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In the reporting period from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, the NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL published four issues, Volume 47, Numbers 1 through 4. Each issue included an introductory essay showcasing innovative ideas in natural resource scholarship followed by several substantive academic pieces and reviews of recent natural resource literature.

True to the JOURNAL’s mission of bringing together natural resources scholarship from many perspectives and disciplines, content varied greatly between issues. Articles addressed topics including climate change, tribal involvement in the management of the Great Lakes, methods for valuing ecosystem services, international criminal law as applied to resource exploitation in Africa, and collaborative forest management in New Mexico. Volume 47, No. 3, was devoted to the research presented at a symposium co-sponsored by the NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL and the Utton Center on the laws, policies, and management of the reservoirs along the Rio Grande River in New Mexico.

During the past year, the JOURNAL continued its recently established pattern of sponsoring one conference per period. On April 12, 2008, the JOURNAL presented “New Mexico’s Land Grants & the Law,” a symposium on the contentious legal histories of the state’s Spanish and Mexican land grants. Speakers included both national experts and new voices in the field, and the event drew an audience of over 90 people from across the state. Videos and materials from the symposium are available on the JOURNAL’s webpage, and the papers are being edited for publication in Volume 48, No. 4, of the NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL, which will be issued during the next publishing period.

Making many of the symposium materials available online is an initial step toward re-establishing the JOURNAL’s prominence in the rapidly changing world of academic publications. As we move forward, the NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL is committed to maintaining its longstanding tradition of excellence among academic natural resource publications while finding a niche in which its unique vision will thrive. Working with an international array of authors, including experts and leaders in a wide range of disciplines, the JOURNAL continues to recruit and receive essay and article submissions across the growing body of critical natural resource topics.

Finally, during the last reporting period, long-time Faculty Editor Em Hall and Managing Editor Susan Tackman retired from their posts, and the leadership of the NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL passed to new Faculty Editor Reed Benson and Managing Editor Lynne Arany. ###