



# NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL

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Volume 46

*Issue 2 Moving Beyond the Current Paradigm: Redefining the Federal-Tribal Trust Relationship for This Century In Collaboration with the American Indian Law Center, Inc.*

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Spring 2006

## Introduction

Natural Resources Journal

### Recommended Citation

Natural Resources Journal, *Introduction*, 46 Nat. Resources J. vii (2006).

Available at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nrj/vol46/iss2/1>

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## INTRODUCTION

For the last six years the *Natural Resources Journal* has sponsored or helped to sponsor an annual symposium concentrating on a specific, important issue in the natural resources area and yielding a special issue of the *Journal*. In years past we've sponsored symposia and produced issues on subjects as diverse as land use planning frontiers and new legislation for national wildlife refuges. In his last year at the UNM law school in 2004-2005, student editor-in-chief Pablo Padilla proposed that the *Journal* take on as a symposium and issue topic the subject of new thinking on Native American natural resources in the context of changing concepts of Native American sovereignty.

Padilla's suggestion was a natural for a New Mexico journal and for him. Nowhere is the Native American claim to resource sovereignty as broad and deep as it is here in New Mexico. Pablo Padilla, a member of the Zuni Pueblo in western New Mexico, was raised on natural resource issues ranging from uranium mining to ground water pollution. Padilla knew that thinking on the broad subject of Native American resource control was changing. For the symposium, *Moving Beyond the Current Paradigm: Redefining the Federal-Tribal Trust Relationship for This Century*, in the spring of 2005, he brought together the leading scholars in the area to discuss these changes. This issue of the *Journal* comes a year after the symposium but it's worth the wait.

Nowhere in the literature will you find gathered together a more impressive array of established and new writers on this important topic. Kevin Gover is probably the most prominent figure here, having served as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs under the Clinton Administration. (To us at the *Journal* he's equally well-known as a graduate of our law school.) However, Robert Anderson, Bob Laurence, and Judith Royster are all established scholars in this emerging field and Stacy Leeds is emerging with them as a new voice for a different version of federal/Indian relationships. Together these authors provide a clear and long-awaited analysis of these important issues.

No author in this issue has been as late or as lucid as Sam Deloria. His introductory essay is beautifully written and sparkles with insight. Deloria's understanding of Native American law and history is so sure that he appears to tread lightly on an intellectual terrain that is full of pitfalls and traps. Publishing Sam Deloria is a privilege; reading him is a pleasure. Waiting for him as he struggles to write as effortlessly as he seems to is neither. Finally, this issue of the *Journal* is really his and we thank him for it.