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Natural Resources Journal, Annual Report 2004 - 2005

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NRJ Annual Report 2004-2005

The Natural Resources Journal published four issues in the reporting period from June 2004 to June 2005: volume 44, number two to volume 45, number 1. The four issues included two fine issues containing articles devoted to special topics. Volume 44:2 focused on private land conservation prospects. Volume 44:4 dealt with emerging concerns about the management of National Wildlife Refuges. Two institutions outside New Mexico—the Private Enterprise Research Consortium (PERC) from Montana and the University of Indiana School of Law—helped immensely in assembling the special issues which followed the recently established Journal format. Each special issue opened with a general essay and contained a review of the literature in the area. Between the two special issues the Journal published two other issues—volumes 44:3 and 45:1—which followed the more traditional Journal format emphasizing a diversity of articles and disciplines in each issue. Articles in Vol. 44:3, for example, ranged from an article dealing with the Forest Service’s changing administrative regulation of roads to one about nuclear waste sites. Vol. 45:1 had a similar breadth.

The Journal’s changed format is basically set now. The Journal continues to open with a general essay and close with an expanded literature review section. The Journal continues to feature as well the best of student writing in the natural resources area. In the coming year the Journal expects to continue with the format, although the work involved in locating essayists and finding book reviewers requires an increasing amount of work.

The Journal also is considering a study to locate itself in the current world of legal and natural resource publications. When the Journal began forty years ago it was unique in the world of legal publications. In the intervening years many specialty journals have appeared, some dealing with the environment, others dealing with natural resources. The competition for good manuscripts has increased. The Journal needs to define its niche more clearly and establish its place in it. Circulation remains constant, but the pressure of electronic and other competition mounts. The Journal plans to take stock the coming year.