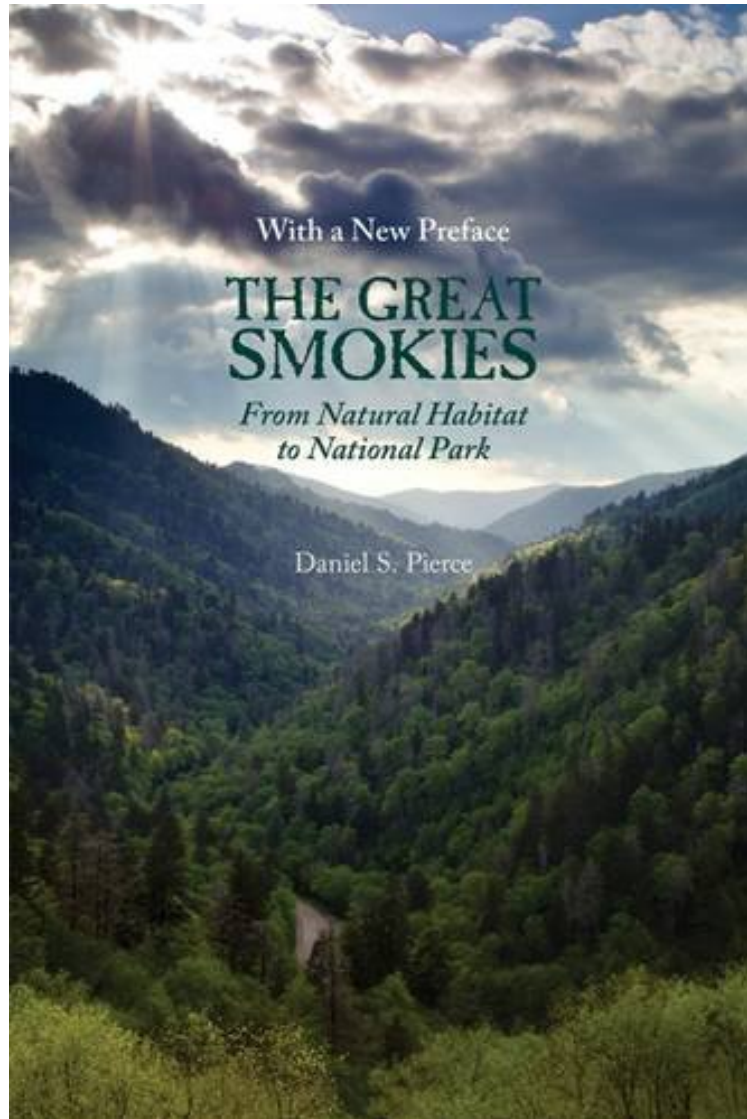


[Download ebook] Great Smokies: From Natural Habitat To National Park

Great Smokies: From Natural Habitat To National Park

Daniel S. Pierce

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Daniel S. Pierce : Great Smokies: From Natural Habitat To National Park before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Great Smokies: From Natural Habitat To National Park:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A political history of the national parkBy Arthur DigbeeThis book provides a good history of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The subtitle tells you Pierce's emphasis: he sets the stage with some natural history and then moves to the battle to create the park. This campaign stretches across several chapters and makes up the meat of the book. He concludes with one chapter on the management of the park after establishment, and a conclusion that reflects on the park that we have today.That capsule summary also lays out

the main contrast with Margaret Brown's *The Wild East*, another history of the park that I recommend. Brown is more interested in the people of the region, especially the Cherokees and white mountaineers that lived in the Smokies before park establishment. She also tells us about how the Eastern Band Cherokees related to the park, and ended up profiting from it. In contrast, Pierce puts much greater emphasis on the political and legislative history of park establishment, and on the fundraising campaign to raise money to buy the park land. While Brown talks of the lumbermen, Pierce tells us of the timber companies and their fight against the park. I recommend both books, but your choice of which book to read first really depends on your purpose (or interest). I hope the preceding paragraph helps. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By bernrI found this book on the history of how the GSMNP came to be very interesting. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good read By doughboyJust read this book and it was an interesting read. Good background on the struggle to make the Smokies a National Park (I am glad they did).

Seeking a taste of unspoiled wilderness, more than nine million people visit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park each year. Yet few probably realize what makes the park unusual: it was the result of efforts to reclaim wilderness rather than to protect undeveloped land. Daniel S. Pierce tells how park supporters set about raising money to buy the land—often from resistant timber companies—and describes the fierce infighting between wilderness advocates and tourism boosters over the shape the park would take. He also discloses the unfortunate human cost of the park's creation: the displacement of the area's inhabitants. The new preface chronicles developments in the park since the book's original publication in 2000. Over the past decade and a half, the park has experienced a dramatic and improbable improvement in air quality, a variety of successful animal reintroduction programs—including, most spectacularly, elk—numerous improvements to trails and roads, and the ending of long-standing dispute over the "Road to Nowhere," which had its origins in the founding of the park eight decades ago. Pierce also points out new challenges that have emerged in the park—and there is none more dangerous than the invasive species known as the woolly adelgid, which threatens to annihilate the park's 800 acres of old-growth hemlocks. The recent history of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park provides ample proof of Pierce's conclusion: "just as people have the power to set aside places as wonderful as the Cataloochee Valley and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, they also have the power to destroy it."

About the Author Daniel S. Pierce is professor of history at the University of North Carolina, Asheville, USA. He is the author of *Real NASCAR: White Lightning, Red Clay*, and *Big Bill France*, and *Corn from a Jar: Moonshining in the Great Smoky Mountains*.