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- Raven, Christopher, and Robert G. Elston
 1989 Prehistoric Human Geography in the Carson Desert, Part I: A Predictive Model of Land-Use in the Stillwater Wildlife Management Area. Portland: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Cultural Resource Series No. 3.
- Simms, Steven R.
 1987 Behavioral Ecology and Hunter-Gatherer Foraging: A Great Basin Example. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports (BAR) S381.
- Thomas, David Hurst
 1971 Prehistoric Subsistence-Settlement Patterns of the Reese River Valley, Central Nevada. Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Davis.



The Alpine Flora of the Rocky Mountains, Vol. 1: The Middle Rocky Mountains. Richard W. Scott. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1995, 793 pp., 10 figs., 4 tables, 609 maps, 4 appendices, 2 indices, \$110.00 (hard cover).

Reviewed by:

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The Oxford dictionary defines a flora as "a descriptive catalogue of the plants of any geographical area." As such, *The Alpine Flora of the Rocky Mountains, Volume 1: The Middle Rocky Mountains* fulfills this condition well. The harsh and formidable alpine zone is known not only for its rock and snow, but also for brief interludes of brilliant color from countless flowers. Nowhere in the United States is alpine flora

as well developed as in the Rocky Mountains, and here at last is the first volume in a definitive text that enlists, describes, and maps that flora. The alpine flora of the Middle Rocky Mountains is now known to consist of at least 700 vascular taxa belonging to 609 species in 204 genera and 51 families.

This volume has all the signs of a life work. The first chapter provides the reader with background on the Alpine Zone with short and well-referenced sections that define timberline, discuss the alpine landscape and its geomorphic processes, and outline the adaptations of its plants. The second chapter concerns the physiography and natural history of the Middle Rocky Mountains, including maps of the drainage basins, the extent of Pleistocene glaciers, and the major mountain ranges, as well as a figure that shows the structural features in the physiographic province. The chapter concludes with brief descriptions of the major mountain ranges. The third chapter summarizes the floristics of the province, with tables that elucidate the taxonomic composition of the flora. Additionally, this chapter compares the Arctic flora with the Middle Rocky Mountain alpine flora, and contains a figure that displays the species richness of the major mountain ranges. It concludes with a detailed explanation of the methods and format used in the preparation of the species monographs. These introductory chapters occupy only 29 pages, but they are packed with important background information.

The main body of the work begins with reader-friendly keys to the families, and then an alphabetically ordered treatment of each family. The family treatments begin with a description of family characteristics followed by a key to its genera. Common names are provided for the families and genera. Each genus is described, after which readable keys to its species are presented.

By far most of the book is composed of monographs of each species. Each monograph

occupies a page, and consists of the current scientific name, the taxonomic authority, synonyms and their taxonomic authorities, and common name. Intraspecific taxa are treated within the species. As a botanist, I was delighted to see not only the authority listed, but also the journal, pages, and date of the publication. In each monograph, a detailed description of the species is given, including its habits and habitat, and general notes on its relative abundance and distribution both within and outside the Middle Rocky Mountains. Endemic taxa are noted as such. But the descriptive information for the species does not stop here. Each monograph also contains either previously published or original line drawings that highlight discriminable features, and a dot distribution map based on herbarium collections. Not all the line drawings are the finest ever made and the shaded topography on the distribution maps is not the best possible, but all are of good quality and the reader will find them enormously useful. Salient features of the maps are the locations of rivers and state and county lines. These features, along with the shaded topography, allow the reader to easily recognize the mapped locations of the species.

The book concludes with four useful appendices, an extensive bibliography, and indices for both common and scientific names. The first two appendices are excellent glossaries of alpine terminology and botanical terms, respectively. Appendix 3 allows the reader to look up the abbreviation of a taxonomic authority and find the individual's complete name, their institutional affiliations, and some of their major works. Appendix 4 is a completely referenced listing of the 1n and 2n chromosome numbers of the entire Middle Rocky Mountain alpine flora. To the serious student and investigator, this appendix alone is probably worth the price of the whole volume. Conveniently, Appendix 4 also serves as a comprehensive species list, alphabetically ordered by family. The bibliography is excel-

lent and comprehensive. In future editions, I would appreciate journal titles spelled out instead of abbreviated. Finally, the two indices work so that the reader can quickly find the species of his or her interest.

I looked long and hard for mistakes while reviewing this book, but could find none. Instead, *The Alpine Flora of the Rocky Mountains, Volume 1: The Middle Rocky Mountains*, by Richard W. Scott, serves as a model for such research in the next century. It is a fine volume, and a welcome (and now essential) reference book on my shelf.



Corbett Mack: *The Life of a Northern Paiute As Told By Michael Hittman*. Michael Hittman. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996, xvi + 396 pp., 2 maps, 4 plates, 3 appendices, notes, bibliography, index, \$45.00 (hard cover), \$18.00 (paper).

Reviewed by:

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Above all, ethnography as it relates to field encounters is a very personal experience. It has more to do with feelings and emotions than any objectivity or empirical reality. Anyone who does fieldwork knows this. As a research document, *Corbett Mack: The Life of a Northern Paiute* embodies this situation. For in its 400 pages, we gain access into the life and times of both the informant and ethnographer. The situational difference between informant and ethno-