

briefly touches on forest ecology, forest restoration, and tropical forests. It is a highly readable and engaging volume for a general audience, with nearly 100 pages of photographs as well as a useful glossary. The book seems aimed at motivating readers to work to counter the many abuses of public forest lands in the United States.

It is important to note, however, that the title is much broader than the subject matter covered. With the exception of one brief, somewhat outdated chapter on tropical forest conservation, the author discusses policy, ecology, and management of U.S. forests, and primarily forests in the western part of the country. Moreover, I found the detail on topics quite uneven and idiosyncratic. For example, the volume includes over 20 pages on the single case study of the long battle to protect the old growth redwood Headwaters Forest Complex in northwestern California, which is the same amount of space spent in total discussing tropical forests. In contrast, the book includes only a few pages with a narrow and cursory discussion of forest restoration methods, despite the inclusion of the term in the title and the growing range of work in this area.

I think that this volume will be well suited to the forest activist audience for which is intended. Selected sections, in particular those on the history of U.S. forest policy, would be useful as supplementary readings for a range of forestry-related courses at universities in the United States.

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LIVING WITH FIRE: FIRE ECOLOGY AND POLICY FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

By Sara E. Jensen and Guy R. McPherson. Berkeley (California): University of California Press. \$29.95. ix + 180 p.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-520-25589-0. 2008.

This is a well-written polemic about the failure of fire policy and management in the United States. The book contains enough ecology and history for nonspecialists to understand the complexities of the policy and management dilemmas that we face today. The authors provide a particularly good treatment of the diversity of roles that fire plays in different ecosystems, and of the multitude of factors that have been contributing to alarming changes in some fire regimes. They are careful to explain that fire suppression has not impacted fire regimes everywhere, and discuss how logging, residential development, livestock grazing, nonnative plant invasions, and climate change have also contributed to undesirable changes in the frequency and severity of fires. After addressing these complexities, the authors describe an inadequate federal fire policy and a funding structure that encourages

fire suppression. They sharply criticize the Bush administration's Healthy Forests Initiative and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act for oversimplifying the solution to managing fuels and for being undemocratic. At the same time, the authors applaud the Federal Fire Policy of 1995 (updated in 2001) for emphasizing principles of firefighter safety, the beneficial role of fire, and the need to use a full range of tools and management strategies. Ultimately, the authors offer a recommendation for a unifying national-level policy that deemphasizes funding for fire suppression. They suggest forest thinning activities be concentrated in the wildland-urban interface and that fires be allowed to burn where people do not live. Careful to make the point that a one-size-fits-all solution does not exist, they recommend that sufficient control be given local fire managers who must manage a diversity of environments.

Rapidly changing fire policy and procedures could make some arguments moot, but the historical and philosophical context provided by this book should remain highly relevant. There is ample discussion material for either undergraduate- or graduate-level seminars as well as 30 pages of endnotes to steer curious readers to additional resources. Those who are interested in being more critical consumers of a news media that simplifies and hyperbolizes the fire story will find this an interesting and valuable read.

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EVOLUTION

COALESCENT THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION.

By John Wakeley. Greenwood Village (Colorado): Roberts & Company Publishers. \$59.95 (paper). xiii + 326 p.; ill.; author and subject indexes. ISBN: 978-0-9747077-5-4. 2009.

During the last 20 years, the field of population genetics has undergone a radical transformation. Prior to the 1990s, the focus of theoretical population genetics was on "prospective" modeling (predicting evolution with time's arrow pointing from past to present) using the diffusion theory of allele frequency evolution. The available amount of population genetic data remained very limited (mostly allozyme polymorphisms) until the 1990s and modeling was, therefore, aimed at predicting the relative importance of various evolutionary forces such as genetic drift, migration, and selection in determining the degree of genetic varia-