



# The Final Forest: The Battle for the Last Great Trees of the Pacific Northwest

*William Dietrich*

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In a riveting exploration of our connection to all that we cherish and exploit on Earth, a Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent for The Seattle Times examines the human side of the struggle that looms as the fate of our forests is determined.

## The Final Forest: The Battle for the Last Great Trees of the Pacific Northwest Details

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Author : William Dietrich

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## **From Reader Review The Final Forest: The Battle for the Last Great Trees of the Pacific Northwest for online ebook**

### **Ericacapuana says**

This is an excellent account of the logging wars that went on in the Pacific Northwest. Dietrich does a nice job interviewing the main characters and showing the issue from multiple angles. It would be interesting if there was a followup as it was written in 92.

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### **Stasia says**

A very balanced perspective on logging in the Pacific Northwest--which sounds boring, but is actually quite interesting;) It dragged a little in parts, particularly the parts where Deitrich threw out a whole bunch of numbers and statistics, but that's more a statement about what I'm interested in (big picture, not numbers;) than the worth or interest of the book.

Plus, how cool is it to learn about stuff that was going on in your own backyard?

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### **Jackiejjj says**

No matter your opinion when you begin this book, I believe you'll find food for thought somewhere in it. It presents many ways to consider the forest and forestry, nature, forest workers, federal agencies, owls, personal bondings with nature and the forest (by loggers, foresters, environmentalists) impacts on people and the land. This is a complicated subject well researched and described.

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### **Jess says**

If you are curious at all about the Spotted Owl and forestry in Washington, this is a good book to read. It presents both sides of the story in a(sometimes frustrating)fairly unbiased view. I highly recommend it.

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### **Matt Theis says**

Was nice to hear descriptions of the problem/solutions from different viewpoints, from industry to environmentalists to the forest service. Learned a lot about logging and the dramatic changes that took place in the industry from 1970-1992.

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### **Don Kent says**

This book changed my one sided opinion about the timber industry and the Spotted Owl. It was a good look

at both sides of an ecological issue--both the environmental and the social.

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### **Christian Houser says**

Overall, I felt that the viewpoint of each side of the argument was well represented. Although, I felt that the author definitely provided more arguments from the environmentalist viewpoint than the viewpoint of industry. I feel that this book is better suited for those that are unfamiliar with the timber industry and the challenges they face meeting conservation goals as well as timber demand. In full disclosure I work as a forester and this book wasn't entirely new information to me, hence why I didn't give it 5 stars.

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### **Coho Cabin says**

Both educational and emotional.

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### **FrankO says**

Good book about the old growth forests in the Pacific Northwest and the people that worked in them, the forest scientists, and the people that advocated for their preservation. It really breaks my heart that so much old growth was logged with the idea that second growth managed for timber was the way to go. With my ankle situation, I haven't been to real old growth for a log time (except for the California redwoods, but there was little solitude there).

I liked reading the 2010 edition with a new introduction and afterward by the author. I was expecting more in the afterward, but it was good to know how the characters in the original 1992 edition fared.

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### **Joe Donley says**

This was a wonderful and balanced look at the controversies surrounding forestry and the timber industry in the last quarter of the 20th century. There were so many interesting characters, and the updates he added in 2010 addressing Twilight and where everyone is now were intriguing. I highly recommend reading this if you love the outdoors. It will give you something to think about as a consumer of high quality wood products.

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### **Laurel says**

Fascinating stuff. Somewhat of a history of the Olympic Peninsula, which I didn't expect but was excited to read. It was fun for me to read about the spotted owl debate of the 80s and 90s while hooting for spotted owls. Was educational and at times upsetting. A few slow parts in the middle (not really interested in the politics of the logging debate). I think this should be required reading for anyone living on the peninsula or who has an opinion about or interest in logging and the spotted owl.

### **Laura says**

Read this right before going out the Hoh Rainforest on the Olympic peninsula, and even staying in Forks for the night. An amazing snapshot of all the types of people, from logging truck drivers to big time environmental activists, that tie into the controversy over old growth logging. Dietrich's writing is clear and beautiful, covering the entire history of the Olympics from early exploration and settlement through modern timber harvesting (with a nod to Twilight tourism) and how perspectives evolved. I seriously wish I could have seen these forests when they were so dense you had to essentially carve out a cave in the trees to build your house. I would call this a must read for anyone in the Pacific Northwest, particularly those like me who did not grow up here and so have no background on the issues around logging. There's a lot of food for thought here. I will be processing this one for a long while.

