

Books

U.S. Forest Service Retiree Lauren Turner Shares Her 30-year Career Perspective in *Outdoor Women inside the Forest Service, 1971-2018*

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Lauren Turner's new book will draw many readers. *Outdoor Women Inside the Forest Service, 1971-2018* profiles the careers of 42 women in professions uncommon to their gender. Lauren weaves in Forest Service history and the changing demographics through the decades. This book surprised me. Who were all these women?

When I started as a junior forester, there weren't any others for miles around. After a while, I needed some female company. I tried the Tupperware party thing. Not for me. You start stalking women in other agencies, distant offices, meetings, book clubs, etc. And here in this book are all these women who also wore boots and hardhats to work, studied insects, could pack and ride a horse, jumped out of airplanes into fires, hooted for owls in old growth forests, not only could read maps but make maps, could back a trailer and change a tire. They were out there the same time I was thinking I was the Lone Ranger.

It wasn't always easy. Some of the stories describe hardships in the workplace or in the work/life balance. Opportunities for training and advancement were not always equitably provided. Oversight of workplace communications and interplay was in-consistent. Fire camp and other travel sometimes got out of control. There is no limit to the number of jerks put upon this earth, even inside the Forest Service.

You will find in these stories a number of women who chose to do it all. They chose careers, life partners, and children. The testament to how well this worked out is to visit with the off-spring—some of the most put-together young people around. They know as little ones they can do anything they are willing to work hard for. They love the out-of-doors and have an innate sense of conservation.

As I write this, I sit at the shore of Lake Mead, 140 feet below full pool. Read Lauren Turner's book. It doesn't include every story, but it includes a range that encompasses the tremendous transitions made in the U.S. Forest Service from 1971 to 2018.

Outdoor Women inside the Forest Service, 1971-2018, by Lauren Turner (ISBN-13 978-1935778455), 466 pages, paperback, published November 15, 2018, by McDonald & Woodward Publishing at \$29.95, is available online from Amazon.com or from McDonald & Woodward Publishing, 695 Tall Oaks Drive, Newark, Ohio; 740-641-2691 or toll free 800-233-8787; or at <mwpubco@mwpubco.com>.