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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

Nothing so galvanizes different attitudes toward natural resources as recent wolf re-introduction programs. Proximity seems to measure attitude. Ranchers and rural people, by and large, oppose the programs; academics and urban folk support it. If you counted the dollar contributions to the fund for the protection of wolves at the Albuquerque Museum of Natural History, the count runs heavily in favor of the wolves. If you polled ranchers from southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, the count runs heavily against. It's in differences like this that most western resource issues are forged. In one sense, this issue's articles by Professor Edward Fitzgerald and essayist Laura Pritchett fit that mold. Fitzgerald is an eastern-trained academic, teaching in the middle west, with a fine-toned, though distant, perspective on wolf re-introduction programs in Arizona and New Mexico. Pritchett is a daughter of Colorado ranchers and reports here on the reactions of local ranchers, looking down the business end of the re-introduced wolves. For all the differences in their style and point of view, these two articles offer a nuanced look at an old conflict.

We're always surprised here at the *Natural Resources Journal* to learn that we are, after all, a law review, and two of the articles in this issue remind us of that niche. And to think that Mary Ann King and Sally Fairfax, a frequent contributor to the *Journal*, aren't even lawyers. They are both connected to the University of California at Berkeley Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, the former as a student, the latter as a distinguished professor. In this issue they elegantly analyze the public interest in private conservation easements, one of the darlings of conservative law makers, and come to some surprising conclusions. They are joined in this issue by law professor Kenneth Salzberg, who raises interesting questions about recent judicial attitudes toward regulatory takings. If King and Fairfax deal with the public interest in private property arrangements (conservation easements), Salzberg deals with the private interest (takings) in public property (regulation). Together the two elegant articles bring the *Journal* closer to its law review identity.

Finally, two other articles in this issue, the Vick article on African waters and the McIntyre one on international, shared freshwaters, return the *Journal* to its international resource roots. The *Journal* always has used this international focus both as important in an increasingly interconnected world and for the light that these distant stars shed on our domestic shores.

This issue of the *Journal* is new wine in an old bottle and we hope you enjoy it.