

Fool-Proof Foregrounds

EASY GUIDE FOR DYNAMIC
FOREGROUNDS IN YOUR
LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY UNIVERSITY

This is it. Your first step to the best photos of your life. I was freshly out of college when I first decided photography was what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to do something that I loved while also supporting my family.



It quickly became apparent that I needed better photos. As someone still trying to pay off student loans, I didn't have the money for the best camera gear. I tried over and over to create income streams for my photography. One day while taking photos of a place I had been so many times before, I realized that the only way to both improve photography and make money with photography was through composition.

Composition is the ONE WAY to create photos that make money without spending thousands on gear or wasting time learning tech jargon.



After realizing this, my photos immediately got better. This wasn't just my opinion either. Companies like REI, FujiFilm, Tamron, and Amazon started working with me based on my photos.

That's my story. I was able to use composition to improve my photos and live the dream of doing photography as a career. Now I can spend more time at home and never miss a moment with my family. If a kid from Tennessee can do it, so can you.

Now it's your turn. Over the next several pages you're going to learn how to use foregrounds to improve your photos. In a week, a month, or a year, you will look back at all of the progress you've made and point to this guide as your "aha moment." I can't wait to see the photos you are able to take after this. You're just one photo away...



THE PURPOSE OF

FOREGROUNDS

1.



PULLING ABILITY

Foregrounds have the ability to pull your viewer into the frame and invite them to explore.

2.



ANCHORING ABILITY

A strong foreground can act as an anchor to the balance of the entire composition, holding the composition in place.

3.



AN INTRODUCTION

A photo is a snapshot of a place. Your foreground is the first introduction.

4.



COMPLIMENTARY SUBJECT

Foregrounds can be a complimentary subject that helps the main subject shine.

5.



A SUPPORTIVE GUIDE

Your composition points the viewer where to look. The foreground is the first arrow they see.

WHAT MAKES GREAT

FOREGROUNDS

A simple way to think about foregrounds to see them as an arrow. You might know these as leading lines. Anything can be a leading line. BUT there needs to be a strong contrast to make that line stand out so that it can be easily followed.

2

The line then guides you to the main subject of the photo which is the mountain range.

1

The initial line brings you in from the bottom left and leads up to the mid-right. Notice the hard contrast of highlight and shadow to make the line stand out.

WHAT MAKES GREAT

FOREGROUNDS

When using lines, the biggest mistake is to use a line that doesn't lead anywhere. Your line must guide the viewer somewhere, ideally the main subject.



2

The end of the root fades off, but the viewer's eye is moving in the direction of the main subject.

1

Admittedly, this curvy root isn't the most pronounced line. However, it does point you somewhere.



WHAT MAKES GREAT

FOREGROUNDS



While some foregrounds are obvious, some aren't. Be creative with other photo techniques to come up with unique foregrounds.

2

They strategically pull you directly to the waterfall.

