Gila National Forest and the author of the acclaimed memoir *Fire Season*, rafts through the Gila Wilderness one last time to say goodbye both to the river, which is threatened by dam construction, and to the friends he made during his many seasons in the lookout tower. It's a moving mixture of memoir, observation about fire policy and ecology in the Southwest, and elegy for his departed friends as he moves through a landscape that has meant much to him. (JL)

John J. Kucich, inspired by the 150th anniversary of the publication of Henry David Thoreau's *The Maine Woods* (1864) and his participation in a canoe-camping trip retracing Thoreau's journeys in 2014, asked several fellow participants, as well as leading scholars

and nonacademics who did not make the trip, "to reimagine the Maine Woods in the twenty-first century." In *Rediscovering the Maine Woods: Thoreau's Legacy in an Unsettled Land* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2019), Kucich has gathered their responses into three parts: differing perspectives of the region, reexaminations of Thoreau's writings about Maine, and Thoreau's legacy in the region and the broader national debates about the environment. Essay topics of note here include discussions of multiple use, working forests, and Thoreau's concept of wildness, as opposed to wilderness. (JL)

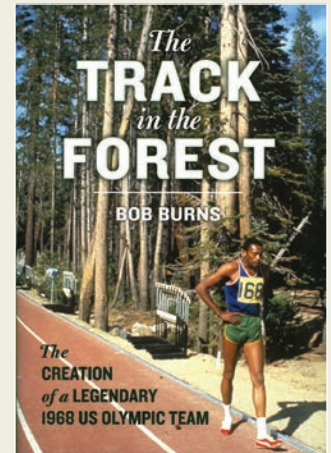
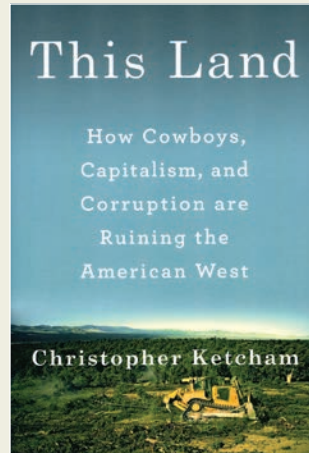
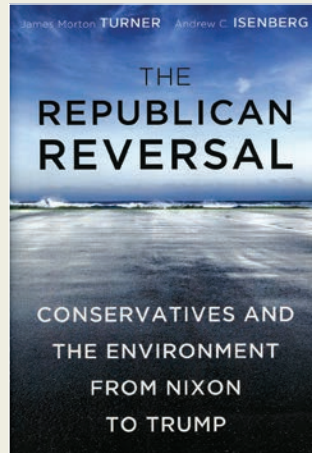
As a wildfire swept toward Fort McMurray, Alberta, in 2016 and forced eighty thousand people to evacuate the

city, journalist Theresa Greenwood and her husband had only minutes to pack and escape. In *What You Take with You: Wildfire, Family, and the Road Home* (University of Alberta Press, 2019), Greenwood captures the excitement, terror, and heartache of losing everything, giving readers a very different perspective of the effect of wildfire on the many landscapes in our lives. (JL)

In November 2018, a symposium at Freiburg University in Germany reexamined the connections between the "fathers of American forestry"—Sir Dietrich Brandis, Carl A. Schenck, and Gifford Pinchot. German-born Brandis (1824–1907) mentored fellow German Schenck and the American Pinchot and, through them, deeply influenced forestry in the United States. Along

with Schenck's previously unpublished memoir, the presentations have been compiled into *Carl Alwin Schenck: Pioneer der Forstwirtschaft in Amerika (Carl Alwin Schenck: Pioneer in Forestry in America)* (Kessl Publishing House, 2019), edited by Johann Georg Goldammer and Jameson Karns. Schenck's account of his early life, from 1868 to 1887, is in German and includes much about his family history. The symposium papers about the three men and their connections, some presented by their descendants, are all in English. (JL)

The Republican Reversal: Conservatives and the Environment from Nixon to Trump (Harvard University Press, 2018), by James Morton Turner and Andrew C. Isenberg, traces one of the most



remarkable turnarounds in U.S. political history: how within a few short years, Republicans went from being the political party that could point with pride to its 1960s–1970s slate of pro-environment laws and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency to one that seeks the dismantling of the very laws and agencies it helped create. (JL)

