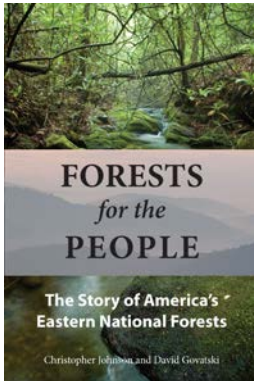




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT
EMAIL
WEBSITE

www.islandpress.org



PRESS RELEASE

FORESTS FOR THE PEOPLE

The Story of America's Eastern National Forests

by Christopher Johnson and David Govatski

Washington, DC (January 2013) — The great natural spaces of the West—Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks, the Grand Canyon, Olympic and Sequoia National Forests—often overshadow their eastern counterparts, but the forests east of the Mississippi River hold a beauty all their own. Despite their ecological, aesthetic, and recreational importance, the future of these lands was uncertain until the passage of the historic Weeks Act a century ago—a law that established the national forests in the Eastern United States.

In *Forests for the People: The Story of America's Eastern National Forests*, writer **Christopher Johnson** and forester **David Govatski** team up to tell the story of the history of that landmark legislation and its successors, how it paved the way for the survival of eastern forests, and the lessons it offers for those looking to preserve the future of these important natural resources. Coupled with current narratives detailing how forest managers from across the region are meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century, this new book offers insight into both the past and the future of eastern forests.

Forests for the People begins in the late 1890s, when timber companies, abetted by railroads and industrialization, began to make clearcutting the default fate of forests. Driven by frustration at what they saw as forest mismanagement, outdoor activists, progressive politicians, and sustainability-minded businessmen worked together to lobby Congress to fund the purchase of more than four million acres of forest in New Hampshire's White Mountains and the southern Appalachians in what was known as the Weeks Act.

In the book's second part, Johnson and Govatski trace the challenges eastern national forests have faced since their establishment, from the reintroduction of wolves in the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests of Michigan to navigating the competing interests involved in oil shale drilling in the Allegheny Forest of Pennsylvania. The authors show how the national forest system has evolved and continues to evolve to face each new challenge, as well as the importance of both experienced foresters and concerned locals in guiding forest management policy.

Throughout the book, Johnson and Govatski offer a tour of the natural glories of the eastern United States, as well as a moving reminder that dedicated forest lovers with a little political savvy can make a real difference to save the places they cherish.

Christopher Johnson writes on conservation issues and is the author of *This Grand and Magnificent Place: The Wilderness Heritage of the White Mountains*. **David Govatski** retired from the U.S. Forest Service after a career as a forester, silviculturist, and fire management officer on several national forests.

Forests for the People: The Story of America's Eastern National Forests

By Christopher Johnson and David Govatski

Island Press Paperback and E-Book

326 pages | Price: \$ 35.00

ISBN: 978-1-61091-010-1 (P)

www.islandpress.org

Founded in 1984, Island Press works to stimulate, shape, and communicate the information that is essential for solving environmental problems. Today, with more than 800 titles in print and some 40 new releases each year, it is the nation's leading publisher of books on environmental issues. But Island Press does more than publish books. It advances environmental science by nurturing the exchange of ideas across disciplines and sectors, and by helping to create a multidisciplinary literature on environmental problems and solutions. The knowledge created is spread far beyond the range of a limited marketplace through sophisticated communications initiatives that reach journalists, academics, policymakers, practitioners and the general public. Through these efforts, Island Press is driving change by moving ideas from the printed page to public discourse and practice. Island Press's emphasis is, and will continue to be, on transforming objective information into understanding and action. For more information and further updates be sure to check out our blogs and podcasts at www.islandpress.org.

###