

Review by James Lewis, historian. Author of *The Forest Service and the Greatest Good: A Centennial History*. Editor of *Forest History Today* since 2007.

## BOOKS OF INTEREST

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by Eben Lehman and James G. Lewis

Though not everyone is willing to put in the time to write a memoir, many people in U.S. land-management agencies nonetheless have careers and experiences worth sharing. Lauren Turner, a former career U.S. Forest Service employee, has done a great service for historians and others interested in the history of women in the Forest Service by interviewing 41 women who worked outdoor jobs at some point in their careers at every level of the agency. She asked each woman the same core questions, which they answered either by email or in telephone conversations. Instead of reprinting edited transcripts, Turner wove the answers into biographical sketches in which each woman's personality comes through, making **Outdoor Women Inside the Forest Service, 1971–2018** (McDonald & Woodward Publishing, 2018) an engaging and revelatory book. The chapters follow the agency's basic organizational chart, grouping the careers of technicians, district-level natural resource professionals, forest-level natural resource professionals, and so forth, up through the line officers. In her concluding chapter, "Retrospective and Prospect," Turner recaps the history these women lived through and made, using their own words. She then summarizes the pros and cons of working for the Forest Service from the perspective of the women interviewed, offering some hints as to why working for the agency may not be an attractive career option for many of today's young women. Turner more explicitly discusses the issues facing the agency today, such as sexual harassment, declining budgets, and institutionalized racial and gender bias, and their effects on women in the agency—and on the agency itself. And yet the majority of the women interviewed expressed support for those contemplating a career with the agency because of their deeply held belief in its mission. (JL)