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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (7.16.19)

**Author (as it should appear on the book):** Philip Metcalf and Patricia Galagan

**Title:** *Fire Ghosts*

**Subtitle:** [none]

**Contributors:** with an introduction by Katherine Ware and essays by William deBuys and Craig D. Allen

**Partner:** Joanna Hurley at HurleyMedia

**Book pages:** 160

**Number and type of illustrations:** 54 duotone and 45 4-color photographs by the authors plus 1 color map

**Trim size:** 11.875 x 11.0 inches landscape/horizontal

**List price:** \$40.00

**Discount:** Trade

**ISBN (book):** 978-1-938086-71-7

**ISBNs (electronic):** n/a

**Edition:** Hardcover/PLC

**Jacket:** Yes

**E-book?** Not now.

**Interactive e-book?** No.

**Edition size:** 1,500

**Publication date:** 31 October 2019

**Advances due:** 30 September 2019

**To warehouse:** 15 October 2019

**Printed in:** China

**Distributor:** Casemate/IPM

**Bookstore categories (list three):** Photography/Nature or Environment/New Mexico and American West

**Audience:** General readers interested in photography and the environment, especially the relationship between fires and forest ecology.

**Selling points (list three):** (1) Forest fires are big news, and this book offers a new understanding of the effects of fire and a changing climate on the landscape; (2) the photography is stunningly beautiful if not alarming; (3) the essayists represent cutting-edge knowledge of forest ecology, climate change, and the importance of photographic art in understanding this topic and of place.

**Tagline:** An innovative way of seeing how a major forest recovers from a devastating fire!

## **Description of the work:**

Forest fires in the American West are becoming more frequent as well as longer in duration and more destructive. A recent study by the National Science Foundation states that human-caused warming in the West nearly doubled the area burned by wildfires during the last three decades. And because of rising temperatures and increasing drought, the forest that comes back is often unlike the one that burned in significant ways.

Photographers Philip Metcalf and Patricia Galagan saw this futuristic trend play out in the aftermath of a massive wildfire in New Mexico in 2011. While photographing the 156,000-acre burn scar of the Las Conchas Fire over seven years, they learned from forest ecologists that this forest's imperfect recovery is emblematic of what lies ahead for forests not just in the American Southwest, but in every arid zone in the world.

Metcalf and Galagan's hauntingly beautiful photographs of the aftermath of this terrible fire and its transformation into a new kind of forest will open your eyes to the new reality of climate change on Earth. Essays by photography curator Katherine Ware, environmental writer William deBuys, and forest ecologist Craig Allen will expand your understanding of what you see.

## **Blurbs:**

"Philip Metcalf and Patricia Galagan's *Fire Ghosts* is an ambitious and impressive book. The ambition is in the belief that two artists can combine their distinct sensibilities and visual styles to create one compelling narrative on a subject of timeless significance—the fiery death and sublime rebirth of a beloved American landscape in New Mexico. The impressive part is that they succeeded. When, in the future, visual artists consider collaborating, this is the book they will look to for inspiration."

—Sam Abell, *National Geographic* photographer

"Tracing fire history through scars is an old practice. But these photos by Metcalf and Galagan record a fire that scarred not just trees but the spirit. Like the images of tiny shoots amid looming boles, the book also speaks to a long, uncertain process of change that may or may not be healing. *Fire Ghosts* is a gripping poster for the Pyrocene."

—Stephen J. Pyne, author of *Between Two Fires: A Fire History of Contemporary America*

"*Fire Ghosts* is a thoughtful and insightful look at the aftermath of a major wildfire. Though we may tend to view such events as 'destructive,' in reality wildfires just change the landscape. The photos by Metcalf and Galagan are a testimony to the rejuvenating powers of Nature. More than that, these stunning images, reminiscent of Ansel Adam's best work, capture the subtle and special beauty that comes to a forest restored

to its simplest elements and help us appreciate the regenerative processes that maintain our ecosystems.”  
—George Wuerthner, author of *Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy*

**About the Authors:**

*Patricia Galagan* is a fine-art photographer based in Santa Fe whose work often concerns the aftermath of upheaval in the landscape. Her work was part of the 2015 *Fire Season* show at the New Mexico Museum of Art, which has also been shown at Fototeca de Cuba in Havana and at Fotografika Gallery near Geneva, Switzerland. She was awarded a solo show at Blue Sky Gallery in Portland, Oregon, by Photollucida in 2014. With her husband, Philip Metcalf, she was an artist-in-residence at Bandelier National Monument in 2015.

*Philip Metcalf* is a landscape photographer who creates black-and-white infrared images. His passion is to interpret nature, both pristine and altered by man, especially in the American Southwest. Increasingly, environmental concerns influence his work. In 2015, he was an artist-in-residence at Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico with his wife, Patricia Galagan. His work has been shown at the New Mexico Museum of Art and the San Diego Art Institute and is included in the photo archives of the New Mexico History Museum.

**About the Contributor(s):**

*Craig D. Allen, Ph.D.*, is a research ecologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, specializing in ecosystem dynamics. He is the author of ninety-seven research publications, many about tree mortality, climate-change-related drought and stress in the landscape, and ecosystems in the mountain West. A current project is the “Western Mountain Initiative: Response of Western Mountain Ecosystems to Climatic Variability and Change.”

*William deBuys* is the author of eight books, including *A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest* (Oxford, 2011) and, with Alex Harris, *River of Traps: A New Mexico Mountain Life* (New Mexico, 1990), a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in general non-fiction. An active conservationist, he has helped protect more than 150,000 acres in Arizona, New Mexico, and North Carolina.

*Katherine Ware* is Curator of Photography at the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe, where she organized the exhibition, book, and Website *Earth Now: American Photographers and the Environment* (Museum of New Mexico Press, 2011). She previously served as Curator of Photographs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and as Assistant Curator in the Department of Photographs at the J. Paul Getty Museum. She is a frequent juror and reviewer of contemporary photography and has written extensively on the art of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

