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Historical Ecology of Cultural Landscapes in the Pacific Northwest

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The Pacific Northwest (PNW), sometimes referred to as Cascadia, is a geographic region in western North America bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west and (loosely) by the Rocky Mountains on the east. Though no official boundary exists, the most common conception includes the Canadian province of British Columbia (BC) and the U.S. states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Broader conceptions reach north into Southeast Alaska and Yukon, south into northern California, and east to the Continental Divide. In the Pacific Northwest, the retreat of glacial ice created a landscape of stagnant ice and glacial meltwater debris in northern Washington, Idaho, and western Montana. This region was colonized by the biota that survived in the unglaciated region to the south, along the exposed coastal shelf, and in the highlands. What environmental controls shaped the subsequent development of modern forests within both the glaciated and unglaciated regions? In what ways have present-day vegetation and plant communities in the Pacific Northwest been influenced by long-term changes in climate, substrate, biological interactions, and natural disturbance? Present patterns of biodiversity in the Pacific Northwest represent the culmination of.

Exceptional Mountains is a cultural history of the Northwest volcanoes and the environmental impact of outdoor recreation in this region. In the Pacific Northwest, the volcanoes form, for many, one strand of regional identity. Because of that strand, admirers and users need to adopt new habits and influence agency personnel to modify wilderness mandates while rebalancing the fraught tension between access and resource preservation (e.g., "wilderness experience"). the increasing scale of skiing, hiking, and mountaineering has changed the face of the volcanoes, especially at the convergence points (e.g., standard routes), where they've.

Author:
[Armstrong, Chelsey Geralda Denise](#)

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Abstract:

Historical ecology is a research program dedicated to uncovering the complex interactions between humans, their lived landscapes, and the repercussions of those relationships on contemporary social-ecological ecosystems. Cultural landscapes can exhibit multifaceted and complex elements that require a creative and novel scientific approach to be understood. A historical-ecological approach iteratively fuses scientific methods in archaeology, biology, paleoecology, and environmental history, with Indigenous research methodologies. Using the Pacific Northwest as a focus, this dissertation addresses the applicative future of historical-ecological research. Four interrelated research contributions are compiled to represent both the broad theoretical applications of historical ecology in a global context, as well as more regionally focused and explicit methodological contributions. In two papers, results from a consensus-driven, priority-setting exercise and literature review, suggest that the future of historical ecology will have implications for policy, stewardship, and decolonizing attitudes towards resource management and climate change research. In a third paper, ethnographic interviews are used to navigate a nexus of federated knowledge surrounding the management of perennial species like hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) and Pacific crabapple (*Malus fusca*) in British Columbia (BC). This work shows that, while the legacy of colonialism has disorganizing effects on Indigenous communities, Indigenous people have distinct traditional ecological knowledge relating to the management of their ancestral homelands. The fourth paper builds on this work by applying a functional ecological approach to analyze anthropogenic forests from archaeological village sites in BC. This analysis illustrates how Indigenous land-use legacies lead to distinct biodiverse ecosystem functions and services. The wide range of co-authors from various fields, institutions, and Indigenous communities in all these papers exemplifies the multidisciplinary and versatile nature of the historical-ecological approach. This dissertation shows that environmental research requires the equitable consilience of multiple voices and

disciplines for a future that is socially and environmentally just.

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Dana Lepofsky

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