effective way of generating comparisons across a broad range of cities and should be emulated in future studies. The scholarship on the urban environment would, for example, benefit from another collection that compares urban rivers in other parts of the world, and we could use studies that explore urban estuaries, urban wetlands, and urban forests. With so many scholars turning their attention to the history of the urban environment, we should not miss the opportunity to build on this methodology by producing more volumes like this one.

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Colorado Powder Keg: Ski Resorts and the Environmental Movement. *By Michael W. Childers. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2012. xi + 234 pp. Map, illustrations, notes, bibliography, and index. Cloth $34.95.*

In 1998, several members of the radical environmental group Earth Liberation Front torched Vail's luxurious new Two Elks Lodge, built to accompany the resort's vast expansion into critical wildlife habitat. Historian Michael Childers uses this event as a starting point to unravel the complex relationship between Colorado ski resorts, the Forest Service, environmental coalitions, and the city of Denver during the twentieth century. He argues that expansion and consolidation of the industry were encouraged by Forest Service support, real estate development, and the growth of skiing—in spite of opposition from conservationists and anti-growth advocates.

The greatest argumentative strength of *Powder Keg* is in Childers's tracing of the Forest Service's evolving relationship with ski resorts. During the interwar years, the Forest Service recognized the importance of planned recreational development and consequently partnered with ski clubs and the city of Denver in clearing ski runs and adding tow ropes on Forest Service land. In the post–World War II era, the Forest Service continued to support ski area development but attempted to steer its direction by requiring annual operating permits, controlling lift ticket prices, and phasing in new ski areas as consumer demand warranted. However, the Forest Service's phase-in policy was rendered ineffectual by the financial resources and

lobbying power of new industry giants such as Vail and Breckenridge in the 1960s, and control over lift ticket prices was ceded in 1977. Childers contends that in the latter decades of the twentieth century, the Forest Service remained an advocate for the ski industry. Despite environmental tools at its disposal such as NEPA and the Endangered Species Act, the Forest Service has generally supported resort expansion. Consequently, Childers questions whether the Forest Service has upheld the public interest in its decision making. He further concludes that ski resort development amounted to collusion between a public agency and private interests since expanded ski terrain has buttressed adjacent real estate development, resulting in what Childers terms a "recreational empire" (p. 67).

According to Childers, opposition to ski resort development coalesced around concerns over growth. His chapter on Denver's rejection of the 1976 Winter Olympics offers evidence. While historians such as James Whiteside argued that costs and the elitist nature of the Denver Olympic Committee were key to voter rejection of the Olympics (and Childers agrees), he posits that it was also the result of concerned Denver foothills residents who worried that an influx of tourists and the building of skiing venues in their backyards would constrain their quality of life. In addition, Childers highlights the greed and squabbling of several ski resorts who sought to bring the Games to their site while using them as an excuse to expand real estate development and ski terrain. As a result, Coloradans increasingly viewed ski resorts as advocates of the same unbridled growth that was crucial to their rejection of the Olympics.

Although Childers provides evidence of opposition to ski area development throughout Colorado, his environmental research is most tightly focused on wildlife habitat during Vail's attempted expansions. This includes Vail's 1973 proposal to develop the Beaver Creek Ski Resort that environmental groups and the Colorado Department of Wildlife argued would endanger the largest elk herd in the state as a result of population growth, increased traffic, and greater pressure on air and water quality. Vail's expansion into the Two Elks Basin in the 1990s triggered the most sustained opposition due to further endangerment of elk habitat and questions over whether the elusive Canada lynx was making a recovery in the area.

Wildlife notwithstanding, those who are seeking an exhaustive history of the ecological consequences of ski resort development will be disappointed. Childers provides little analysis of clear-cutting, the use of chemicals on ski runs, or the industry's impact on soil, plants, or the watershed. Nor does he examine the impact of skiers as consumers of the environment. Conversely, those seeking to understand the institutional causes of ski resort development as well as the scope and limitations of its opposition will be satisfied. That said, by explicating the multifaceted interactions between the Forest Service, the ski industry,

residents, environmental groups, and various government agencies, Childers effectively challenges the artificial divide between public land and private development.

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Mr. Hornaday's War: How a Peculiar Victorian Zookeeper Waged a Lonely Crusade for Wildlife That Changed the World. *By Stefan Bechtel. Boston: Beacon Press, 2012. xviii + 254 pp. Notes, bibliography, and index. Cloth $26.95.*

The place of William Temple Hornaday seems secure within the history of wildlife conservation, although a comprehensive and scholarly biography remains to be written. Stefan Bechtel offers the most engaging account to date of the pioneering taxidermist and zoo director. Previous published biographies, unpublished dissertations, and Hornaday's own autobiography serve as the basis for Bechtel's survey of Hornaday's war for wildlife.

Any account of Hornaday's life must strike a fine balance between revealing enough of his obstinate and cantankerous nature to be authentic, and holding back enough of that same nature to evoke the sympathies of the reader. Bechtel succeeds admirably in this almost impossible task, even attempting to rehabilitate Hornaday's legacy, which seems overshadowed by his more progressive contemporaries and broadminded successors.

The biography is divided into three main parts. The first addresses the sources of Hornaday's motivation to become a wildlife defender, focusing on the American bison. Hornaday became especially passionate about bison after traveling west in the 1880s, when locals told him repeatedly that he might not see even a single animal. He eventually brought back enough specimens for an elaborate natural history diorama in the Smithsonian.

The second part of the biography focuses on the transitions in Hornaday's rise from orphaned farm boy to national prominence as the director of the New York Zoological Park. Among the many turns in that rise, he traveling around the world and collecting specimens for commercial sale. Bechtel includes a gripping account of a tiger hunt, where Hornaday's nerve and skill brought down an enormous beast that might otherwise have killed him or his guide. He worked