

The junipers that fill these pages are not the landscaping shrubs that color many a suburban lot. What you'll find here are, instead, the native junipers that grow across millions of acres—one of the iconic plants of the American West.

When Kristen Rogers-Iversen realized that junipers had secured a place in her consciousness, she set about exploring the stories, meanings, and multiple perspectives that interweave through the history and natural history of the tree. She discovered its prominent place in ecosystems and human lives over millennia. Junipers have warmed, sheltered, healed, and fed the humans who have lived among the trees, acquiring a supernatural mystique expressed in myths and tales. The juniper has played a key role in the American West as part of a web that is intricately connected with other plants and animals in the pinyon-juniper woodlands, overlapping much as the scalelike leaves of the Utah juniper do.

Learning about juniper is one way to explore the wonders we live among; its shaggy bark and pale blue berries are as much a part of the landscape as jays or jackrabbits, sagebrush or Apache plume, and Colorado Plateau or Great Basin vistas. Learn about ghost beads and spiral grain, packrat middens and wildfire, spirituality and folklore, charcoal and gin, as well as biotic communities, tree life cycles, wilderness, and land management policies. *Interwoven's* exploration of junipers will enrich your appreciation for the trees and your experience of the natural world.

KRISTEN ROGERS-IVERSEN is an award-winning author who has worked as an independent editor and writer; as a therapeutic musician for hospice patients; and as an editor, writer, and administrator at the Utah Division of State History.

"This book is one of the best examples I have seen of combining complex scientific concepts and human history in a way that makes the reader see and feel, as it weaves together personal narrative, human and cultural history, explanation of laws and policies, and commentary. One can tell that the author knows what she is talking about—and she is telling us a fascinating story. I did not want to put it down."

—Susan Marsh, author of *A Hunger for High Country* and coauthor of *Saving Wyoming's Hoback*

"Here's an example of seeing wonder in the commonplace, of uncovering fascinating stories about common, humdrum, nonsexy brush. Rogers-Iversen pulled me in with user-friendly English, a balanced approach to environmental issues, and well-referenced statements. I admire her effortless mixing of literature, Native American lore, tree physiology, and personal anecdotes. If you like Tony Hillerman, you'll like this book!"

—George Constantz, author of *Ice, Fire, and Nutcrackers: A Rocky Mountain Ecology*



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