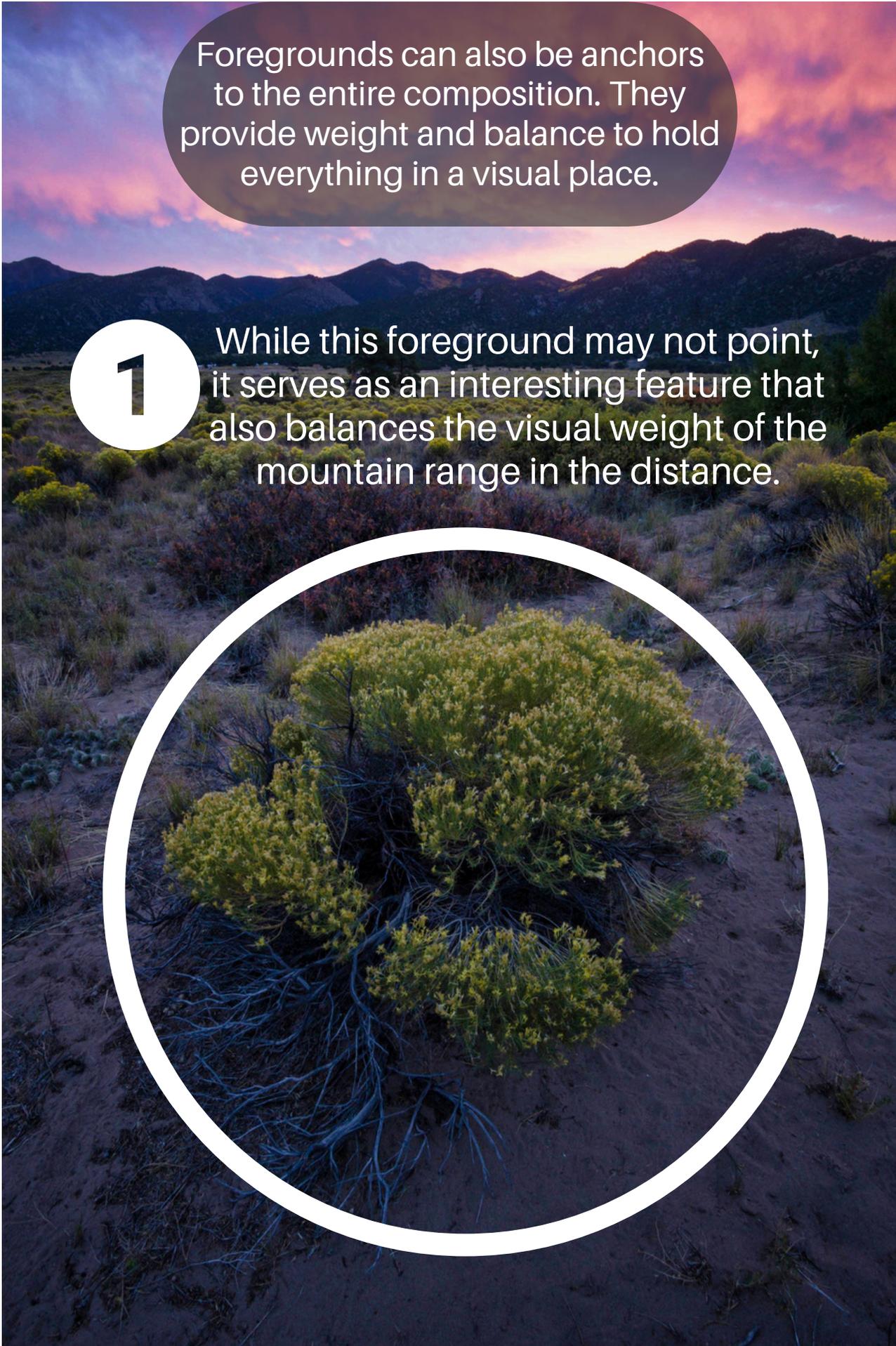
1

Lines don't have to be cracks or roots. These lines are long exposure bubbles that were racing down the river.



WHAT MAKES GREAT

FOREGROUNDS



Foregrounds can also be anchors to the entire composition. They provide weight and balance to hold everything in a visual place.

