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Nota di contenuto	Cover -- Series Page -- Title Page -- Copyright Page -- Dedication -- Table of Contents -- List of Table and Figures -- Preface to the Kansas Open Books Edition -- Preface -- Introduction, Rebecca J. McLain and Eric T. Jones -- Part One. Past and Present -- Historical Overview of Nontimber Forest Product Uses in the Northeastern United States, Marla R. Emery -- The Relevance of Sociocultural Variables to Nontimber Forest Product Research, Policy, and Management, Eric T. Jones and Kathryn Lynch -- CASE STUDY: Workers in the Woods: Confronting Rapid Change, Richard Hansis -- CASE STUDY: Overview of Cultural Traditions, Economic Trends, and Key Species in Nontimber Forest Products of the Pacific Northwest, James Weigand -- CASE STUDY: The American Southwest, James Weigand -- CASE STUDY: The Caribbean Basin: Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, James Weigand -- CASE STUDY: California, James Weigand -- CASE STUDY: Culture and Nontimber Forest Products in the American Pacific Tropics, James Weigand -- CASE STUDY: The Hidden Bounty of the Urban Forest, Paul Jahnige -- CASE STUDY: Rio Grande National Forest, Vince Spero and Carol Fleming -- Part Two. Commerce and Conservation -- Nontimber Forest Product Commerce, Susan J. Alexander, James Weigand, and Keith A. Blatner -- Ecological Considerations in Sustainable Use of Wild

Plants, Nan C. Vance -- The Paradox of Market-Oriented Conservation: Lessons from the Tropical Forests, Carolyn Crook and Roger Alex Clapp -- CASE STUDY: Extractive Reserves for the United States? Lessons from the Amazonian Experience, Thomas Love -- CASE STUDY: Certification of Nontimber Forest Products, Patrick Mallet -- Between Wildcrafting and Monocultures: Agroforestry Options, Wayne S. Teel and Louise E. Buck -- CASE STUDY: Native U.S. Plants in Honey and Pollen Production, Anita G. Alexander and Susan J. Alexander. Biological Inventory and Monitoring, Becky K. Kerns, Leon Liegel, David Pilz, and Susan J. Alexander -- Part Three. Native American Claims -- Indian Reserved Rights, Edmund Clay Goodman -- CASE STUDY: Ojibwe Off-Reservation Harvest of Wild Plants, Karen C. Danielsen and Jonathan H. Gilbert -- CASE STUDY: Making Peace in the Berry Patch: The 1932 Handshake Agreement and the Promise of Cultural Use Zones, Andrew H. Fisher -- CASE STUDY: Contemporary Subsistence Use of Nontimber Forest Products in Alaska, Robert Schroeder -- CASE STUDY: American Indian Management of Federal Lands: The Maidu Cultural and Development Group, Jonathan K. London -- Part Four. Policy and Management -- Federal Nontimber Forest Products Policy and Management, Alexios Antypas, Rebecca J. McLain, Jennifer Gilden, and Greg Dyson -- CASE STUDY: Business As Usual: The Exclusion of Mushroom Pickers in Wild Mushroom Management in Oregon's National Forests, Rebecca J. McLain -- CASE STUDY: Applying Stewardship Contracting Principles to Nontimber Forest Products, Paul Ringgold -- Part Five. Customary Claims to Use Rights on Public Lands -- Nontimber Forest Products Customary Claims, Edmund Clay Goodman -- APPENDIX A. Scientific Names of Species Listed by Common Name in Text -- APPENDIX B. Names of Referenced Plants -- APPENDIX C. USDA Forest Service Resource Inventories and NTFPs -- APPENDIX D. Edible Mushrooms-Unique Inventory and Monitoring Considerations -- APPENDIX E. Estimating Commercial Quantities of Floral Greens -- APPENDIX F. Traditional Forestry Methods to Inventory Tree Characteristics -- APPENDIX G. Inventory Methods for Commercial Moss Harvest -- APPENDIX H. Rogue Institute for Ecology and Economy Special Forest Products Inventory -- APPENDIX I. Monitoring Wild Goldenseal Populations -- List of Contributors -- Index -- Back Cover.

## Sommario/riassunto

A quiet revolution is taking place in America's forests. Once seen primarily as stands of timber, our woodlands are now prized as a rich source of a wide range of commodities, from wild mushrooms and maple sugar to hundreds of medicinal plants whose uses have only begun to be fully realized. Now as timber harvesting becomes more mechanized and requires less labor, the image of the lumberjack is being replaced by that of the forager. This book provides the first comprehensive examination of nontimber forest products (NTFPs) in the United States, illustrating their diverse importance, describing the people who harvest them, and outlining the steps that are being taken to ensure access to them. As the first extensive national overview of NTFP policy and management specific to the United States, it brings together research from numerous disciplines and analytical perspectives-such as economics, mycology, history, ecology, law, entomology, forestry, geography, and anthropology-in order to provide a cohesive picture of the current and potential role of NTFPs. The contributors review the state of scientific knowledge of NTFPs by offering a survey of commercial and noncommercial products, an overview of uses and users, and discussions of sustainable management issues associated with ecology, cultural traditions, forest policy, and commerce. They examine some of the major social, economic, and biological benefits of NTFPs, while also addressing the

potential negative consequences of NTFP harvesting on forest ecosystems and on NTFP species populations. Within this wealth of information are rich accounts of NTFP use drawn from all parts of the American landscape-from the Pacific Northwest to the Caribbean. From honey production to a review of nontimber forest economies still active in the United States-such as the Ojibway "harvest of plants" recounted here-the book takes in the whole breadth of recent NTFP issues, including ecological concerns associated with the expansion of NTFP markets and NTFP tenure issues on federally managed lands. No other volume offers such a comprehensive overview of NTFPs in North America. By examining all aspects of these products, it contributes to the development of more sophisticated policy and management frameworks for not only ensuring their ongoing use but also protecting the future of our forests. Open access edition funded by the National Endowment for Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Humanities Open Book Program.

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