

**BOOKS**

In *But Not Jim Crow: Family Memories of African American Loggers in Maxville, Oregon* (Pearl Alice Marsh, 2019), Pearl Alice Marsh has gathered recollections of first- and second-generation descendants of those who, in their quest for better wages, freedom, and equality, migrated in the 1920s through the 1950s from the Jim Crow South to Maxville, a remote company railroad logging town built and owned by the Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company. They moved at a time when Oregon’s constitution included a provision excluding Blacks from the state. Loggers worked in integrated teams but the small town had segregated schools and baseball teams. The book includes a logger’s memoir and dozens of images.

Asa Johal, a boy from India, started working in wood products at age 14 in Vancouver, British Columbia, and eventually founded his own company in 1965. Johal faced many challenges and obstacles, including political situations, economic forces, timber supply shortages, labor disputes, and bigotry. In *Asa Johal and Terminal Forest Products: How a Sikh Immigrant Created BC’s Largest Independent Lumber Company* (Harbour Publishing, 2019), Jinder Oujla-Chalmers shows how Johal ultimately established himself as a leading figure among the predominately white-owned forest products giants of the province.

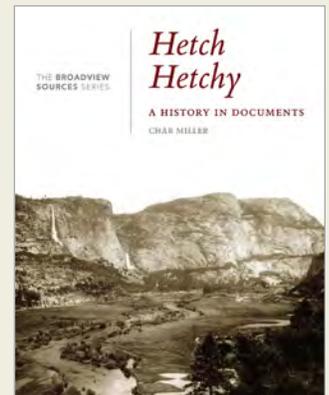
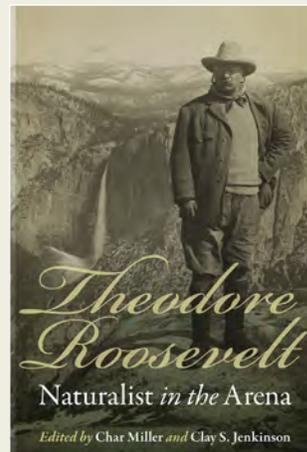
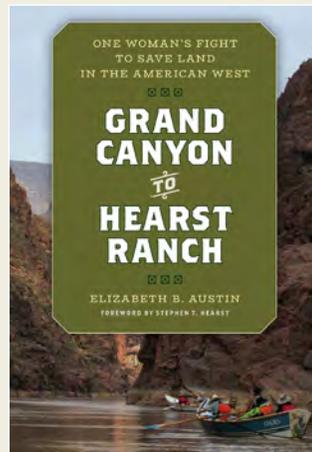
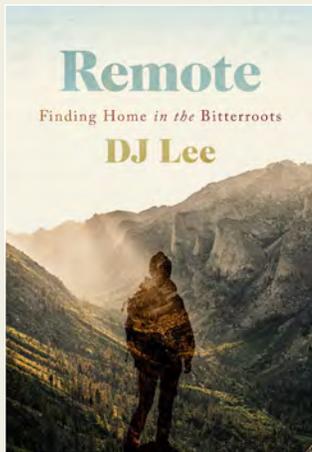
Gloria Brown was the first African American woman to attain the rank of forest supervisor in the U.S. Forest Service. Her memoir, *Black Woman in Green: Gloria Brown and*

*the Unmarked Trail to Forest Service Leadership* (Oregon State University Press, 2020), written with historian Donna Sinclair, traces Brown’s unusual path, starting as an office worker in her native Washington, D.C. Brown also provides her take on the roles of African Americans in the outdoors and in the fields of environmental policy and public lands management.

John Fraley, author of *Rangers, Trappers, and Trailblazers: Early Adventures in Montana’s Bob Marshall Wilderness and Glacier National Park*, goes back to “the Bob” to tell us of *Heroes of the Bob Marshall Wilderness* (Farcountry Press, 2020). He shares the stories of old-timers like Joe Murphy and more recent figures like Smoke Elser, just two of the many people who have ridden, packed, and hiked from

one end of the Bob to the other and helped make the wilderness what it is today. Some stories are about animals, including a rooster named Bob Marshall, the first live chicken to attempt a traverse of the wilderness.

When a friend and mentor disappeared somewhere in the 1.3 million-acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness of Idaho and Montana, DJ Lee went there seeking answers. The disappearance unexpectedly brought an end to Lee’s fifteen-year quest to uncover the buried history of her grandparents and mother, who had lived there years before. Through her story, readers learn some of the history of that rugged, beautiful area. Lee didn’t find all the answers but came away with the touching memoir *Remote: Finding Home in the Bitterroots* (Oregon State University Press, 2020).



