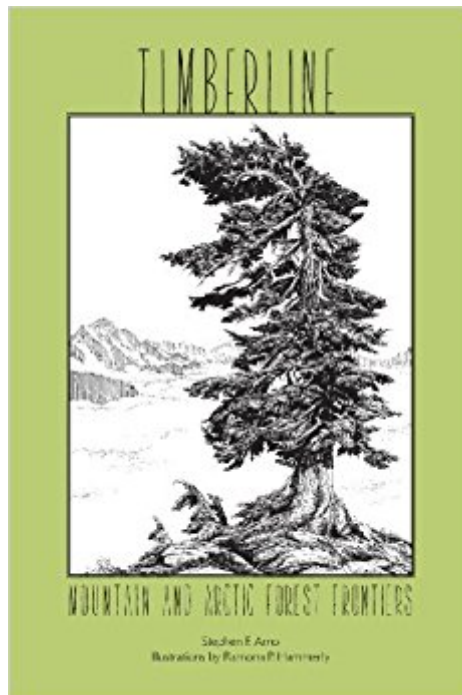




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Timberline: Mountain And Arctic Forest Frontiers



Synopsis

Timberline—where the trees end—is a biological boundary visible throughout North America to even the casual traveler. Where highways or hiking trails ascend to upper timberlines (ranging from below 2000-foot elevations in Alaska to over 11,000 feet in California), visitors see patchy forest and meadows giving way to stunted trees and finally to mere shrub-like trees and tundra. This book describes what timberlines are and why they exist, and what human uses have been made of the timberline environment. It surveys tree species and conditions of individual North American timberlines in the Pacific Coast, Great Basin, Southwest, and Mexican mountains; in the Rockies and Northern Appalachians; and in the Arctic—with reference to timberlines worldwide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

STEPHEN ARNO grew up on the shores of Puget Sound and later worked summers as a ranger and naturalist in the Olympic and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. In 1970 he began a career as a forest ecologist with the USDA Forest Service. His recent books are *Flames in Our Forest; Disaster or Renewal* and *Restoring Fire-Prone Forest in the West*. RAMONA HAMMERLY is a native of Puget Sound. She illustrated *Northwest Trees* (1977) and *Timberline* (1984), and has worked primarily in watercolor, pen and ink, etching, and oils. She shows her art in various galleries throughout the Northwest.

This book is well written: he is very easy and pleasant to read and understand even if you are not

well versed about the subject. It is fascinating: I loved hearing his well thought out explanations for phenomena I have always seen but not understood (or not even known there was a reason for). And it is beautiful: the black and white line drawn illustrations are not only aesthetically pleasing but are detailed and accurate enough to show you exactly what the author is talking about. The first section gives a good overview of the ecology of the timberlines and why they look the way they do, and the section part gives information about specific section of timberlines in North America. This is not in the general of "nature writing", which I like because it is very organized, no rambling, and is informative, but none the less make you appreciate the subject. He is also not afraid to make up his own mind any the way things worked and not just give you all the commonly accepted theories.

This is not just a good book, it's a great one. Sadly it's a relatively unknown source for the accumulated wisdom of forest ecologist Steve Arno. That's probably due to it's having been published by The Mountaineers. Arno made his career as an ecologist for the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, part of what those of us who worked for it consider the finest organization of its kind. The Stations and their labs, the research arm of the US Forest Service, are devoted to forestry research, grassland studies, wildlife research, climate change modeling, applied fire ecology, and a host of other forestry-related topics. Stephen F. Arno's wisdom comes from a lifetime spent, at elevation, cataloging and describing the ecology of mountain pines and the ecosystems they inhabit. The book is packed with information about where mountain forests grow, why they are there, what makes them different one from the other, and what you're looking at whether you climb mountains or see them off in the distance. If you love the mountains of the American West, there is no better book to introduce you to the forests that cover them.

Timberline - where the trees end - is a biological boundry visible to even the casual traveler throughout North America. Where highways or hiking trails ascend to upper timberlines (ranging from below 2000-foot elevations in Alaska to over 11,000 feet in California), visitors see patchy forest and meadows giving way to stunted trees and finally to mere shrub-like trees and tundra. A lower timberline is seen in the semi-arid west at the foot of mountain ranges. Those who fly over northern Canada or Alaska see a cold produced "arctic timberline" snaking across the continent. This book describes what timberlines are and why they exist, and what human uses have been made of the timberline enviroment. It surveys tree species and conditions of individual North American timberlines - in the Pacific Coast, Great Basin, Southwest and Mexican Mountains; in the Rockies and Northern Appalachians, and in the arctic - with reference to timberlines worldwide.---

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