Two recently-published memoirs by women ecologists are Not Just Trees: The Legacy of a Douglas-fir Forest (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 1999; cloth $35.00, paper $22.95), by Jane Claire Dirks-Edmunds, and Life in the Treetops: Adventures of a Woman in Field Biology (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1999; cloth $27.50) by Margaret D. Lowman. In Not Just Trees Dirks-Edmunds discusses her years of researching the ecology of an old-growth forest in the Saddle Bag Mountain region of Oregon from the 1930s to the 1990s. Her study of the ecological history of this region spans more than sixty years and documents changes in the flora and fauna of the Douglas-fir forests of Oregon throughout much of the twentieth century. Life in the Treetops is an autobiographical account of the work and family life of Margaret Lowman (b. 1953), an American ecologist who has studied forest canopy ecology in Africa, Australia, Central America, South America, and the United States during the past few decades. The book describes her struggles to successfully combine the duties of an ecologist with the responsibilities of motherhood.

Nameless Towns: Texas Sawmill Communities, 1880–1942 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1998; cloth $37.50, paper $18.95) by Thad Sitton and James H. Conrad examines the social history of everyday life in company-run sawmill towns in eastern Texas from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The authors of this book conducted oral history interviews and researched lumber company records and other archival sources to recreate the colorful cultural history of small Texas communities run by large lumber companies. The text describes the different types of logging and sawmilling jobs, the general layout of company towns, and the recreational activities in which people engaged.

Boxing the Compass: The Life and Times of Edmund Hayes (Salem, OR.: Lynx
thought exhibited by these women and
demonstrate the ways in which their
work influenced popular attitudes
toward nature.

Stepping Back to Look Forward: A History of the Massachusetts Forests (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, $24.95), edited by Charles H.W. Foster, is a timely and unique collection of essays from the Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA. It tells the story of conservation, use, and changes in Massachusetts forest over time. Beginning with a definitive account of ecology and land-use, the book traces the development of pre-settlement, colonial, and post-Revolutionary War forest practices, and concludes with recommendations as to how history might be used to inform and shape future policy.

Managing Multiple Uses on National Forests, 1905–1995: A 90-year Learning Experience and it isn’t Finished Yet. USDA Forest Service FS-628, 1998; contact: Office of Communications, Publications, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090-6090; (202) 205-0957; single copies free. Dr. John Fedkiw, policy advisor to the USDA Secretary for 28 years, brings 50 years experience as a natural resource teacher and professional to bear in this detailed account of the evolution of management on National Forest lands. The book addresses the conflicts openly, reports accomplishments factually, and opens the door to new learning and management experiences. The 284-page publication traces the history of the National Forests from the Organic Act of 1897 to the adoption of ecosystem management in 1993.

In his 1997 book Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1997; cloth $35.00; paper $14.95), National Park Service historian Richard West Sellars examines the history of park management policy and biological conservation in U.S. national parks since the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872. The book’s seven chapters address such topics as fire management, predator control, wildlife management, and conflicting ideas about the value of national park resources. Focusing on the decades after the official establishment of the U.S. National Park Service in 1916, Sellars studies attitudes toward the national parks, their use and management, and the formulation and evolution of Park Service policy. Comprehensive in scope, this in-depth, thoroughly-researched tome traces the history of this federal agency’s struggle to achieve its contradictory missions of preserving nature and providing access to park resources for recreational use.