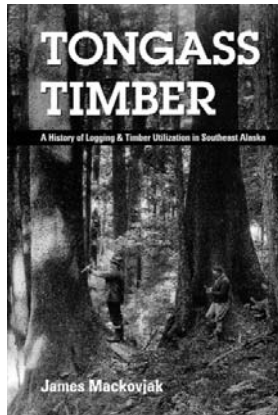


## BOOKS AND FILMS OF INTEREST

By Eben Lehman and James G. Lewis



The rugged forest landscape of southeastern Alaska is given a detailed look in *Tongass Timber: A History of Logging and Timber Utilization in Southeast Alaska* (Forest History Society, 2010) by James Mackovjak. An environmental as well as an economic history, Mackovjak examines the development of the fishing, logging, lumber, wood pulp, and paper industries in southeast Alaska from the time of Russian settlement in the early nineteenth century to the present day. This look at the utilization and management of Alaskan forests provides insights into such topics as wooden salmon crates, the manufacture of World War II airplanes from Sitka spruce, Alaska's importance to the American newspaper industry, and more. The book also details the long history of the U.S. Forest Service in the region, from early forest reserves, to the creation and expansion of the Tongass National Forest, and through the agency's development of a successful forest management system. Also of note are the book's appendices, which include descriptions of logging techniques and technology, as well as brief profiles of every sawmill operating in southeastern Alaska during the early twentieth century. Overall this work provides an excellent narrative of the important connections between human development and Alaska's unique forest landscape. (EL)

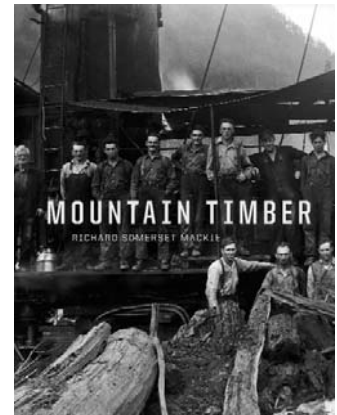
Though residents there call it "the last frontier," Alaska, however, was not the last

of what forest historian Thomas R. Cox calls the "lumberman's frontier," which he says "existed only at times and places where trees drew settlement into an area." The first area to attract lumbermen and those connected to forest industries—those who saw "lumbering as the foundation of their economic welfare"—was in the mid-1600s in what would become southern Maine. In *The Lumberman's Frontier: Three Centuries of Land Use, Society, and Change in America's Forests* (Oregon State University Press, 2010), Cox (a past president of the Forest History Society) follows the spread of these settlements across the continent from colonial-era New England to the upper Midwest, and on to the South and far West, concluding his study in the 1920s. This unique



approach to American history is further bolstered by Cox's use of firsthand accounts, letting the lumbermen speak for themselves and offer their own personal historic narratives. Their stories provide insight into the lives of the individual workers and owners and the local communities tied directly to the spread of the lumber industry. Cox also shows how the lumber industry of this era served as an important bridge in American economic history, taking the country from its agricultural roots into a modern industrialized society. (EL)

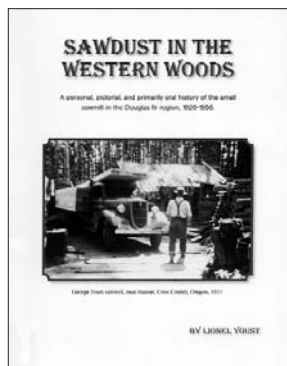
Forest industries were also an integral piece of Canadian history, where early twentieth-



eth-century logging on Vancouver Island helped drive the entire economy of British Columbia. One of the region's largest operations during this time was the one run by the Comox Logging & Railway Company. These operations are at the center of a new book by Richard Somerset Mackie, *Mountain Timber* (Sononis Press, 2009), the second volume of a three-part series tracing the history of the Comox Logging Company. Following *Island Timber* and preceding the forthcoming *Pacific Timber*, this volume follows Comox from the 1920s to the 1940s as the company expanded logging operations into the mountainous terrain in the central part of Vancouver Island. With much of the supply of Douglas-fir along the coast depleted, logging operations moved west and into the mountains where new challenges awaited. The adoption of new technologies such as graded locomotives and high-lead skidding are seen through striking historic photographs. Beautifully illustrated throughout, the book features more than 300 photos, most gathered from various family collections and never before published. With photos on almost every page, as well as additional maps and diagrams, this work is a visual feast for anyone interested in the history of logging operations. While these visuals are impressive on their own, the book's text cannot be overlooked. Drawing from more than 150 interviews conducted by the author with former Comox workers and their families, the nar-

rative provides a social history of early twentieth-century logging communities. The company's employees remain central to the story, and it is their stories that help produce this excellent inside-out look at loggers and their working landscape on Vancouver Island. (EL)

