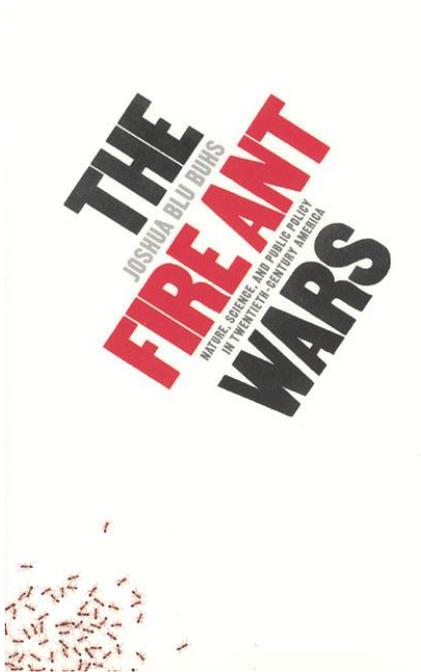


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*The Fire Ant Wars: Nature, Science, and Public Policy in Twentieth-Century America*

Buhs, Joshua Blu



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Buhs, Joshua Blu. *The Fire Ant Wars: Nature, Science, and Public Policy in Twentieth-Century America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Sometime in the first half of the twentieth century, a coterie of fire ants came ashore from South American ships docked in Mobile, Alabama. [...] Responding to a collective call from southerners to eliminate these invasive pests, the U.S. Department of Agriculture developed a campaign that not only failed to eradicate the fire ants but left a wake of dead wildlife, sickened cattle, and public protest. With political intrigue, environmental tragedy, and such figures as Rachel Carson and E. O. Wilson, *The Fire Ant Wars* is a grippingly perceptive tale of changing social attitudes and

scientific practices. Tracing the political and scientific eradication campaigns, Joshua Buhs's bracing study uses the saga as a means to consider twentieth-century American concepts of nature and environmental stewardship. — [University of Chicago Press website](#) .

**Related links:**

- H-Environment, H-Net Reviews, reviewed by Brian Drake  
<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php>
- University of Chicago Press site featuring this book  
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