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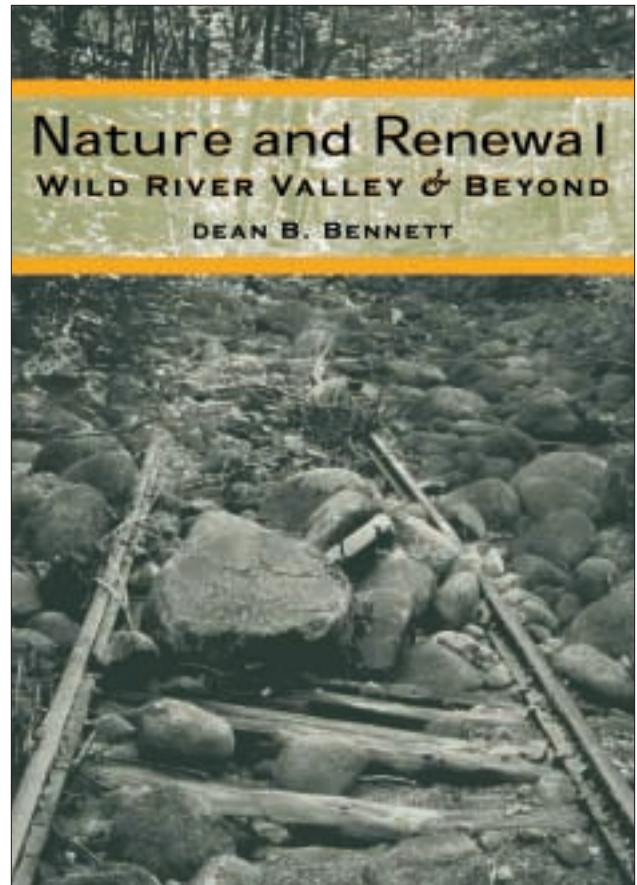
Nature and Renewal Wild River Valley and Beyond

Dean B. Bennett

Publication Date: October 1, 2009
Paperback, \$16.00; ISBN 978-0-88448-325-0
6 x 9, 340 pages, illustrations, maps, and photos
Nature / Conservation

“Warning: Reading this book will make you want to lace up your hiking boots and explore Wild River Wilderness! *Nature and Renewal* is not a hiking guide, but the perfect companion to one, weaving together Dean Bennett's well-researched words, very clear maps, many historic photos, and beautiful pen-and-ink drawings to tell the story of this valley, how it has renewed itself after being heavily logged in the 1890s, and how spirited volunteers campaigned successfully to convince Congress to establish a wilderness area.”

—Doug Scott, Policy Director, Campaign for America's Wilderness, and author of *The Enduring Wilderness*



Many of us have taken the wonderful Evans Notch Road along the Maine–New Hampshire border from Gilead, Maine, through the White Mountain National Forest to Fryeburg, Maine, without thinking about how different the land might have been in years past. It's now a place of beauty, with Caribou–Speckled Mountain Wilderness on the Maine side of the road, and Wild River Wilderness in New Hampshire on the other.

This is the story of Wild River Valley, a magnificent wilderness in a relatively unknown valley, circumscribed by high, steep mountains. It is also the story of the valley's rogue river, Wild River; of a raging wildfire and the disappearance of an entire village community; of both land abuse and land stewardship; of ecological disaster and



renewal; of nature's vulnerability and resiliency; and of people who experienced tragedy and good fortune. Amazingly, through the centuries a single mighty hemlock tree survived to be a living witness to it all.

Dean Bennett, who has spent a lifetime exploring the natural world and its human connections, brings to life this surprising story of the power of nature to renew. Illustrated with photographs and maps and Bennett's beautiful illustrations, *Nature and Renewal* has a message for everyone.

Dean B. Bennett is professor emeritus at the University of Maine at Farmington. Born and raised in Maine, much of his professional life has been devoted to teaching, writing, and illustrating books in the fields of science and environmental education, natural history, and human relationships with nature. This is his ninth book in the nature/environment field. His other books include: *Maine's Natural Heritage: Rare Species and Unique Natural Features*; *Allagash: Maine's Wild and Scenic River*; *The Forgotten Nature of New England: A Search for Traces of the Original Wilderness*; *The Wilderness from Chamberlain Farm: A Story of Hope for the American Wild*; *On Wilderness: Voices from Maine* (in collaboration with Phyllis Austin and Robert Kimber); and three children's books about nature, which he also illustrated.



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