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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

This second issue of volume 42 continues to stir the rich brew we cooked up in the first issue. William deBuys joins the *Natural Resources Journal* for the first time as this issue's lead essayist. DeBuys is a well-known author of three books on the southwestern landscape and an active conservationist. He is also one of a small band of environmental historians produced by a remarkable PhD program at the University of Texas at Austin. Like fellow graduate Steven Pyne, deBuys brings a breadth and depth to his subject that is matched by the grace of his writing. His essay here encompasses the past, present, and future of the Rio Grande in as few words as the river has water.

Two articles focus on a relatively new subject for the *Natural Resources Journal*: the use of private property rights to achieve public conservation benefits. Peter Morrisette, a geographer turned lawyer, brings a special perspective to a unique subject. Increasingly over the last decade, environmental groups have turned to conservation easements to purchase broad land-use controls. Morrisette pulls together the property law background of these easements and surveys their use across the country. He is paired in this issue with watershed planner William Fleming's description of the use of the most modern of the private property controls—"transferable development rights"—in the most ancient of situations, a centuries old Hispanic community struggling to survive in the shadow of a prosperous and rapidly changing city. Fleming's article shows that the new property institutions offer some hope for preserving the past as well as guiding the future.

Three other articles in this issue deal with a more familiar topic, water, in new ways. Professors Prelli and Larsen-Becker offer an intriguing look into the appropriate institutional management of ocean fisheries, a common resource that has made regulation difficult. A multi-disciplinary group of multi-university academics shows how new technologies may reduce barriers to water reallocation by allowing for more accurate measures of the effects of reallocation. And Professors Carey and Sunding show how different local institutions may change barriers to reallocation. Together, the three articles suggest the complexities on the current waterscape.

Finally, Joan Drake offers a student paper on a burning topic in western water management: the power of the Bureau of Reclamation under existing irrigation contracts to re-allocate water from irrigation to endangered species protection. This issue has bedeviled the Ninth Circuit and is now extending to the Tenth and beyond. By and large, the cases have been short on analysis and long on controversy. Ms. Drake's article is timely and in-depth and will generate great interest.

The book reviews in this issue are short, pithy, and too few. The *Natural Resources Journal* needs more of them in order to perform one of its

essential functions, informing an intelligent audience about what's being written in their field.

Join us in taking pleasure in reading this issue and writing a review for the next.