Journalist Christopher Ketcham spent several months crisscrossing the American West by car to see what was happening on the federal public lands. The result is *This Land: How Cowboys, Capitalism, and Corruption Are Ruining the West* (Viking, 2019). He found that the grazing, mining, and timber industries are “plundering” large swaths of the 450 million acres of federal lands, and that the federal agencies charged with

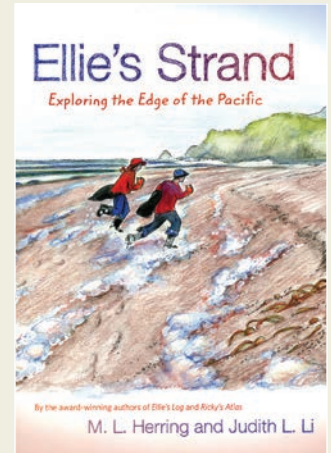
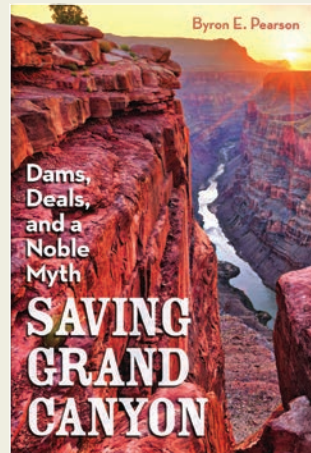
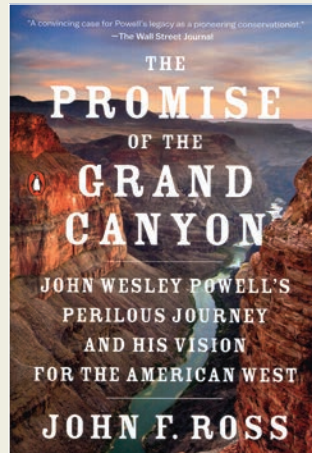
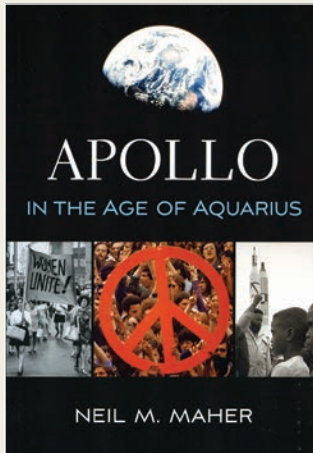
protecting the public lands do little to stop them—and in many cases are abetting them. Further, he learned that the “Big Green” environmental groups purporting to watch those agencies and companies are no better, frequently agreeing with the policies while portraying themselves as protectors of the land. He concludes his indictment by proposing a radical vision for ecological restoration, beyond enforcing the laws already on the books to protect endangered species: completely removing cattle from the public lands, ending public timber sales, and setting aside some land as off-limits to all uses, even recreation. (JL)

In *The Track in the Forest: The Creation of a Legendary 1968 US Olympic Team* (Chicago Review Press, 2019), Bob Burns tells the story of

one of the most famous U.S. Men’s Track and Field teams. The team trained and held its final selection meet on a track carved out of the Eldorado National Forest above Lake Tahoe, California, in preparation for the Olympics in Mexico City. U.S. track officials realized that training at high altitude was necessary for the men’s team to succeed; notably, they didn’t extend the offer to the women’s team. The book has little on the forest history aspect of the story—this was just before all the modern environmental laws were passed, so construction of the track faced few obstacles—but it’s nonetheless a fascinating look at the history of sports and race relations. (JL)

One year after those Olympics, three hundred thousand young people gathered for the Woodstock

music festival. Most attended the three-day event for free, and many consider it the height of the counterculture movement. In stark contrast, just a few weeks before, American astronauts had walked on the moon, a technological first that cost billions of dollars. Many critics, however, argued the government could have used that money and resources for healing the environment or transforming the lives of the millions of Americans who looked nothing like the white male astronauts. In *Apollo in the Age of Aquarius* (Harvard University Press, 2017), Neil Maher reinterprets the Apollo era of NASA’s history through the lenses of the women’s, environmental, antiwar, and civil rights movements, showing unexpected synergies between the movements and the space program. (JL)



