



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### *Smokechasing*

"With another likely summer of fire on America's dry western horizon, this timely volume of essays stirs the embers of an unfinished national debate about how to live with wildfire. Timely and provocative, *Smokechasing* should be required reading for all on the front lines of the USA's continuing fight over wildfire - especially members of Congress, federal land managers, and the growing millions who live in the perilous 'intermix' zone where suburban development and fire-prone wild lands meet."

USA Today

"Recognized as the foremost authority on the ecology and history of fire, prolific author Pyne offers . . . a unique and thoughtful examination of the development of wildfire policy and how it continues to evolve."

Library Journal

"In a departure from his more lengthy historical narratives, Pyne directs his efforts toward 'a more robust literary inquiry,' in an attempt 'to analyze fire as [he] would an art modern house, an election campaign, or a rereading of Ulysses.' The result is as remarkable as it is varied. Some of the best essays exhibit Pyne's sharp and astute analyses of how different fire-based systems and practices are used by various cultures. . . . Overall, these sharply written essays argue convincingly for Pyne's core belief that 'fire practices are, ultimately, a moral matter, relating to who we are and how we should behave.' "

Publishers Weekly

"Pyne remains on message, always returning to his point that good public fire policy must strike a balance between total suppression and uncontrolled burning, and urging that such a policy be set locally, to meet local needs. Whether or not you've heard this all before, it's rewarding to hear it again, if only for the pleasure of a prose style that slices through tangled thickets like a bulldozer clearing a fire line, and lights up the darkness like a blazing fire."

Natural History

"This is not a book touting restorative wildland fire; it's a kind of bible about natural law."

Eastern Oregonian

"A significant contribution. In particular, Pyne's essays on . . . the perils of prescribed burning are thought-provoking, soul-searching explorations of these 'burning issues' of our times. Pyne's essays will greatly contribute to a more thoughtful engagement by fire professionals and the public in the intense ongoing debates over federal fire management policies and practices, and humanity's relationship with Nature."

Timothy Ingalsbee, Director, Western Fire Ecology Center

"Reading between the lines Stephen J. Pyne is more cynic than in any of his previous monographs, possibly because *Smokechasing* is a book on contemporary fire. It reminds us to his numerous essays and reports published in journals, anthologies and conferences over the last 25 years - messages of which many obviously remained unheard."

Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

"Painting, architecture, politics, even gardening and golf—all have their critics and commentators," observes Stephen Pyne. "Fire does not." Aside from news reports on fire disasters, most writing about fire appears in government reports and scientific papers—and in journalism that has more in common with the sports page than the editorial page. *Smokechasing* presents commentaries by one of America's leading fire scholars, who analyzes fire the way another might an election campaign or a literary work.

"*Smokechasing*" is an American coinage describing the practice of sending firefighters into the wild to track down the source of reported smoke. Now a self-described "friendly fire critic" tracks down more of the history

and lore of fire in a collection that focuses on wildland fire and its management. Building on and complementing a previous anthology, *World Fire*, this new collection features thirty-two original articles and substantial revisions of works that have previously appeared in print.

Pyne addresses many issues that have sparked public concern in the wake of disastrous wildfires in the West, such as fire ecology, federal fire management, and questions relating to fire suppression. He observes that the mistake in fire policy has been not that wildfires are suppressed but that controlled fires are no longer ignited; yet the attempted forced reintroduction of fire through prescribed burning has proved difficult, and sometimes damaging. There are, Pyne argues, many fire problems; some have technical solutions, some not. But there is no evading humanity's unique power and responsibility: what we don't do may be as ecologically powerful as what we do.

Throughout the collection, Pyne makes it clear that humans and fire interact at particular places and times to profoundly shape the world, and that understanding the contexts in which fire occurs can tell us much about the world's natural and cultural landscapes. Fire's context gives it its meaning, and *Smokechasing* not only helps illuminate those contexts but also shows us how to devise new contexts for tomorrow's fires.

Stephen J. Pyne has written extensively on fire in such books as *Fire in America: A Cultural History of Wildland and Rural Fire* and most recently *Year of the Fires: The Story of the Great Fires of 1910*. He is a professor in Arizona State University's Biology and Society Program, in which he teaches courses on the history of fire, exploration, and environmental history.

***Stephen J. Pyne. 2003. Smokechasing. A new look at wildfires by one of America's leading fire scholars. The University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 260 p. Paper: ISBN 0-8165-2285-5 (\$19.95), Cloth ISBN 0-8165-2284-7 (\$37.50).***

### ***Living with Wildfires***

*Living with Wildfires* is the first comprehensive book about preparing for a potentially devastating wildfire. Written for anyone living in the wildland/urban interface, this book has been thoroughly researched and reviewed by professionals in the field of wildfire mitigation. *Living with Wildfires* is a valuable reference tool and should occupy a place of prominence on the bookshelf of everyone concerned about saving lives and protecting property from the danger of wildfire.

#### **What Others are Saying About *Living with Wildfires***

“This book won't prevent wildfires, and it won't guarantee that your home will survive a wildfire, but it is the best single resource available for people living in the wildland/urban interface. Arrowood draws on her own personal experience, along with do's and don'ts from national fire experts, and the lessons learned by those who have survived wildfires compiling a wealth of information from dozens of sources into one comprehensive book—a guide to surviving wildfire.”