In *Grand Canyon to Hearst Ranch: One Woman's Fight to Save Land in the American West* (TwoDot, 2020), Elizabeth Austin explores the life and work of Harriet Hunt Burgess, an influential late-twentieth-century conservationist. A life-changing trip through the Grand Canyon led to her involvement in conservation and her eventual founding of the American Land Conservancy.

A new anthology, *Theodore Roosevelt, Naturalist in the Arena* (University of Nebraska Press, 2020), details Roosevelt's work as a scientist and curator, as well as his exchanges with other leading conservationists of the day and his environmental work as a politician. The essays, selected and edited by Char Miller and Clay S. Jenkinson, establish a critical context for understanding

the conservationist's intellectual response to the natural world, both at home and abroad. They also provide an unflinching look at the social Darwinism sometimes present in Roosevelt's conservation philosophy.

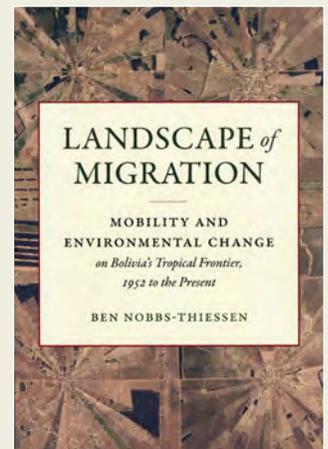
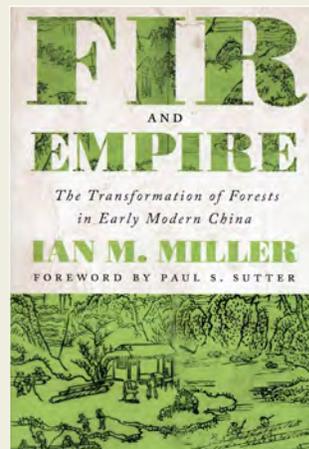
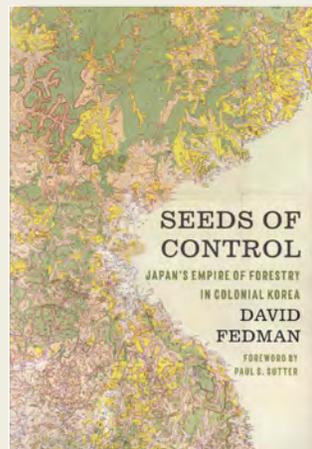
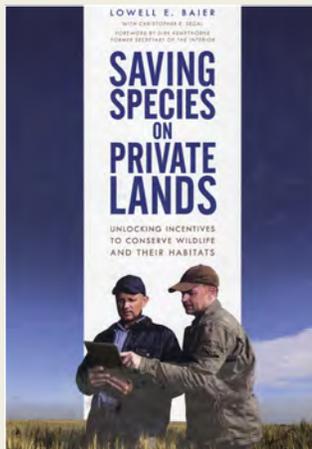
In *Hetch Hetchy: A History in Documents* (Broadview Press, 2020), Char Miller has compiled documents, images, and commentary about the environmental history of the Hetch Hetchy Valley, located inside Yosemite National Park, that spans pre-European incursion to the present. Hetch Hetchy became the subject of national debate in the early 1900s when the federal government proposed building a dam that would flood the valley, a decision opposed by the Sierra Club, led by preservationist John Muir. Debate over removing the dam still continues. Ironically,

the federal government controlled the land only after the forced removal of Native Americans to establish the park in the first place. Interspersed between the four sections covering its long history are image galleries with reproductions of additional documents and historical images that will foster further discussion and examination by students.

Lowell E. Baier's *Saving Species on Private Lands: Unlocking Incentives to Conserve Wildlife and Their Habitats* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2020) is a guide to conserving wildlife on privately owned parcels, where more than seventy-five percent of at-risk species can be found. Baird, an attorney and a legal and environmental historian, introduces readers to land management planning and regulatory compliance with laws, tools to implement conservation on private

lands, and opportunities for financial and technical assistance. The book provides landowners and their partners with a roadmap to achieve conservation compatible with their financial and personal goals.