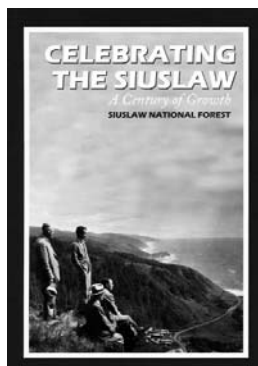
Another firsthand account of logging operations during the early twentieth century can be found in *Sawdust in the Western Woods* (Golden Falls Publishing,



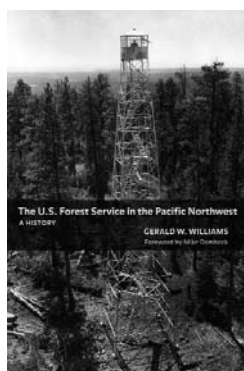
2009) by Lionel Youst. This work examines the history of small sawmills in the Douglas-fir region of the Pacific Northwest and their importance to the timber economy. Drawing from interviews done with the author's father, George Youst, a portable sawmill owner and operator in Oregon and Washington from 1926 to 1956, the book provides a ground-level look at what life was like for the small independent sawmiller. George Youst's career arc follows the growth and development of the portable mill from early internal combustion engines to the proliferation of small sawmills at the end of World War II. Interviews with his contemporaries provide descriptions of technical operations, the search for quality timber, as well as discussion of industry economics and the work of timber brokers. There are also stories about buying second-hand machinery for sawmills and the challenges of working with various crew members. The interview transcripts are annotated and accompanied by historic photos; there is also an original essay on the history of the Gyppo sawmill. Collectively, the interviews provide a revealing firsthand account of what day-to-day life was really like for independent sawmill operators during the early twentieth century. (EL)

The history of the first century of the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest

can be found in two recent books. Ward Tonsfeldt's *Celebrating the Siuslaw: A Century of Growth* (U.S. Forest Service, 2010) traces the development of policy on an individual national forest in the region. Founded in 1908, the Siuslaw National Forest, located in western Oregon, has been the site of many pivotal forest management issues with national implications. Featuring extensive historical photos and maps accompanying the text, this work highlights impor-



tant events in the forest's history such as World War I and the Spruce Production Division, Civilian Conservation Corps building projects, logging and lumber mills, recreation planning, and the environmental movement. One of the most complete histories of an individual forest published in recent years, Tonsfeldt's work also serves as a great accompaniment to Gerald W. Williams's new regional history, *The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History* (Oregon State



University Press, 2009). Williams chronicles more than a century of forest management in the Pacific Northwest (Region 6), or the states of Oregon and Washington, from early conservation efforts during the late nineteenth century through the recent work of the agency in the first decade of the twenty-first century. The book reveals how changes in forest man-

agement in this region reflected changes taking place in the Forest Service throughout the country, and how Region 6's forest policy oftentimes influenced policy decisions on a national level. The narrative provides an excellent regional-level view of the evolution of the Forest Service, taking the reader on a chronological path through early fire protection efforts, the era of industrial forestry, the development of scientific management, and finally decision-making in the face of



increasing environmental constraints. The book also includes additional historic data for Region 6 in the appendices, such as dates of forest establishments and total volumes of timber harvested and sold by year from 1909 to 2007. (EL)

South of Region 6 is the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5). Encompassing the entire states of California and Hawaii, and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands, this region has been at the forefront of many of the changes affecting the Forest Service during the second half of the twentieth century. Former employees tell the region's story in *The Unmarked Trail: Managing National Forests in a Turbulent Era* (U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region, 2009), a collection of oral histories compiled and edited by Victor Geraci and Region 5 Oral History Project volunteers. An inside look at the evolution of the Forest Service in California from the 1960s through the 1990s is provided through interviews with more than 80 former agency employees. Weaving the many voices into a historical narrative, this work collects excerpts from the interviews into thematic chapters on four topics: the timber program, a changing workforce, FIRESCOPE, and communications. Within each topic the firsthand accounts illuminate the complexities of the turbulent time period, and ultimately the important steps

forward made by the agency. Expanding a timber program in the face of environmental protests, managing a workforce lacking women and minorities in positions of leadership, updating emergency management response to deal with increasingly destructive wildfires, and expanding agency public relations efforts were some of the large-scale agency changes initiated in California during this time period. The interviews presented here provide an excellent look at how the region navigated an era of wide-reaching societal changes, and helped bring the Forest Service into the twenty-first century. (EL)