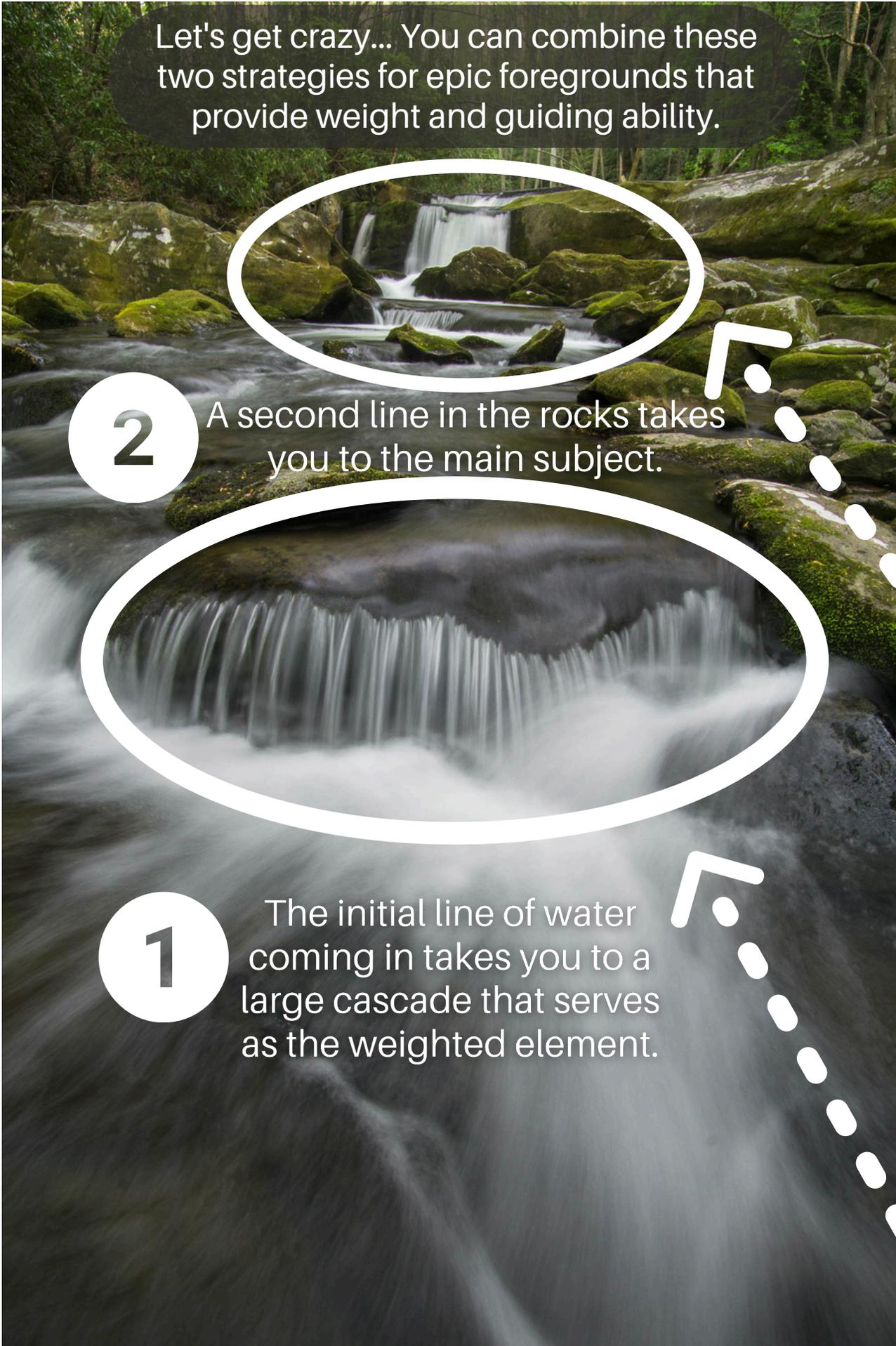
1

While this foreground may not point, it serves as an interesting feature that also balances the visual weight of the mountain range in the distance.



WHAT MAKES GREAT

FOREGROUNDS



Let's get crazy... You can combine these two strategies for epic foregrounds that provide weight and guiding ability.

2

A second line in the rocks takes you to the main subject.

1

The initial line of water coming in takes you to a large cascade that serves as the weighted element.

WHAT MAKES GREAT

FOREGROUNDS

The ultimate hack when using foregrounds is to combine these techniques multiple times in the same photo.

2

Lines come in from the sides as mountains to lead to the valley and range in the back.

1

These rocks lead you into the frame, but also lead to the two shrubs which are anchors.

WHAT MAKES GREAT

FOREGROUNDS



As you can see, foregrounds can be used in so many different ways. The more you practice with them, the more you will see creative ways to use them. Just remember... look for hard contrast, lines, and anchors to the scene.

The truth is, this is only scratching the surface of what you can do with your photography. That's why I created Landscape Photography University. We are the only online platform with live critique sessions weekly for direct advice for you. To learn more about all of the bonus material at LPU, click here!