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# Electronic Green Journal

## Review: Drawing Lines in the Forest: Creating Wilderness Areas in the Pacific Northwest

By Kevin R. Marsh

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Marsh, Kevin R. *Drawing Lines in the Forest: Creating Wilderness Areas in the Pacific Northwest*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2007. 227pp. ISBN 0-295-98702-2 (Hardcover) US \$35.00.

This is the oft-told story of the contest over land between the economic interests of the logging industry and the conservation interests of many community activists. But it has rarely been told with such painstaking detail over an extended time period. Marsh notes that the debate is really about natural system boundaries, yet to be effective it must be located and fought out in the realm of cadastral boundaries. It is perhaps regrettable that he does not enter into the issue of the impact of this ambiguity, but he instead maintains a rigorous focus on the politics of cadastral definition.

Conservationists will find it of interest because of its tactical insights. Logging interests may well be less satisfied with it as the author is indeed critical of the extent to which they have often pursued tactics that clouded public perception of their responsibilities and alienated potential supporters. Their misunderstandings of the role of Congress within the legalities of the Wilderness Act of 1964 also did not serve their interests.

One would hope that the industry would have learned from that experience, and would now act more wisely. It does so in some situations, but fails in many others, and in relatively impoverished countries, often resorts to falsehoods, bribery and corruption.

Even though it grows out of earlier experience, this book does provide a case study that illustrates various aspects of the analyses developed by Spaargaren et al in their work on flows as a basis for thinking about resource governance. (See the review of *Governing Environmental Flows* in this issue).

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