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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

I introduce this issue of the Natural Resources Journal by turning over the reins (and these introductions) to Professor Reed Benson, another, younger, water lawyer who comes to us from Wyoming by way of Iowa and Michigan. With the help of many people—students, academics, natural resource professionals, even literary critics—I’ve run the Journal for almost eight years.

Well, “run” is too strong a claim. Managing editor Susan Tackman, who was here when I arrived and leaves with me, really ran it. Like a good Blue Heeler, I herded the Journal along by worrying its flanks. When I took over, the Journal emphasized an entirely appropriate multi-disciplinary approach to national and international resource issues. If I did anything in my tenure as editor, it was to increase the flock, to expand its edges, to make it like its old self, only more so. The recent issues of the Journal, I hope, draw on more disciplines, present different kinds of resource writing, contain more freestanding essays and many more book reviews, all within the Natural Resource Journal’s basic original mold.

This issue is a good example of the kind of publication that the Journal has tried to grow into. Two paens to New Mexico’s 1907 Water Code help celebrate the Code’s 100th birthday in different ways. Professor Barbara Cosens, who herself combines academic disciplines, returns to the Journal, this time with a timely article on the areal extent of the Clean Water Act. Two employees of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, an engineer and a lawyer, consider the Rio Grande Compact implications of the City of Albuquerque’s radical decision to switch from groundwater to imported surface water. Other articles range from oil issues in Iran to cultural issues in northern New Mexico, from theology to a consideration of the public nature of private property. The depth and breadth of this issue show the Journal at its finest, and I leave it in good hands.

I thank all the readers of the Journal for their support over the years.