

THE COLORADO PLATEAU II: BIOPHYSICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL RESEARCH. *Based on a conference held in Flagstaff, Arizona, 5–8 November 2003.*

*Edited by Charles van Riper III and David J Mattson. Tucson (Arizona): University of Arizona Press. \$35.00. xiii + 448 p; ill.; index. ISBN: 0-8165-2526-9. 2005.*

Poet Gary Snyder wrote "nature is not a place to visit, it is home." Charles van Riper III and David J Mattson are wonderful collectors of stories (research) about their home. The editors, and their many co-authors, realize that the preservation of native species and ecosystems requires a sound basis in peer-reviewed science. This is the seventh such volume in the past dozen or more years that discusses research and resources management on the Colorado Plateau. It contains 29 independent chapters organized into four sections, including socioeconomic (four chapters), biological (18 chapters), cultural (four chapters), and biophysical resources (three chapters). Although skewed toward biological resources, an underlying theme of most of the volume is the tying of social and economic criteria to the wise management of natural resources.

The book gets off to a fast start with a chapter by Hecox and Holmes, which proves that the rapidly changing economy of the region is linked to the development of lower-paying service jobs driven by tourism, which in turn, is drawing from the environment. Hampton et al. provide a solid conceptual design for a decision support system, guided by managers, but driven by stakeholders, to set priorities for fire management in this fire prone area. The lengthy, but sometimes uneven section on biological resources begins with several chapters on forest structure restoration, indirectly emphasizing the enormous impacts of logging, grazing, and fire suppression (i.e., modern land uses) on historic landscapes. A mix of taxa specific studies follow, like pieces of a larger jigsaw puzzle. There is too little discussion about cultural resources in a regional sense—I wanted to see a synthesis paper in addition to the site-specific examples offered. I did not like the suggested protocol for rapid assessment of southwestern stream-riparian ecosystems offered by Stevens et al. because it was based on expert opinion and many qualitative, subjective categories.

All in all, I recommend the book for anyone interested in the Colorado Plateau. I know of few other areas on the planet where research results are so frequently gathered and inexpensively shared—thanks to van Riper and Mattson who call this place home.

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ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. *Second Edition.* By Alan Scragg. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. \$54.50 (paper). viii + 447 p; ill.; index. ISBN: 0-19-926867-3. 2004.

This book is a good introduction to several topics in environmental biotechnology and includes basic concepts in microbiology, bioremediation, biofuels, and biotechnology as applied to agriculture and marine environments. To put things in perspective, the author provides a chapter on specific topics that singles out three prominent case studies of environmental pollution, and the subsequent biological processes employed in their treatment or containment. Scragg uses a simple, lucid style to explain basic concepts and theories. The high number of graphics used (figures and tables) greatly complement the text and provide a good aid in understanding the subject matter presented. At times, however, the explanation is too simplistic and the depth of the subject in discussion is fairly shallow. For example, when presenting bioremediation in Chapter 5, there is no mention of anaerobic microbial processes that are involved in bioremediation of petroleum hydrocarbons and organics, which in reality is of great significance in contaminated environments.

The book can serve as a good basic reference when introducing concepts of environmental microbiology and biotechnology to undergraduates who have not previously been exposed to this subject.

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## NEURAL SCIENCES

FROM MONKEY BRAIN TO HUMAN BRAIN: A FYSSEN FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM. *Based on a symposium held in St-Germain-en-Laye, 20–23 June 2003.*

*Edited by Stanislas Dehaene, Jean-René Duhamel, Marc D Hauser, and Giacomo Rizzolatti. A Bradford Book. Cambridge (Massachusetts): MIT Press. \$55.00. xvii + 400 p + 22 pl; ill.; index. ISBN: 0-262-04223-1. 2005.*

The question of which selective pressures shaped the human mind intrigue many in comparative and evolutionary psychology, neuroscience, evolu-