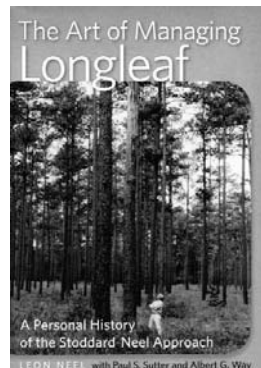
A different federal agency is the subject of James R. Skillen's *The Nation's Largest Landlord: The Bureau of Land Management in the American West* (University Press of Kansas, 2009). Unlike the Forest Service or the National Park Service, there is little book-length scholarship on the history of the agency responsible for administering about 245 million surface acres, as well as 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate, of America's public lands. Skillen remedies that with a comprehensive look at the evolution of the BLM from its founding in 1946 through the consolidation of the General Land Office and the U.S. Grazing Service to the agency's current status. The BLM's search for a defined mission and identity is a theme throughout the book, with the evolving mission complicated by an evolving national interest in public land use. Early on the agency



had difficulties dealing with powerful timber, grazing, and mining commercial interests flexing their muscle, but in the later twentieth century the agency was forced to mediate between the competing interests of resource developers and environmentalists. Founded with a broad mission but limited political power, the BLM has nonetheless had to navigate legislative

complexity, disputes of public versus private property rights, tensions between state and federal government, and conflicting conservation and development interests. Overall the book provides an excellent background to an understanding of current land management issues, as well as the constantly evolving mission of public land administration. (EL)

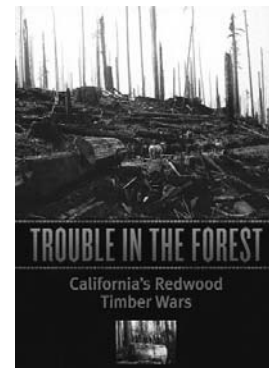
Long before anyone coined the phrase "ecological forestry," Herbert Stoddard pio-



neered a revolutionary forest management system for the longleaf pine of Georgia's coastal plain which closely mirrored natural ecological processes. *The Art of Managing Longleaf: A Personal History of the Stoddard-Neel Approach* (University of Georgia Press, 2010), by Leon Neel, with Paul S. Sutter and Albert G. Way, details the development of this forest management system and demonstrates the importance of the southern longleaf pine environment. The book follows the life of Leon Neel, who worked alongside Stoddard and further refined the management system into what become known as the Stoddard-Neel Method. This management system called for prescribed burning, sustainable timber harvests, and the maintaining of both woodland aesthetics and ecosystem diversity. These principles facilitated the preservation of ecological integrity in longleaf forests while also allowing for frequent timber harvests. While the Stoddard-Neel Method is at the center of the narrative, the book is really about the life of Leon Neel and his love of southern woodlands. Neel couples information on forest management with ecological insights and stories from his life about the land he loves. Especially insightful are the sections discussing his relationship with Stoddard, maybe the most important figure in the history of land management in the Southeast. Neel discusses their work at the Tall

Timbers Research Station in Florida, and their work in Georgia further developing the Stoddard-Neel Method. While the book details forest management practices, it does so without being overly technical. Environmental historians, foresters, land managers, and even casual readers interested in the southern pine landscape will all find the book engaging and informative. (EL)

