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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

This issue of the *Natural Resources Journal* exemplifies the constant interplay between interdisciplinary scholarship and policy making. *Out in Front? State and Federal Regulation of Air Pollution Emissions from Oil and Gas Production Activities in the Western United States* carefully examines the ongoing interaction between legal restrictions for pollution emissions, pressures for increased development of oil and gas, and the resulting impact on both oil and gas production and new legal requirements throughout western states. *Landscape Shifting Paradigm for the Endangered Species Act: An Integrated Critical Habitat Recovery Program* analyzes the legal development and stagnation of critical habitat designation in the Endangered Species Act, upon which the author grounds policy recommendations for a comprehensive program to conserve ecosystems that are critical to species survival. *China's Obligation to Conduct Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (TEIA) in Utilizing Its Shared Water Resources* provides a thorough review of international customary law and ongoing transboundary practices in China to argue that China should implement transboundary environmental impact assessments as a standard practice. In *An Econometric Test of Water Market Structure in the Western United States*, the economic analysis of water markets in western states focuses on the development of each market according to local externalities and demonstrates the efficiency of local markets. The final article, *Historic Break with the Past: The New Foreign Investment Possibilities in the Mexican Oil and Gas Industry*, presents a timely review of dramatic changes in the Mexican Constitution, describing potential new roles for foreign investment in Mexico's oil and gas industry.

The issue's two student articles base policy recommendations on strong legal analysis. *The Promise of Indian Water Leasing: An Examination of One Tribe's Success at Brokering Its Surplus Water Rights* reviews the water lease portfolio of the Jicarilla Apache Nation to identify potential opportunities for Native American tribes to lease federal Indian water rights. *A Special Purpose: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Wind Energy* recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service develop special purpose permits for incidental takes in wind energy development in exchange for thoughtful pre-construction siting and mitigation. Scholarship in these topics provides increased opportunity for policies worldwide that strike the tenuous balance between current resource use and conservation.

This issue is the product of the work of many individuals. We warmly thank the authors for their rigorous scholarship, thoughtful analysis, and engaged participation in the editing process. We have also greatly benefitted from the guidance and experience of two dedicated faculty advisors, Alex Ritchie and Reed Benson. Finally, this issue would

have been impossible without the tireless efforts and creative problem-solving of our board and staff. And together, this team thanks you, the reader, for your interest. As a policy focused issue, this scholarship provides a foundation for the future, which is possible only through increased dialogue and action.

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Editors-in-Chief