

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910150254403321
Autore	Vetter Jeremy <1975->
Titolo	Field Life : Science in the American West during the Railroad Era // Jeremy Vetter
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania : , : University of Pittsburgh Press, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	9780822981459 0822981459
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (513 pages) : illustrations, photographs
Collana	Intersections: histories of environment, science, and technology in the anthropocene
Disciplina	385.0973 507.2078
Soggetti	Science - West (U.S.) - History Electronic books. West United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Issued as part of book collections on Project MUSE.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 417-484) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- 1. Making the field -- 2. Lay networks -- 3. Surveys -- 4. Quarries -- 5. Stations -- Epilogue.
Sommario/riassunto	Field Life examines the practice of science in the field in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains of the American West between the 1860s and the 1910s, when the railroad was the dominant form of long-distance transportation. Grounded in approaches from environmental history and the history of technology, it emphasizes the material basis of scientific fieldwork, joining together the human labor that produced knowledge with the natural world in which those practices were embedded. Four distinct modes of field practice, which were shared by different field science disciplines, proliferated during this period--surveys, lay networks, quarries, and stations--and this book explores the dynamics that underpinned each of them. Using two diverse case studies to animate each mode of practice, as well as the making of the field as a place for science, Field Life combines textured analysis of specific examples of field science on the ground with wider discussion of the commonalities in the practices of a diverse array of field

sciences, including the earth and physical sciences, the life and agricultural sciences, and the human sciences. By situating science in its regional environmental context, Field Life analyzes the intersection between the cosmopolitan knowledge of science and the experiential knowledge of people living in the field. Examples of field science in the Plains and Rockies range widely: geological surveys and weather observing networks, quarries to uncover dinosaur fossils and archaeological remains, and branch agricultural experiment stations and mountain biological field stations.
