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## Introduction

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## INTRODUCTION

In this issue of the *Natural Resources Journal* we present our traditional potpourri: land use conflicts, international environmental conundrums with universal significance, and an interdisciplinary approach to natural resource issues. Professor Irus Braverman opens the issue with an article exploring the relationship between pine trees and Jewish people in Israel/Palestine, showcasing her unique scholarly blend of anthropology, geography, and law. Next, Kiwi John Page provides a comparative analysis of private grazing on public lands in New Zealand and the western United States, with a focus on how the two countries take different approaches to protecting the public's right to recreate on those lands.

Two articles address issues closer to home and involve the intersection of endangered species conservation and the use of our natural resources. Professor Brian Ellison gives an update on the status of the Bureau of Reclamation's Animas-La Plata project in southwestern Colorado and explains how the Bureau responded to the presence of the endangered Colorado pikeminnow and managed to complete the project after decades of planning, narrowly averting failure. Recent law graduate Sally Paez describes the biology and status of the lesser prairie-chicken in New Mexico and analyzes the multifarious conservation initiatives undertaken for the species, a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Finally, this issue presents critical looks at the World Trade Organization's role in energy security planning (by Wen-chen Shih, a professor of law in Taiwan) and China's use of Environmental Impact Assessments as a decision-making tool to mitigate the adverse environmental consequences of construction projects (by Zhao Yuhong, a researcher and professor of law in Hong Kong). These well-researched articles clearly articulate issues resounding with international significance.

We hope you will enjoy these varied articles that carry forth the *Natural Resource Journal's* mission.

—Sally Paez & Adam Rankin  
Co-Editors-in-Chief