The Promise of the Grand Canyon: John Wesley Powell's Perilous Journey and His Vision for the American West (Viking, 2018) is John F. Ross' biography of the remarkable geologist and explorer. Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran, gained renown for leading the first boat expedition 900 miles along the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon in 1869. As director of the U.S. Geological Survey (1881–1894), he argued that the arid West was not suitable for agricultural development and proposed a system for settling the region that would have been sustainable and far less detrimental to the land. His tenure as director of the Bureau of Ethnology, from 1879 until his death in 1902, was important for documenting Native American culture and languages, yet he also

advocated the mandatory study of English, Christianity, and western farming techniques, which would destroy their culture and languages. (JL)

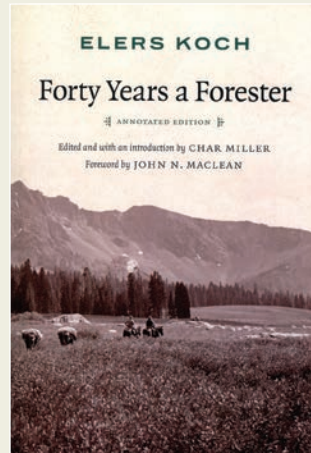
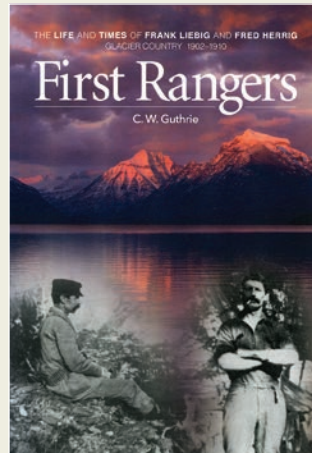
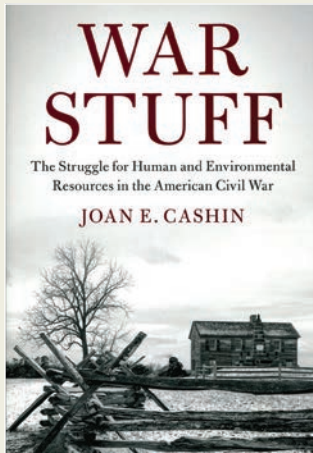
In the 1910s, developers nearly succeeded in damming the Colorado River as a way to transform central Arizona into a Garden of Eden, even though it would have flooded the Grand Canyon. In the late 1960s, during the third and final major attempt to build a dam, the Sierra Club worked hard to block it and, in the process, transformed itself into a national leader of environmental groups. Ever since, it has received the lion's share of the credit for "saving" the Grand Canyon. And as more and more historians repeat this "noble myth," legend has become accepted truth. Byron Pearson sets the record straight in ***Saving Grand Canyon: Dams,***

Deals, and a Noble Myth (University of Nevada Press, 2019). He examines all three campaigns to place the last campaign in the broader context of the contentious water and irrigation history of the American West. The Sierra Club did play an important role, Pearson demonstrates, and the legend started with members' congressional testimony in 1967. However, a year earlier, Congress and a few other individuals had already dealt the dam a death blow—something conveniently left out of the retellings by the organization and historians. (JL)

Ellie's Strand: Exploring the Edge of the Pacific (Oregon State University Press, 2018), by M. L. Herring and Judith L. Li, is the third book in a series that reveals the wonders of nature through a child's eyes. The precocious and

inquisitive Ellie and Ricky travel to the Oregon coast from their homes in the Cascade Mountains to help with a one-day beach cleanup. They learn about the creatures that live in the coastal environment, of course, but they also are confronted with the harms humans are inflicting on the shore and its nonhuman inhabitants. This book for upper elementary students is evidence that nature education can be engaging and thought provoking. (JL)

As the American Civil War dragged on, the competition between civilians and armies over the South's human and material resources grew increasingly fierce. After 1863, southern civilians grew unwilling to aid the war effort and focused on their own survival. Joan E. Cashin's exploration of the effect of the war on humans, sustenance, the built environment, and



timber in *War Stuff: The Struggle for Human and Environmental Resources in the American Civil War* (Cambridge University Press, 2018) is a remarkable rethinking of how soldiers and noncombatants consumed these resources. Her material on the military and civilian uses of timber, trees, and forests is of particular interest here. (JL)

Three new editions of previously published works are worth checking out. *First Rangers: The Life and Times of Frank Liebig and Fred Herrig, Glacier Country, 1902-1910* (Farcountry Press, 2019) is edited by C. W. Guthrie. She uses the journals of two of the earliest federal forest rangers to recall the challenges that the future Glacier National Park landscape posed to a few brave souls in the early twentieth century.