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### **Wendy Feltham says**

This is an important book for people living in the Pacific Northwest, especially Washington State. William Dietrich is an excellent writer, and with this book, he accomplished something unusual. He reported on the forests of the Olympic Peninsula, the timber industry, and the Spotted Owl controversy, all centering on the town of Forks. Each chapter draws you into the lives of people living in little Forks who are committed to a particular role in the forest-- loggers who cut down the trees, wildlife biologists who study the animals, truck drivers who haul the lumber, etc. The book is so well structured and researched that the reader empathizes with each person, and begins to understand the challenges facing each one. The Final Forest demonstrates balanced reporting, but also calls out for preservation of the few old growth forests that remain. After publishing this book in 1992, the town of Forks took a truly bizarre twist when it became famous as the location for the Twilight books and films. Dietrich updated the book in 2010 with a preface about Twilight and its effects on the community.

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### **Peter Szabo says**

Read this book after a family vacation on the Olympic Peninsula. An outstanding book encompassing "all points of view" so to speak about the Olympic Peninsula. Dietrich focuses on the battles over natural resources - here, this means the great forests - and broadens the reader's mind about both the biological values of the region, and also the livelihoods that depend upon the forests there. A very balanced and enjoyable read.

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### **Eric says**

Man this should be required reading in schools. Environmentally a great lesson, though not presented in a condescending manner. This is one of the most effective pieces of journalism I have come across. Loggers, Forestry, Industry, Local communities and Environmentalists both conservative and radical have a voice. All side have an equal platform and the reader cannot help but sympathize with everyone at times. This is more about what we as a society have to change when realities become apparent, than one forest or one spotty little owl.

## Mark Valentine says

Goodreads didn't exist when I read this so I don't need to apologize for being late in writing about it. When it was published, I worked in Seattle as a port agent for a company that serviced bulk cargo tankers in the Puget Sound and I wanted to read Dietrich's views on the spotted owl controversy. But I left the copy on my work desk with a bookmark in it and soon after, I was fired from my job.

I saw Mr. Dietrich a few years ago when he came to my school to talk and read about his latest book (at that time) and I was able to tell him how his book had changed my life, literally, and for the better. After getting fired, I used the kick-in-the-pants-is-still-a-step-forward to go back to school and get certified to teach-- something that I have been working at for over 22 years and a career in which I can be active in helping others (and not working merely to document logging ships and their cargo).

Thank you, William Dietrich!

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## Frances says

While many praise Dietrich's work about the ancient forests of the Pacific North West as balanced, I would say that he does a much more thorough job of humanizing the loggers and demonstrating the complexities of logging from their perspective. Perhaps this was a new view at the time the book was written, as he paints a portrait of a crazed environmentalism that does not take into account the human lives impacted by restricted logging. While I had a hard time putting the book down, it could have been made stronger by investigating the relationship of indigenous peoples to the land, or their contribution to the conversation, if present. My biggest gripe is that while demonstrating Forks resilience and creativity as a town, Dietrich positively mentions the creation of new jobs at the local prison, after demonstrating the impact of the loss of logging jobs by throwing out some statistics on the increase in crime in the area (seems rather shortsighted? Also prison jobs as a step up? Really?). Still incredibly interesting and for the most part well written; highly recommended.

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## Audrajung says

Phenomenal. One of the first times I have really taken time to listen to diverse perspectives in the conservation/preservation debate and suddenly found myself on the side of the loggers in Forks, WA. It made me feel more connected to the diverse perspectives people come from in relating to the natural world. I loved the truth spoken when a logger said that when tourists look into the ugliness of a clearcut and are shocked they are only looking into the desires of their own heart. Such a great reminder that real environmentalism is about changing the way we consume at home. Also included a great history of the Pacific Northwest and reminded us that the largest clearcut in Washington is covered in asphalt and named Seattle.

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## Erin Janda says

This book was recommended to me for an upcoming outdoor course that I will be doing in the Pacific

Northwest. I have never visited this part of North America, and I found the controversy of the final forest to be incredibly fascinating. William Dietrich clearly did a lot of research for the writing of this book, and his presentation of the different parties involved and affected by this battle was wide-ranging and helped to paint a clearer “big” picture. This isn’t a book I normally would have chosen to read, but I am glad that I did. I am looking forward to exploring these lush forests in the next few weeks.

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### **Tara says**

This is true journalism. Bill Dietrich (now an environmental journalism professor at Western Washington University) walks a delicate balance in this book, outlining the logging industry in Washington state, its historic, cultural and socio-economic importance. Hitching rides with loggers in Forks, deep in the forest of the Olympic Peninsula, he weaves a compassionate portrait of their livelihood but also makes a critical examination of our use of natural resources as an industry.

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