



Spring 2011

Introduction

Maggie Lane

Ashleigh Morris

Recommended Citation

Maggie Lane & Ashleigh Morris, *Introduction*, 51 Nat. Resources J. vii (2011).
Available at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nrj/vol51/iss1/2>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Natural Resources Journal by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu, lsloane@salud.unm.edu, sarahrk@unm.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The University of New Mexico School of Law's *Natural Resources Journal (NRJ)* recently passed its 50-year publication milestone, and, with this issue—the first for year 51—our editorial philosophy remains true to our original vision, established more than a half-century ago: to offer our readers interdisciplinary scholarship with new perspectives on a broad range of natural resources and environmental issues. For this issue, we bring you a broad mix of topics and geographic perspectives, ranging from New Mexico case studies concerning endangered species reintroduction and consumptive water calculations to the public trust doctrine at work in California, the trust species concept as defined by the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the need for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate livestock-produced methane gas.

Starting closest to home, author Raymond B. Wrabley, Jr., examines the process of public lands policymaking using a case study of the reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf to its historic range in western New Mexico—a controversial and often heated decision that, at times, leaves cattle ranchers and policymakers at odds.

Similarly, authors Rhonda Skaggs, Zohrab Samani, A. Salim Bawazir, and Max Bleiweiss shed light on water rights adjudication through another New Mexico case study that examines actual consumptive use (rather than theoretical consumptive use) in agricultural developments in New Mexico's Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Moving further afield, author Paul Kibel turns to how the public trust doctrine, which calls for instream-flow protections, has impacted management of California's Bay Delta, an ecologically sensitive and critical water source for both irrigation and municipal supplies.

At a wider level, authors Robert L. Fischman and Robert S. Adamcik explore why the National Wildlife Refuge System should adopt a broader mandate than the trust species concept as a conservation objective, especially in the face of climate change.

Last but not least, student author John Verheul, winner of the University of New Mexico School of Law's Albert E. Utton Natural Resources Law Award recognizing excellence in natural resources, examines the need for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate animal-produced methane as a greenhouse gas.

While we remain true to our original editorial philosophy, we are committed to reassessing and improving our publication philosophy. Notably, this issue marks the first publication of the *NRJ* as a student-edited, rather than faculty-edited, journal. The journal remains under the guidance of former faculty editor Professor Reed Benson, who now serves as faculty advisor.

Enjoy the issue.

—Maggie Lane & Ashleigh Morris
Co-Editors-in-Chief