Kelly Andersson  
Editor, wildfirenews.com

“A must read for those considering or currently living in the urban-wildland interface or rural areas. The occurrence of wildfire cannot be avoided. The current high fuel loads in our forests, the increased number of people living in and visiting our forests, weather patterns, and the time needed for the public to regain understanding and accept their responsibility for prevention and mitigation makes a major wildfire likely. Given this likelihood, I encourage you to obtain the knowledge and information provided by this publication to help you, your family, pets and community survive the next event.”

Page Whitesides, Fire Marshal  
North Fork Fire Protection District

“All too often the only time people think about protecting their property is *during* a wildfire, when they shut their door not knowing if they will have a home to come back to or enough insurance to cover it. In “*Living With*

*Wildfire*,” Janet Arrowood provides homeowners with a complete toolbox to help them safeguard their property and financial future. At some point, we need to begin accepting the responsibilities that go hand-in-hand with the realities of wildfire risks and become part of the solution.”

Carole Walker, Executive Director  
Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association

“This valuable book provides important details about how to prepare your family and your property before a fire even starts, what to do during a fire event, and the issues you are likely to face after a fire has burned through your neighbourhood. [This book] is an important tool to help you increase the safety of your family and the survivability of your home. *Living with Wildfires* is full of tips, checklists, and information about how to prevent those losses. This book is an important step in the right direction. Educate yourself, and your community, and move forward knowing that you will make a difference.”

From the Foreword by Justin Dombrowski  
Wildland Fire Management Officer for the Boulder Fire Department

“This book is based on common sense, experience, and science - it is written for the purpose of reducing risks to homes by making them and the landscape around them more survivable when a wildfire does pass through... *Living with Wildfire* is as much a basic primer for homeowners as it is a guide to get you on the right track to becoming a member of a “Firewise Community.” It is full of information that when followed can lessen the risk of losing your home to wildfire.”

From the Afterword by Michael Apicello  
Public Affairs Officer for the National Interagency Fire Center

***Janet C. Arrowood. 2003. Living with Wildfires. Bradford Publishing Company, Denver Colorado, 171 p. (ISBN 1-883726-89-1). www.bradfordpublishing.com***

### ***Strategies of Forest Fire Prevention in Southern Europe***

At the first international conference on forest fire prevention in Southern Europe about 80 forest fire specialists met in Bordeaux, France, 31 January – 2 February 2002. The publication of the contributions to the conference include 19 papers reflecting new and innovative experiences and views on forest fire prevention in the most fire-prone region of Europe. The papers are provided in French and in English.

***Stratégies de prévention des incendies dans les forêts d’Europe du Sud <Strategies of Forest Fire Prevention in Southern Europe>. Proceedings of the first international conference on forest fire prevention in Southern Europe, Bordeaux, France, 31 January – 2 February 2002. Collections Actes Editions Préventique Bordeaux. ISBN 2-911221-17-6 (€ 69.00).***

### ***Forest Fire Protection Technical guide for the countries of the Mediterranean basin***

Forest fires represent a considerable threat to the Mediterranean forests. It is estimated that about 50,000 fires occur each year in the Mediterranean basin and affect more than 600,000 ha. To face this permanent threat, the Mediterranean countries have mobilized and organized for a long time increasingly efficient forest fire prevention and suppression systems. Thus, gradually, according to their culture, their means and their national preferences, the Mediterranean countries have developed a considerable knowledge, tools and adapted methodologies, typical for each country. Unfortunately, this information remains scattered and is even sometimes not written down. The exchange of information and experiences between countries constitute an effective mean to contribute to the reinforcement of forest fire prevention and suppression. Handbooks of great utility were already elaborated on forest fires, such as for example the “Technical Guide” written in 1989 by French Mediterranean foresters from *Cemagref* (France), a public research institute of for agriculture and environment, or the “Handbook on forest fire control, a guide for trainers”, published by the Finnish organisation for international development (FINNIDA, Finland) in 1993. But these publications, either do not reflect the

special problems of the Mediterranean basin, or restrict themselves to only one country, not taking into account regional diversity. Thus, under the influence of the network for “Forest fire protection” of the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions of the FAO *Silva Mediterranea* and thanks to the financial support of France, in particular by the Ministry for Land Management and Environment (*Ministère de l’Aménagement du Territoire et de l’Environnement*), the FAO asked the *Cemagref* to produce a practical tool, up-to-date and complete, which is able to improve the training in forest fire prevention and suppression, and would be valid for all countries of the region. This work is conducive to the overall objective to reinforce the national capacities of forest fire prevention in Mediterranean basin. *Cemagref* has not spared any effort to gather all available bibliographical information by contacting all the Member States of the FAO *Silva Mediterranea*, and paying visits to several of them.

The guide is structured in eight broad chapters which cover all problems of forest fires in the Mediterranean region: basics of forest fire, databases, fire causes, risk analysis, prevention (dealt with in two chapters: prevention of fire starts and the control of fire spread), suppression, and post-fire activities. The reader will find comprehensive and practical information, as well as methodologies. The guide is didactically targeted to a wide range of users. Moreover, this technical guide has a flexible and adaptable design: each country may improve or alternate the guide by adding national specificities.

This handbook has been published first in French. A draft English version has been prepared by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC). Its publication is in preparation.

***Protection des forêts contre l’incendie. Fiches techniques pour les pays du bassin méditerranéen. Cahier FAO Conservation 36. FAO Rome, 147 p. ISBN 92-5-204678-X ; ISSN 1020-1149 ( 41.00).***