David Fedman, in *Seeds of Control: Japan's Empire of Forestry in Colonial Korea* (University of Washington Press, 2020), explores Japanese imperialism through the lens of forest conservation in colonial Korea from 1905 until World War II, when the tree planting stopped and natural resource exploitation accelerated. Fedman examines the roots of Japanese ideas about the Korean landscape, how imperial Japan tried to control both the land and the Koreans who lived in or near forests, and the consequences and aftermath of Japanese



approaches to Korean “greenification” that linger still.

In *Fir and Empire: The Transformation of Forests in Early Modern China* (University of Washington Press, 2020), Ian M. Miller charts the rise of timber plantations in China between about 1000 and 1600 CE and demonstrates how this form of forest management relied on private ownership with distant state oversight and taxation. The account overturns the long-held assumption that China’s forest history was simply one of deforestation over centuries. Rather, Miller argues, this novel landscape was created by attempts to incorporate institutional and ecological complexity into a unified imperial state. He suggests that China’s forest system may have worked better than the more familiar European institutions.

*Landscape of Migration: Mobility and Environmental Change on Bolivia’s Tropical Frontier, 1952 to the Present* (University of North Carolina Press, 2020) examines what happened in the wake of a 1952 revolution, when leaders of Bolivia’s National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) embarked on a program of internal colonization. The MNR sought to convert the nation’s “undeveloped” Amazonian frontier into farmland, hoping to achieve food security, territorial integrity, and demographic balance by moving hundreds of thousands of indigenous Bolivians from the Andes to the tropical lowlands. Ben Nobbs-Thiessen details the multifaceted results of this migration on the environment of the South American interior.

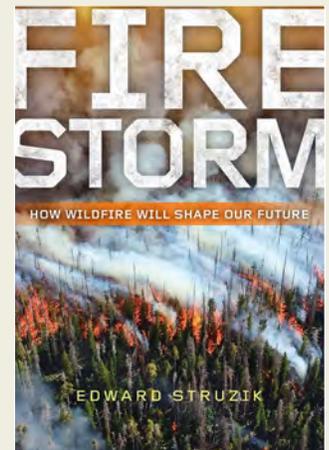
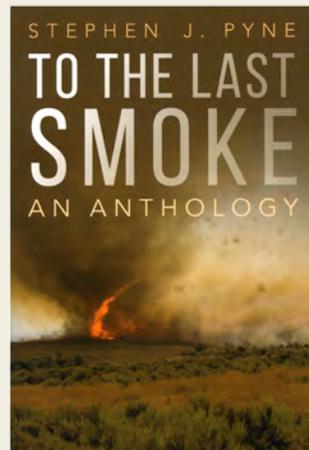
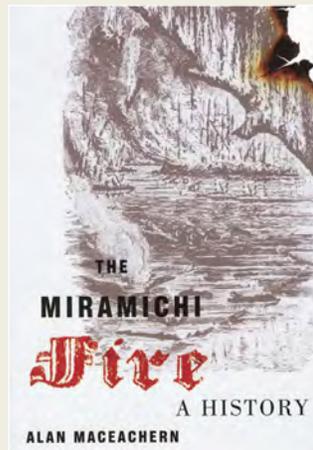
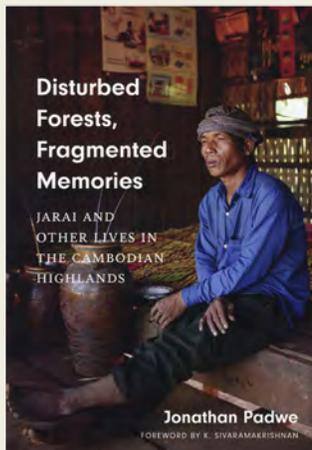
Jonathan Padwe uses anthropology and political ecology to tell

an environmental history story in *Disturbed Forests, Fragmented Memories: Jarai and Other Lives in the Cambodian Highlands* (University of Washington Press, 2020). Focusing on the village of Tang Kadon in the northeast Cambodia highlands, where rice farmers of the Jarai ethnic minority group are trying to rebuild their complex, highly diverse agricultural system after decades of violence and dispossession, Padwe examines the ecological issues from the perspective of the land itself.

The Miramichi Fire of 1825 was the largest wildfire in the British Empire and one of the largest in North American history. In *The Miramichi Fire: A History* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2020), Alan MacEachern reexamines the history of the massive blaze that swept through New Brunswick, Canada,

places it in the context of the changing relationships between humans and nature in colonial British North America, and considers how the fire was mostly lost to historical memory.

