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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

Here in this issue you have another classic *Natural Resources Journal* take on the world. Each of the articles takes a different slice out of the same broad current environmental issue, using different academic tools. You have Boise State mathematician Brett Crow assessing the mathematics involved in FERC dam renewals. You have law professor Daniel Cole making sense of the very different economic estimates of the costs of climate change. You have in David Hurlbut a senior policy analyst assessing the effectiveness of Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) in Texas and elsewhere as a tool for addressing climate change. And you have a Chinese law professor, Mingqing You, reviewing a new administrative procedure in his home country to improve enforcement of broad environmental regulations.

Surrounding these classically focused, discipline specific articles, there are three outliers. There is Courtney White's elegant opening essay, the confession of a conservationist who has livestock grazing within his ken. There is Tina Gooch's well-researched and clearly presented analysis of the international and national regulation of the trade in illicit diamonds, surely a natural resource not usually considered in the natural resources literature. These two articles were long the object of *Natural Resources Journal* editors' envy, one the work of an environmentalist who liked cows, the other the work of a law student who liked jewels. White is still with the Quivira Coalition, but Gooch graduated from law school before we could get her fine article into print.

Finally, to top off a world of serendipitous connections, there is lawyer and biologist Catherine Archibald's yoking together of international regulation of the process and production of trade and the possibility of greater protection of animals through those regulations. This is not a connection that would occur to everyone, but, in Archibald's fine hand, it seems a fine way to improve the world.