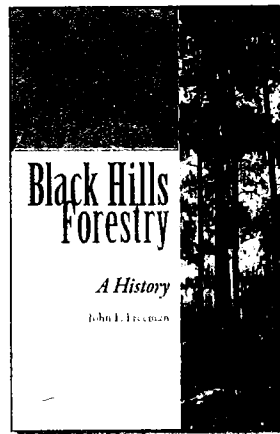


drawing conclusions, possibly from the memoir itself but also from the sources available to her today such as newspaper accounts. A more generous use of the actual text would make for a more enticing history. Additionally, images of the manuscript would be a welcome addition to the illustrations.

All told, this is a fine general history of the Wylie Camping Company from Mr. Wylie's initial intrigue about the region through his life beyond Yellowstone. The personal story found on these pages provides a better understanding of what it was like to be a pioneer entrepreneur in the American West. It would certainly be of general interest to those who love Yellowstone's cultural heritage and provides a glimpse into the efforts and experiments that contributed to the operation of a western resort area.

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Black Hills Forestry: A History. By John F. Freeman. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2015. xvi + 246 pages. Map, illustrations, bibliography, index. Hardcover, \$34.95.

By the 2000s, Black Hills Ranger Robert Johnson told visitors that no point within his district was farther than three miles from private land, an indication of the extent of private development in the national forest. In a long overdue study, John F. Freeman brings a passion for Ponderosa pine and a close analysis of policy to bear in a chronological narrative of the Black Hills National Forest from the 1870s to the present. Positioning the Black Hills as “arguably the most commercialized national forest in the nation,” Freeman maintains that federal management has lived up to the utilitarian hopes of Gifford Pinchot by balancing the disparate demands of scientific foresters, local timber companies, and a growing public presence in and

around the National Forest (p. ix).

In one of his first acts as the chief of the Division of Forestry, Gifford Pinchot dispatched an assistant to the Black Hills to assess the potential for federal management of the forest reserve. Up until that point, timbering relating to underground mining at the Homestake Mining Company or at various sawmills in the region occurred without limit, resulting in deforestation. Freeman carefully delineates the development of the forest service ideal of utilitarian conservation under Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, featuring the Black Hills in the story, asserting that the Black Hills received the first federal management and the first comprehensive management plan. For the later half of the twentieth century, public comment and the creation of what would become Black Elk Wilderness area dominate Forest Service decisions and Freeman's text, while fire suppression and timber harvesting continued to be federal management priorities. Freeman concludes that federal management has provided for economic development alongside forest health, while noting challenges including the mountain pine beetle infestation.

Since the gold rush of 1876 and continuing into

the present with millions of summer tourists, forestry has long been one of many commercial developments in the Black Hills. Freeman characterizes South Dakota's aggressive cultivation of tourist amenities spearheaded by Peter Norbeck in the 1920s as an intrusion into the national forest, though federal amenity development continued in the 1930s, ultimately including Mt. Rushmore. After World War Two, Black Hills tourism achieves greater economic impact, just as federal forest management begins reversing previous federal policy to emphasize multiple-use, balancing forestry with recreation. This book utilizes an administrative focus on the impact to forestry management, highlighting the conflicts between environmental activists and timbering interests.

The product of considerable archival research, *Black Hills Forestry* mines the official record of the Forest Service and related government documents, bolstered with local newspapers and secondary sources. Freeman is most effective and comfortable when discussing policy and management plans, carefully noting intra-agency conflicts among the multiple and conflicting demands of timber, cattle, and recreational interests.

Filled with high-quality black and white images documenting forest conditions over time, this volume succeeds as a history of the national forest and adds a revealing case study to the debate about privatizing federal lands. While the policy focus may lessen its appeal to casual readers, specialists and researchers of South Dakota, the Black Hills, the U.S. Forest Service, and forest history more broadly will find this book a welcome addition.

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