Forty Years a Forester (Bison Books, 2019) is a memoir by Elers Koch, an important figure in the early days of the U.S. Forest Service in western Montana and a younger contemporary of Liebig and Herrig. Koch was an early advocate for wilderness and a critic of the fire suppression policy he had once helped implement. The prolific Char Miller has annotated this edition and provides a new introduction for it.

Speaking of prolific, Stephen Pyne, who has written some two dozen books on the history of fire around the world, distills a career's worth of knowledge into *Fire: A Brief History* (2nd ed., University of Washington Press, 2019), which in 200 pages covers the history of fire from before humans to the present in urban, rural, wilderness settings. (JL)

FILM



Using woody biomass as fuel to replace coal on an industrial scale is transforming forests. The feature-length documentary film *Burned: Are Trees the New Coal?* (Marlboro Films, 2017) explores the consequences of large-scale logging for power generation in the United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom. The filmmakers argue

that burning wood and other biomass, which in some cases can include tires because of the rubber content and chemically treated railroad ties, is not a carbon-neutral option or green solution to climate change, as the energy industry has been saying, and is, in fact, detrimental to the environment.

The 74-minute feature-length version, created for general audiences, covers the biomass pellet industry in the southeastern U.S. and the influence of the UK and EU renewable energy directive on policies, subsidies, and the industry's very existence. It also includes sections on the U.S. biomass industry's chip-burning facilities, waste-to-energy facilities, and forest ecology. Two shorter versions of the film are also available on the film's website (www.burnedthemovie.com). All three versions are available on DVD or for streaming. (JL)



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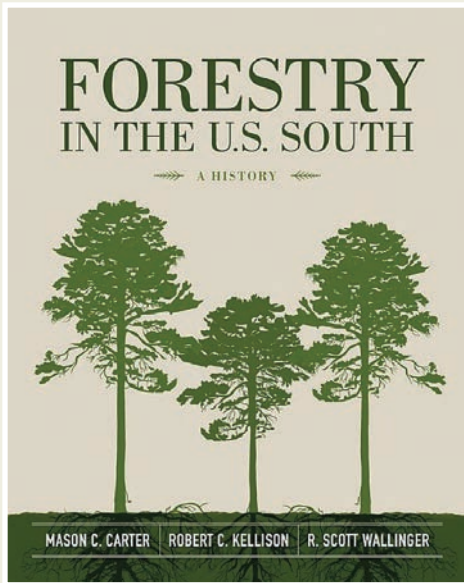
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By Mason C. Carter, Robert C. Kellison
 and R. Scott Wallinger

A comprehensive and multi-layered history, *Forestry in the U.S. South: A History* explores the remarkable commercial and environmental gains made possible through the collaboration of industry, universities, and other agencies. Incomparable in scope, it spotlights the people and organizations responsible for empowering individual forest owners across the region, tripling the production of pine stands and bolstering the livelihoods of thousands of men and women across the South.



FOREST HISTORY
 Society

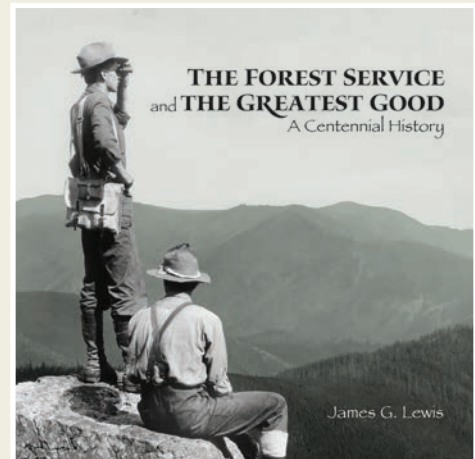


Order online at ForestHistory.org
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by James G. Lewis

The Forest Service and the Greatest Good takes an in-depth look at the Forest Service's conservation efforts over the last one hundred years. Jeffrey K. Stine of the Smithsonian Institution says, "It is a work of real clarity and substance that both reinforces *The Greatest Good* documentary film and extends its arguments and coverage."

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