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## Introduction

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## INTRODUCTION

Here in this issue is a classic potpourri of diverse articles true to the best *Natural Resources Journal* tradition. You will find a high-level NASA official writing eloquently about scientific uncertainty and natural resource choices. You have academics from California and Spain joining in an article on the perils of inter-basin water transfers on the Iberian Peninsula. You have geographers, one of whom is a lawyer, considering inter-state water markets that might effect compact obligations. You have economists estimating the value added by healthy riparian corridors in southern Arizona. As usual, these and the other articles in this issue run the gamut of academic disciplines and the width and breadth of the natural resources world.

The School of Law at the University of New Mexico, however, publishes the *Journal* and we are especially proud of the distinct connection between these far-flung, multi-disciplinary articles and the New Mexico landscape. Essayist Ann Clark is a New Mexican, born and bred. The problems of so-called "basin of origin" claims that lie at the heart of the article on Ebro water transfers in Spain are now surfacing in New Mexico watersheds where local residents are hell bent on preventing the transfer of valued water rights from one watershed to another. Water managers on the Rio Grande may look to water rights in Colorado's upstream San Luis valley as a partial solution to New Mexico's compact water shortages just as New Mexico Pecos River managers may look downstream to Texas to reduce their inter-state obligations. And the findings of the Arizona economists on the contribution of riparian habitat to land values will confirm what some New Mexican have always said about the extensive works of the controversial Middle Rio Grande Conservancy (MRGCD): At least and for better or worse, the MRGCD has increased many times over the real estate values of lands in the district. So the far-flung articles in this issue bear on the State that publishes the *Journal*.

Kathryn Benz, the author of the student piece in this issue, combines the best of the far flung and down home. She is from Iowa. She now works for the Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice in Washington. She came to the University of New Mexico School of Law for her legal education. She enriched our New Mexican lives in her short stay here and now she enriches this issue.