In *To the Last Smoke: An Anthology* (University of Arizona Press, 2020), fire historian Stephen J. Pyne concludes his multivolume series on wildfire in the United States. Here are all his best observations on Florida, California, the Northern Rockies, the Great Plains, the Southwest, the Interior West, the Northeast, Alaska, and the Pacific Northwest, to which he adds new ones, in a single, readable volume: it’s like a greatest hits compilation. Edward Struzik looks ahead in *Firestorm: How Wildfire Will Shape Our Future* (Island Press, 2019), a detailed examination of wildfires in the age of climate change.



He warns how rising temperatures, stronger winds, and drier lands are leading to destructive wildfires, and how forest management policy must continue to adapt and evolve.

A fresh alternative to traditional histories, ***The Archaeology of the Logging Industry*** (University Press of Florida, 2020) comes from a retired U.S. Forest Service archeologist who has studied logging sites of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries across the United States and surveyed the archeology research literature. John G. Franzen applies a historical archeological perspective on the technologies used in cutting and processing logs, the environmental effects of harvesting timber, the daily lives of workers and their families, and the social organization of logging communities.

The titles nearly say it all for these books. ***The Baseball Bat: From Trees to the Major Leagues, 19th Century to Today***, by Stephen M. Bratkovich (McFarland & Company, 2020), a retired forester and wood products specialist with the U.S. Forest Service, even discusses the impact of insects and diseases on the wood species used for bats. ***Chainsaws: A History*** (Harbour Publishing, 2020), by David Lee, is an illustrated account of chainsaws from the nineteenth century to the present in Europe and North America. In ***The Conservation Constitution: The Conservation Movement and Constitutional Change, 1870–1930*** (University Press of Kansas, 2019; Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Book Award cowinner), Kimberly K. Smith traces how the first conservation movement

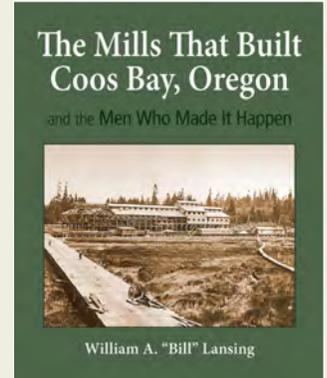
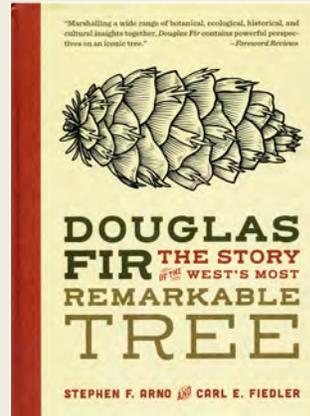
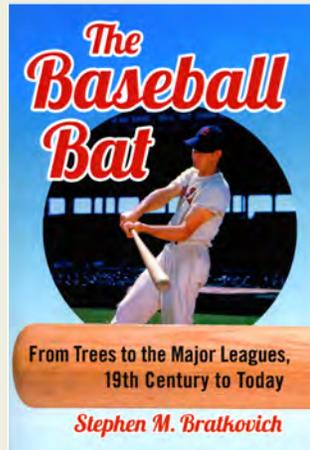
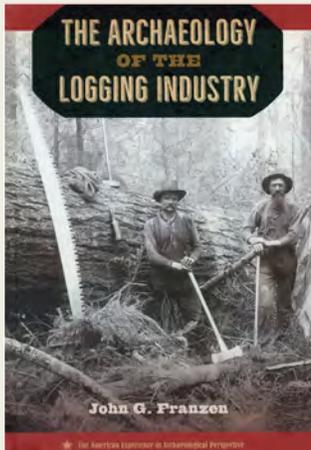
reshaped constitutional doctrine to expand government authority to manage wildlife, forest and water resources, and pollution. ***Douglas Fir: The Story of the West's Most Remarkable Tree***, by Stephen F. Arno and Carl E. Fiedler (Mountaineers Books, 2020), gives the natural and cultural history of one of the most iconic trees of the U.S. West. And ***The Mills That Built Coos Bay, Oregon and the Men Who Made It Happen***, by William A. Lansing (Bridge View Publishing, 2020), thoroughly chronicles that once-critical coastal lumber town, beginning in the mid-1850s.

