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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

I began writing these introductions to each issue of the *Natural Resources Journal* by mistake. I took over the editorship of the publication in July 2000, just as the *Journal* was getting ready to honor 40 years of publication. I had intended to celebrate the event once and let the introductions go at that. Somehow I found myself introducing the *Journal* four times a year every year ever since. Now, almost six years later, I've found myself speaking as "we" in the recent run of introductions, despite Mark Twain's advice that the editorial "we" was reserved for editors like me, Kings, and Horses Asses.

I return to "I" here not to evade Twain's latter two categories, but for another, better reason. This issue contains a long article of mine and there's no escaping that I wrote it by calling me "we." The article on the judicial definition of Forest Service water rights in 1980 and the messy aftermath of that decision is the second the *Journal* has run on my watch in what we hoped would become a series in the annals of litigation of great natural resource cases. Like Alise Rudio's article on *Merrion v. Jicarilla Tribe*, this one on *United States v. New Mexico* falls into the tradition of literary journalism more than the tradition of the law review. Based as much on personal interviews as archival research, as much on the vagaries of human personality as on legal principle, the article emphasizes how much human chance and particular times enhance the way we make permanent rules about our most basic resources. Astute friends have criticized these articles, saying that they are neither fish nor fowl, neither law review article nor journalism, but some fantastic hybrid of the two. I offer these *Natural Resources Journal* manticores for whatever multi-disciplinary contribution they can make. I invite more.

I also chose to introduce in the first person Martha Mulvany's wonderful piece on the literary integrity of a recent New Mexico Supreme Court decision on a historically important natural resource issue. Mulvany brings to the decision the perspective of the New Critics of literary analysis. These New Critics emphasized the integrity of texts themselves, preferring to assess how well they worked on their own terms rather than other external ones. The *Journal* always has prided itself on its multiple perspectives and this is a new addition to a long tradition. (It's also the one in which I was trained forty years ago and so I end this first person introduction in the soft embrace of parenthesis.)