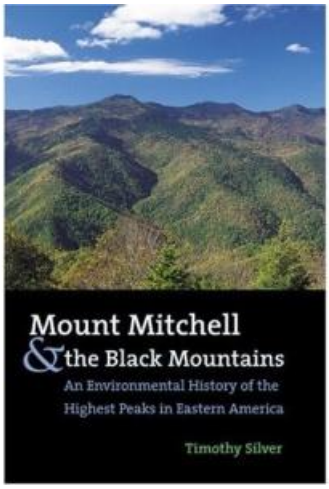
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Mount Mitchell and the Black Mountains: An Environmental History of the Highest Peaks in Eastern America

Silver, Timothy



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Silver, Timothy. *Mount Mitchell and the Black Mountains: An Environmental History of the Highest Peaks in Eastern America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Timothy Silver explores the long and complicated history of the Black Mountains, drawing on both the historical record and his experience as a backpacker and fly fisherman. He chronicles the geological and environmental forces that created this intriguing landscape, then traces its history of environmental change and human intervention from the days of Indian-European contact to today. Among the many tales Silver recounts is that of Elisha Mitchell, the renowned geologist and University of North Carolina professor for whom Mount Mitchell is named, who fell to his death there in 1857. But nature's stories—of forest fires, chestnut blight, competition among plants and animals, insect invasions, and, most recently, airborne toxins and acid rain—are also part of Silver's narrative, making it the first history of the Appalachians in which the natural world gets equal time

with human history. It is only by understanding the dynamic between these two forces, Silver says, that we can begin to protect the Black Mountains for future generations.
—University of North Carolina Press

Timothy Silver is Professor of History at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. His previous publications include *A New Face on the Countryside: Indians, Colonists, and Slaves in South Atlantic Forests, 1500–1800*.

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