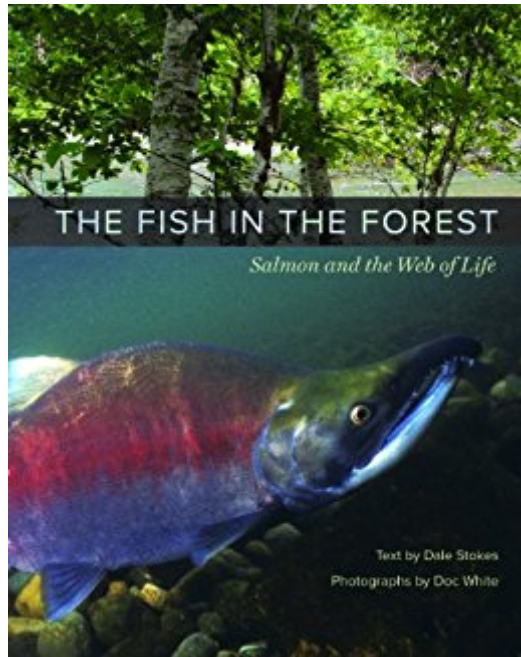




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The Fish In The Forest: Salmon And The Web Of Life



Synopsis

The Fish in the Forest is an elegantly written, beautifully illustrated exploration of the complex web of relationships between the salmon of the Pacific Northwest and the surrounding ecosystem. Dale Stokes shows how nearly all aspects of this fragile ecosystem—from streambeds to treetops, from sea urchins to orcas to bears, from rain forests to kelp forests—are intimately linked with the biology of the Pacific salmon. Illustrated with 70 stunning color photographs by Doc White, The Fish in the Forest demonstrates how the cycling of nutrients between the ocean and the land, mediated by the life and death of the salmon, is not only key to understanding the landscape of the north Pacific coast, but is also a powerful metaphor for all of life on earth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Good, but photos need work

This is well-written and excellently illustrated. It looks at salmon and Pacific temperate rainforest,

and the general area of Pacific salmon species migrations--Northern California to Korea. The main point is the very complex interactions involving salmon. Salmon migrate upstream and are eaten or die, and essentially bring back a very large amount of nitrogen and phosphorus from the ocean, which spreads through interlocking food webs fertilizing the forest and improving primary productivity, so to speak. He estimates that before the commercial fishing era, and here he seems to be speaking of the Pacific Northwest up to Alaska, that spawning salmon transported 7,000 tons of elemental nitrogen and 1,000 tons of phosphorus each year. The fish in the forest is this. This description may seem a bit like chemistry, and it is, but the book is well done and deserves a reading by anyone interested in the links among ecosystems.

Good ecologists talk about the importance of understanding relationships and some of the better ones attempt to measure strong and weak interactions. Written for a lay audience, this book does a wonderful job of describing how different populations relate to each other by focusing on how salmon flow through several ecosystems. With excellent prose and beautiful photos this book describes in great detail how salmon influence the terrestrial, riverine, and marine ecosystems, how their presence cascades through nature. Stokes weaves this story with a clarity that rivals and possibly surpasses that of Leopold, Ricketts, and Muir. This is a book for all seasons and all audiences.

This is a well written book...it really causes the reader to pause and think about how so many aspects of life are linked. I really enjoyed reading it. The writing is excellent and the pictures are beautiful.

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