



NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL

Volume 45
Issue 3 Summer 2005

Summer 2005

Introduction

Natural Resources Journal

Recommended Citation

Natural Resources Journal, *Introduction*, 45 NAT. RES. J. vii (2005).
Available at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nrj/vol45/iss3/1>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Natural Resources Journal by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.

INTRODUCTION

This issue of the *Natural Resources Journal* has a heft and feel to it that must seem unnatural. It contains only two lead articles, rather than the usual five. Bohannon and Lin's excellent exploration of a current environmental hot spot—the special problems of combined wastewater and stormwater disposal systems—is normal for the *Journal*. But the other of the two lead articles almost fills the rest of the issue. Additionally, unlike most of our opening essays, this issue's lead essay deals with a subject usually relegated to other kinds of journals. Yet in the stretch between Bill Eddy's opening essay and John McArthur's following restatement we hope you will find the best of the *Natural Resources Journal*, only, as Mark Twain was supposed to have said in a very different context, "more so."

Bill Eddy is a distinguished professor emeritus of environmental studies at the University of Vermont. When we first read his essay on mind over matter, it struck the editors as beautifully written and slightly beyond the *Journal's* pale. Eddy does not put himself into the "intelligent design" imbroglio, but his elegant essay treads close to the boundaries of what will sound to some like that debate. However, Eddy's emphasis on the role of thinking in the formation of the natural world itself treats the human mind as one of the most basic of natural resources. What more suitable venue for that fundamental expression than here in this journal?

This issue balances those abstract concerns with John McArthur's specific and exhaustive treatment of a basic issue in oil and gas law. McArthur styles his article as a "restatement," in the great tradition of American law and letters. McArthur's article culminates a four article series by him, spanning ten years, on the major legal relationships in the oil and gas industry. The penultimate article in the series appeared in a 2001 issue of the *Natural Resources Journal*. We are pleased to publish four years later this most recent article, the most ambitious, the most comprehensive, and the most definitive of them all. The article surveys the current and often inconsistent law on the fundamental nature of the operator/nonoperator relationship in the oil and gas industry. In the tradition of the restatements in other areas of the law, McArthur's article suggests a new way to reconcile the operator's control and the nonoperator's dependence on that control.

This is heady stuff for one issue. If the differences between the Eddy and McArthur pieces seem great, a human dimension holds them together. Both of these authors, like Bohannon and Lin, were a pleasure to work with in assembling this rich issue. Eddy never over-played his hand. McArthur steadied ours as we dealt with more footnotes than we sometimes see in a whole issue. After all, we owe this issue to their wisdom, their patience, and their perseverance.