#### VISUAL MEDIA

Did you know that more people have walked on the moon than have through-hiked the Grand Canyon? In 2016, filmmaker-photographer

Pete McBride and writer Kevin Fedarko set out to hike its 750 miles. Their film ***Into the Canyon*** (Insignia Films Production and Pete McBride, 2020) documents that epic effort and highlights the many threats to the canyon's beauty and integrity posed by various developers.

Beatrix Farrand designed some of the most celebrated gardens in the United States and helped create a distinctive American style in landscape architecture, in part through her use of native plant species. In the film ***Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes*** (Insignia Films Production, 2020), award-winning public garden designer Lynden B. Miller explores the remarkable life and career of America's first female landscape architect, who was one of the eleven founding members, and the only woman, of the



American Society of Landscape Architects.

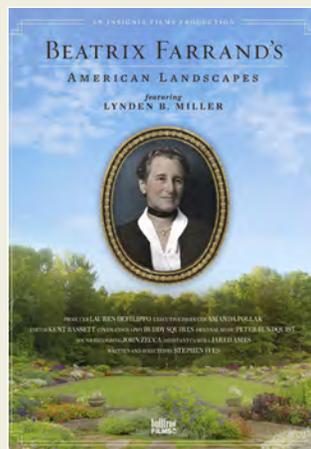
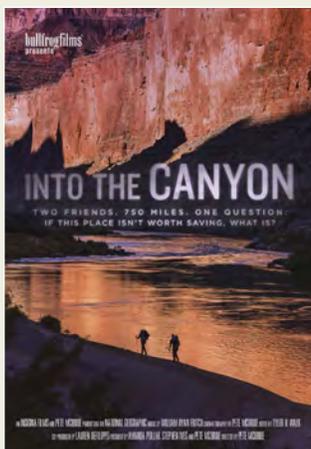
**Chuck Leavell: The Tree Man** (PalMar Studios, 2020) tells the story of the in-demand rock keyboardist who is also an award-winning tree farmer, conservationist, and author of books on forest history and sustainable forestry. Leavell most famously played with the Allman

Brothers and, since 1982, the Rolling Stones. He and his wife were named 1999 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. Among his accolades for his conservation and education efforts is an Honorary Forest Ranger award from the U.S. Forest Service.

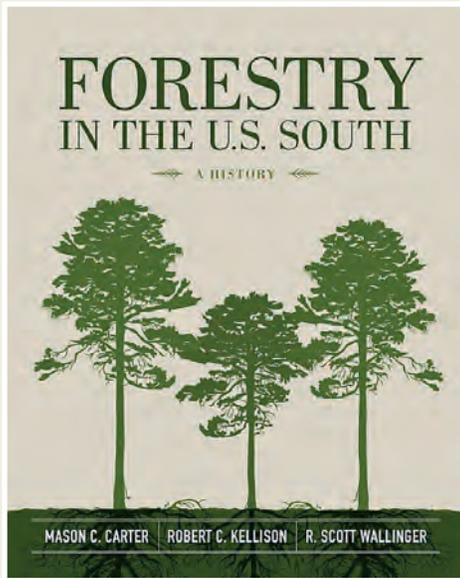
**The West Is Burning** (Landmark Stories at University of Arizona and

Wallowa Resources), a documentary, recounts the history of forest management and litigation in the western United States to help viewers understand why residents now find themselves in an “era of megafire,” as the filmmakers term it. The film goes beyond recent fire history to show the potential for private, public, and nonprofit entities to

restore forestland and communities through collaborative forest stewardship. The film’s website ([westisburning.org](http://westisburning.org)) offers a way to make short films from the documentary’s video footage, plus contact information for organizations working to improve the fire resilience of western forests.



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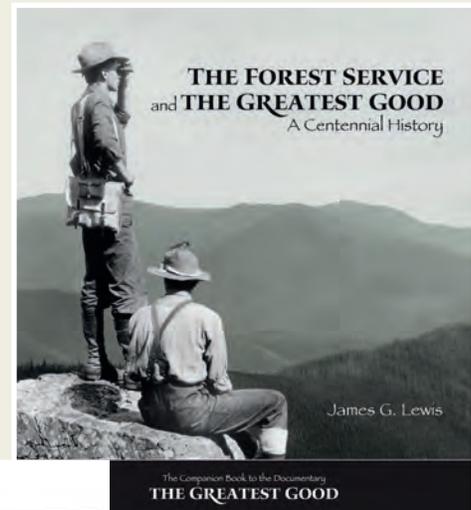
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