In 1860 settlers massacred more than one hundred Wiyot Indians in the Humboldt

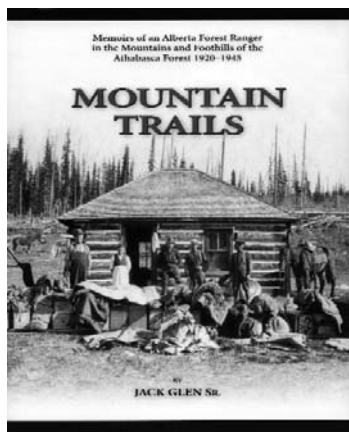


Bay area of Northern California. Richard Widick presents this event as the opening battle in an ongoing 150-year-long struggle for control of this forest landscape. *Trouble in the Forest: California's Redwood Timber Wars* (University of Minnesota Press, 2009) serves as a social history of a natural environment, examining the oftentimes violent conflicts over the Humboldt Bay redwood region in an era of national growth and expansion. Widick argues that capitalist interests provoked these bloody culture wars, and takes the reader through nineteenth-century conflicts over Native Americans land claims, labor strife during the 1930s, and recent environmental conflicts. Modern events such as the death of activist David "Gypsy" Chain, killed by a redwood felled by loggers in 1998, are examined in depth. Throughout the narrative it is the logging companies and corporations that are presented by Widick as the clear villains, with various "forest defenders" as their adversaries. While this particular work does not touch on ecological or forestry issues, it does present an interesting perspective on a long and bloody conflict over one local natural environment. The seemingly endless fight for ownership of this natural resource has produced conflicting views of both capitalist culture and civil disobedience, two important aspects of American history. Even though the region is born from conflict, this book



demonstrates how a physical place can form its own unique social memory. (EL)

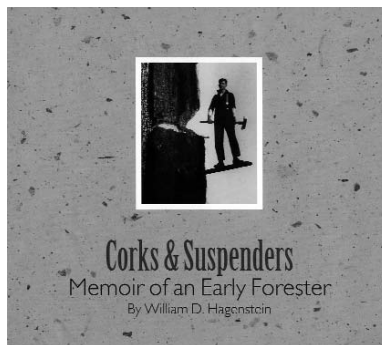
If you enjoyed the 2007 Forest History Society publication *A Hard Road to Travel: Land, Forests, and People in the Upper Athabasca Region* by Peter J. Murphy, then you will also be interested in another work looking at the history of Alberta's Athabasca region: *Mountain Trails: Memoirs of an Alberta Forest Ranger in the Mountains and Foothills of the Athabasca Forest, 1920–1945* (Foothills Research Institute, 2008) by Jack Glen Sr. A firsthand account of the life of an early ranger deep in the wilderness of Alberta, Glen chronicles his work as a forest ranger in the Athabasca area done under the auspices of the Dominion Forestry Branch and the Alberta



Forest Service. Born in Scotland in 1891, Glen moved to Canada and ended up in Entrance, Alberta, in 1920, where he began his career as a forest ranger. Glen kept detailed records of his many experiences and his original manuscript serves as the basis for the text, which is edited and supplemented with photos, maps, and additional historic information. Reading Glen's accounts is enjoyable, and he offers entertaining stories of encounters with grizzly bears and other wildlife, logging work, trail building, and the challenges of harsh weather and an unforgiving landscape. These fascinating accounts also show how Glen was a leading figure in building the foundation for future management of the Athabasca Forest. (EL)

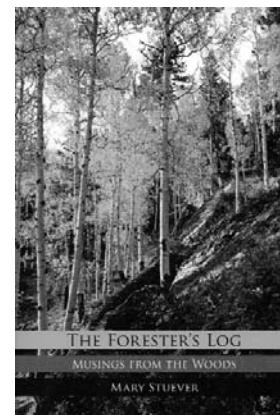
Another new memoir comes from William D. Hagenstein, who chronicles his long forestry career in *Corks & Suspenders: Memoir of an Early Forester* (Dragonfly Press, 2010). Hagenstein, referred to by some as America's most well-known liv-

ing forester, discusses his life and work in stories told in his own unique style. Hooked on work in the forest after a job as a teenager fighting fires on national forests in Idaho for 25 cents an hour, Hagenstein decided to devote his life to the woods. His career took him from fire lines and logging camps to the halls of academia, where he earned a masters degree in forestry, and eventually to the chair of



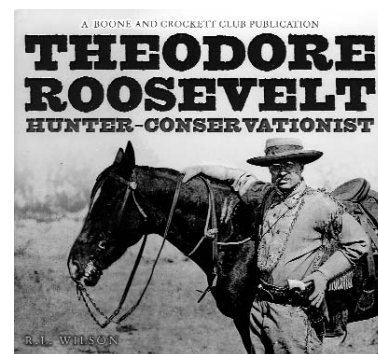
executive vice-president of the Industrial Forestry Association. Hagenstein traces his influential career through a narrative of entertaining stories, anecdotes, knowledgeable insights, and sometimes controversial opinions. He discusses events such as his forestry work in the South Pacific during World War II, his role in establishing the American Tree Farm Program, and his various battles with environmentalists. Of particular interest are the sections of the book recounting his relationship with William B. Greeley, someone who Hagenstein viewed as a father figure. The two shared a close relationship, and Hagenstein details the many lessons and insights he learned while working alongside the legendary forester. The book is enhanced by numerous photos, illustrations, and primary documents accompanying the text. The book is highly entertaining throughout, and reads exactly like sitting down for a long conversation with Hagenstein, a truly unique figure in American forestry. (EL)

