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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

We introduced opening essays to the *Natural Resources Journal* eleven issues ago and followed a year later with another addition, the general literature review. In this issue, the elegant essay by Dinah Bear on the future of NEPA and the long essay by the Dinars on the recent literature of international fresh waters solidify, deepen, and extend these now regular *Journal* features. Ms. Bear's even-handed assessment of NEPA in the twenty-first century is based on twenty years of high-level experience with the Council on Environmental Quality. She knows whereof she speaks and writes beautifully about it. As lead economist for the World Bank, Ariel Dinar has been extensively involved with international transboundary water resources and has written widely about them in earlier *Journal* issues. Ariel's son, Shlomi, joins his father in this review and, as Ariel says with pride, "follows in my footsteps." In this mother of all book reviews, the Dinars, father and son, comprehensively assemble and systematically organize a burgeoning literature on an important natural resources topic. Combined, the Bear essay and the Dinar review exemplify the best of a new *Journal* tradition.

Squeezed in between are some wonderful articles on a wide range of natural resource issues. In the old *Journal* tradition, four of this issue's articles were written by economists and deal with the intersection of that discipline and pressing environmental problems. The particular articles treat a wide range of situations, from TMDL programs to the Endangered Species Act, but they share an accessibility unusual in technical economic treatments. The fifth major article here analyzes from the perspective of political science the evolution of watershed government in the jurisdictionally fragmented Lake Tahoe area.

After all, the *Journal* is technically a law review and we are pleased finally to include UNM law graduate Jesse Boyd's comprehensive survey of in-stream flow regimes across the western United States. Boyd gathers together in one useful place the different transactional mechanisms employed in the controversial arena of preserving and enhancing instream flows. But, in addition, he derives some basic legal and policy principles that will be useful to those seeking to establish instream flow programs.