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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

There are many ways to measure the diversity of articles gracing this issue of the *Natural Resources Journal*. There are lawyers and economists here, discussing everything from various aspects of the Endangered Species Act to various aspects of tax laws as they affect things as different as oil and gas production and conservation easements. The Valles Caldera and its radical experiment with public land management is right in our New Mexico backyard and we're pleased to publish in this issue the first comprehensive, detailed look at how things are going. The *Journal* has long been interested in expanding its subjects to include the intersection of natural resources and the media. We are especially pleased to publish in this issue journalist and lawyer Laura Hendrickson's report on a year's worth of the print media's treatment of the Endangered Species Act. The Hendrickson article extends our interdisciplinary range of articles and deals with a law that touches all resources. We're proud to move further in this encompassing direction.

Without minimizing the importance of these core articles, we are perhaps proudest of the Fleischner essay and the Morrow book review essay that appear in this issue. We've been publishing these opening essays in the *Journal* for almost five years now and they have included a range of styles and subjects, from law professor John Leshy's hard look at efforts to reform the 1872 Mining Act to Peter Lavigne's reverie on dam deconstruction in the Pacific Northwest. We are especially pleased to complement these wildly different, important pieces with naturalist Tom Fleischner's anthem to the importance of seeing nature when viewing natural resources. Too often we take the natural world for granted in our focus on resources; Fleischner's essay puts it eloquently back in. The UNM Press has just published Fleischner's account of natural desert water and, by all accounts, the book pays the same wonderful attention to a rare and important thing that he espouses in this essay.

Then there's Erin Morrow's book review essay. The *Journal* has published wide-ranging reviews like this for a couple of years now. The shape of Morrow's is unique. It focuses on one book rather than many and adds a lot of information of its own to the book's subject: conservation easements and what they offer ranchers. Morrow knows whereof she speaks. She grew up on a huge private ranch in northeastern New Mexico and is about to finish law school at Yale. We welcome her back to New Mexico through the *Journal* and hope that she will return as she has with this illuminating review.