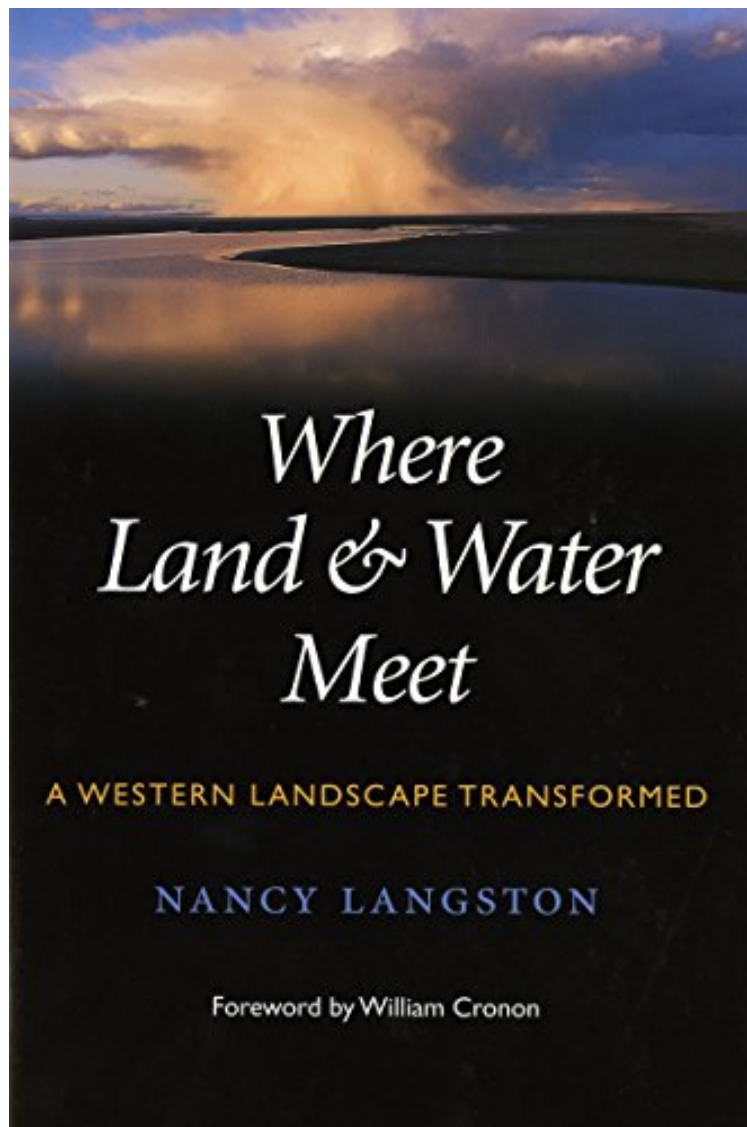


[Download pdf] Where Land and Water Meet: A Western Landscape Transformed (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books)

## Where Land and Water Meet: A Western Landscape Transformed (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books)

*Nancy Langston*

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**Nancy Langston : Where Land and Water Meet: A Western Landscape Transformed (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where Land and Water Meet: A Western Landscape Transformed (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the spaces in betweenBy Arthur DigbeeLangston, Nancy. 2003. Where Land and Water Meet: A Western Landscape Transformed. Seattle: University of Washington Press.This book

does not merely look at the boundary where land and water meet, but at other kinds of boundaries as well. Like others, she explores the border between the human and natural, increasingly blurred and perhaps irrelevant. She critiques both management philosophies and the views of stakeholders, looking for a middle ground that is pragmatic and not ideological, one that recognizes both the human and the natural. Southeastern Oregon, especially the productive wetlands of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, provides a worthy subject for her study. Though written before the armed standoff at Malheur, the book provides essential background for understanding the deep conflicts in the region. Well worth a read for anyone interested in American environmental history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book about ecology and land use conflicts in the arid West. By John Pastor None of the recent news reports I have read or heard about the recent occupation of the wildlife refuge in the Malheur Basin (including in the New York Times and on NPR) did justice to the deep history of land use and the environment there. The real story is much more complex and nuanced than just ranchers vs. the government. Nancy Langston's book unfolds the rich history of Native Americans, ranchers, homesteaders, wildlife managers, and environmental groups who arrived in the basin in that order, and how they viewed and tried to control the distribution of water in this sagebrush desert for different ends. Therein lies the conflict. Each of these groups accomplished some good, but each also distorted ecological processes to their own detriment and that of the other groups. The last chapter is a superb exposition of adaptive management and how it relates to the distinctly American philosophy of Pragmatism developed by John Dewey and William James. I am not usually a fan of philosophy, but I found this chapter very intriguing; it motivated me to read more of James's writing and other books that take a similar approach. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. pragmatic, not polemical By Montana ordered this while the Malheur Standoff/occupation was going on. Excellent work on a vital and beloved area, with good documentation. It is not all about birds and cattle. The role of Fish and Wildlife managers, for better or worse, is made very clear. The dashed hopes of early homesteader and squatters, who were great grandparents of present day citizens, is also clear...explains a lot from a sociological point of view. For example the squatter kids who would swim out to a nest to collect eggs and catch and kill swans for dinner. Not sport, subsistence. One thing left to explain is how a "river" that used to be called "Donner und Blitzen" became just "Blitzen"

Water and land interrelate in surprising and ambiguous ways, and riparian zones, where land and water meet, have effects far outside their boundaries. Using the Malheur Basin in southeastern Oregon as a case study, this intriguing and nuanced book explores the ways people have envisioned boundaries between water and land, the ways they have altered these places, and the often unintended results. The Malheur Basin, once home to the largest cattle empires in the world, experienced unintended widespread environmental degradation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. After establishment in 1908 of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge as a protected breeding ground for migratory birds, and its expansion in the 1930s and 1940s, the area experienced equally extreme intended modifications aimed at restoring riparian habitat. Refuge managers ditched wetlands, channelized rivers, applied Agent Orange and rotenone to waterways, killed beaver, and cut down willows. *Where Land and Water Meet* examines the reasoning behind and effects of these interventions, gleaned lessons from their successes and failures. Although remote and specific, the Malheur Basin has myriad ecological and political connections to much larger places. This detailed look at one tangled history of riparian restoration shows how?through appreciation of the complexity of environmental and social influences on land use, and through effective handling of conflict?people can learn to practice a style of pragmatic adaptive resource management that avoids rigid adherence to single agendas and fosters improved relationships with the land.