While not a memoir, another very personal take on forest issues comes from Mary Stuever's new book *The Forester's Log: Musings from the Woods* (University of New Mexico Press, 2009). Stuever, a timber management officer with New Mexico's EMNRD Forestry Division, brings together a collection of writings from her career in the woods. The more than 100 short essays contained in the book tell the story of a woman working



in the woods, while also touching on important forestry issues from the past 30 years. Involved in a wide range of forestry work—including timber sales, tree planting, fire fighting, and environmental education—Stuever's varied experiences provide exceptional observations on the Southwestern forest environment. The book reads almost as a collection of short stories on various forestry topics, providing engaging debates on fire ecology and forest management. Avoiding overly technical jargon, the book also highlights the importance of healthy forests to a general audience, while also showing her love of forests and passion for her profession. (EL)

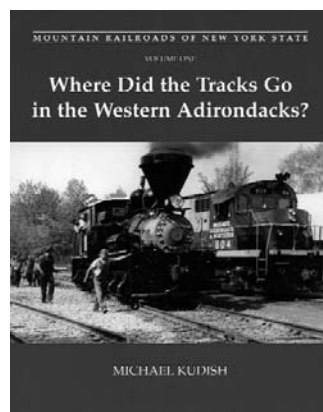
One of American history's larger-than-life figures is the subject of an impressive new biography by R. L. Wilson, *Theodore*



*Roosevelt: Hunter-Conservationist* (Boone and Crockett Club, 2010). "Hunter" and "conservationist" were two dominating strands of Roosevelt's life that were tightly intertwined, both contributing to his lasting legacy as one of America's greatest figures. This illustrated biography captures Theodore Roosevelt's life as sportsman and hunter, and how these experiences helped form his views of the natural world. (Readers may wish to compare it to Douglas Brinkley's massive environ-

mental biography of Roosevelt published last year, *Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America*.) Examining everything from his childhood experiences in the outdoors to his time in the White House and on into his post-presidency overseas hunting expeditions, Wilson reveals the progression and formation of Roosevelt's conservation ethic. Roosevelt developed a deep and personal connection to the natural environment, as well as a detailed knowledge of animal and bird species, through his many hunting experiences and other time spent in the outdoors. The book also showcases the important role played by sportsmen like Roosevelt to preserve America's wilderness and forests. Filled with beautiful illustrations and historic photos, the book's 300 pages put the reader alongside Roosevelt on his many hunting adventures throughout the world. Visually striking throughout, this large volume would serve as a great coffee table book for anyone with an interest in Roosevelt, hunting, or conservation history. (EL)

Those interested in the history of railroads will enjoy a new series from Michael Kudish, *Mountain Railroads of New York State* (Purple Mountain Press, 2005–2009). This three-volume series—



with a fourth and final volume due in 2011—provides a comprehensive look at the history of railroad lines in New York's Adirondack region. Different volumes concentrate on different areas, starting with the western Adirondacks, then the Central Adirondacks, and then the eastern Adirondacks. The fourth volume will cover the Catskills region. The books feature extensive information on the region's many abandoned railroad lines as well as the remaining active ones. Packed full of

detailed maps, route information, and even descriptions of stations, each work in the series serves as a great snapshot of the development of railroads in Upstate New York. Kudish has previously published on the forest history of the Catskills and Adirondacks, and this series shows how railroads, so critical to the development of the region's industrial and tourist trades, were also an important component of the history of the area's forested environment. Either as individual volumes or as an entire set, this series provides a valuable reference tool of New York railroad history. (EL)

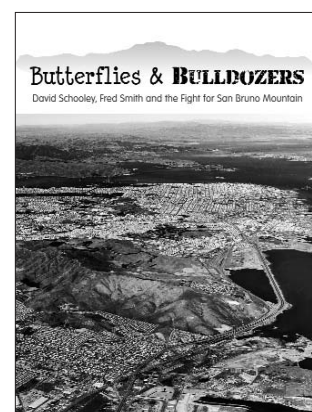
While a student at the Polytechnic School in Montreal in 1904, Gustave C. Piché read a book about the French Forestry School in Nancy, France, and was moved to take action to help the Quebec province avoid the overexploitation of forests and interruptions in the wood supply that many in Canada feared. Shortly thereafter, Quebec's provincial leaders selected Piché and another student to study forestry at Yale University with the intent that they return and establish a forestry service and forestry school in Quebec. After Piché and Avila Bédard graduated in 1905, Piché was appointed forest engineer and Bédard his assistant in Quebec's Department of



