Uncle Sam’s Jungle: Recreation, Imagination, And The Caribbean National Forest

Will Garrett Mundhenke, University of South Carolina

Date of Award
2016

Document Type
Open Access Thesis

Department
History

Sub-Department
College of Arts and Sciences

First Advisor
Thomas Lekan

Abstract
The Caribbean National Forest in Puerto Rico offers a unique lens into the environmental relationship between the United States and the Caribbean. Established by the Spanish and taken under possession by the United States, the forest represents an imagined space constructed as a Caribbean paradise. As environmentally inclined travelers reached the edge of the western frontier, their interests turned South to the tropics. Tourism boosters and the U.S. Forest Service fabricated a message of a uniquely American jungle. Tourism and the rise of the Caribbean vacation from the 1930s to the 1970s transformed the rainforest from a working landscape into a dreamscape filled with flawless ecological wonders, restaurants, and trails that made American travelers salivate. The U.S. Forest Service metaphorically tamed the jungle, and tourism promoters opened the eyes of Americans to an Edenic landscape under the safety of Uncle Sam’s flag. The Caribbean National Forest became a bargaining chip for control of Puerto Rico. Outdoor recreation became a form of cultural imperialism to sell the imagined forest as a luxurious adventure for mainlanders.

Recommended Citation

INCLUDED IN
Public History Commons

SHARE

Lucas Forest - Forest of Imagination, , otherside Recording, lyrics.song lyrics,music lyrics,lyric songs,lyric search,words to song,song words,video game music,game music music game game. Album / Collection: Mekaku-City Actors Track # 6. Written. Composed, Arranged by Jin (Souzou no Teki P) Performed by IA -ARIA OF THE PLANETES-. View Kanji. New Feature! Soil - The Sam Houston National Forest lies within the Gulf Coastal Plains, and the principal soils were developed from unconsolidated beds of clay, sand, sandy clay, or clay shale materials comprising old non-calcareous sediments of the Tertiary and Pleistocene Ages. The soils range from slightly to severely erosive, although any of the soils in the forest will erode under the right conditions. Minerals - Exploration and drilling for minerals in the Sam Houston National Forest is part of the multiple-use program. Mineral extraction and drilling, allowed under certain conditions, help meet ene All jungles have their ghosts, and if memories of Tarzan and Kong still haunt the cinematic jungle, then Don Lope de Aguirre is there too – forever heading upriver on his beleaguered raft, his head crazed with fever and greedy dreams. In Werner Herzog’s classic Aguirre, Wrath of God (1972), Aguirre (played by Herzog regular, Klaus Kinski) is the Spanish conquistador leading a 16th-century expedition into the Amazon basin in search of El Dorado, the fabled lost city of gold. A tale of human folly and megalomania in the wilderness, at once surreal and documentary-like, Aguirre, Wrath of God was