Lands, Mines and Fisheries. In 1910, the two foresters established a forestry school at Laval University, with Piché serving as its first director until 1918, when Bédard succeeded him. Although its initial mission was teaching, as the school went along over the next century it added that of research in order to make possible an enlightened management of the nation's forest resources. In *L'Enseignement et la Recherche en Foresterie à l'Université Laval: De 1910 à nos jours* (Teaching and Research

in Forestry at Laval University from 1910 to the Present) (Société d'histoire forestière du Québec, 2010) Cyrille Gelin captures the school's difficult birth and century-long struggle for survival along with that of Quebec's forestry service in this French-language history. The publisher hopes to produce an English-language translation soon; in either language it is a welcome addition to the growing literature on Canadian forestry education. (JGL)

The site of the nation's first Habitat Conservation Plan is the subject of a new documentary film from Ann and Steve Dunskey, two of the members of *The Greatest Good: A Forest Service Centennial Film* production team. *Butterflies & Bulldozers: David Schooley, Fred Smith and the Fight for San Bruno Mountain* (www.butterflies-andbulldozers.com, 2010) deals with the central dilemma of human growth versus habitat preservation, of property rights versus the rights of other species. San Bruno Mountain in San Francisco, California, provides a context to explore these complex questions. The mountain represents the city's lost landscape, a mostly intact remnant of the ecosystem that once covered the hills of that city. The battle that began more than a half-century ago to protect San Bruno and its

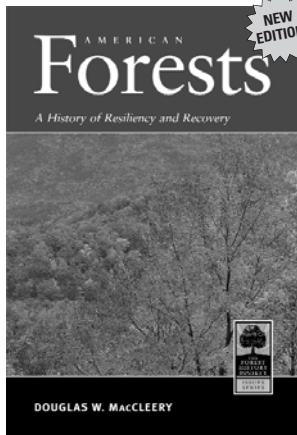


rare butterflies from development led to the Habitat Conservation Plan, a controversial compromise that trades development rights for increased preservation and management on private lands. The filmmakers do not seek to answer the question of rights, but to tell a compelling story that captures the sometimes painful choices that the local conservationists have to make. Though the film is about a local issue, it is a national story told well. (JGL) □

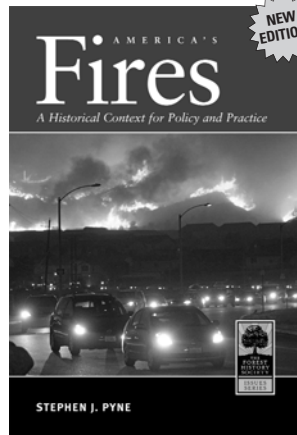


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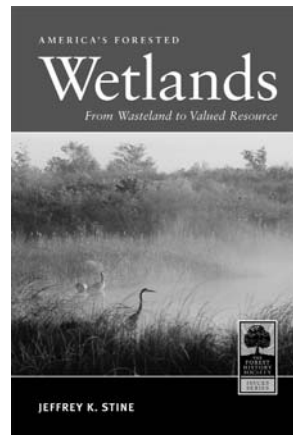
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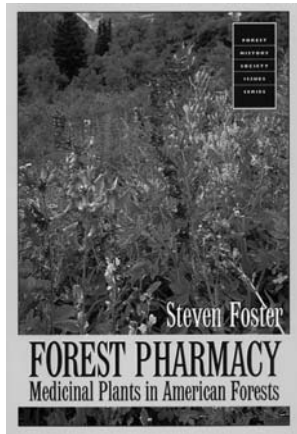
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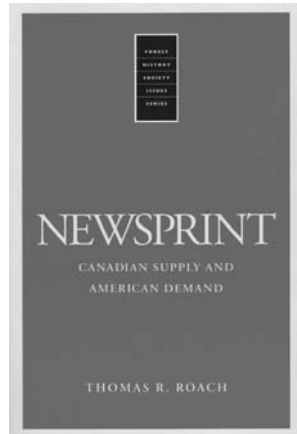
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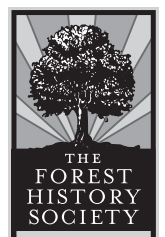
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