



NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL

Volume 41
Issue 3 Summer 2001

Summer 2001

Introduction

Natural Resources Journal

Recommended Citation

Natural Resources Journal, *Introduction*, 41 Nat. Resources J. xiii (2001).
Available at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nrj/vol41/iss3/2>

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 amywinter@unm.edu, lsloane@salud.unm.edu, sarahrk@unm.edu.

INTRODUCTION

As with most fields these days, the natural resources domain, in the language of the new critics, is both contingent and contested. Every proposal concerning any natural resource issue depends on the proponent's point of view, an angle of vision for which each is prepared to do battle. The *Natural Resources Journal* recognizes the diversity that this inevitable struggle produces and in this issue begins to sponsor it.

Dr. Hannah Gosnell, a geographer, contributes here one of the first detailed accounts of the long negotiations among various interests over a federal water project in the Four Corners area. Here four states, the federal government, several Tribes, and numerous visions of water wisdom all meet and compete. Gosnell argues that the final Animas-La Plata project reflects a flaw in the Endangered Species Act and an institutional weakness in the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Native American attorneys Stanley Pollack and Scott McElroy take a different view, arguing that the Project's final balance of different interests weighed them correctly. Attorney David Hayes, at the time of the final agreements a Department of Interior attorney in charge of Animas-La Plata negotiations, portrays the federal government generally, and the Fish and Wildlife Service in particular, as flexible, not weak. These days nothing is so controversial as water policy. Of course, there are many legitimate ways to look at these complex events. In this issue, the *Natural Resources Journal* offers you three.

Lead essayist Sam Deloria comes at the reality of conflicting government policies from another perspective. Deloria argues that conflicts are inherent in jurisdictions that overlap. In reaching agreements, each government trades a little of its own sovereignty. In the case of Native American natural resources, Tribes can trade only when their sovereignty is recognized.

This issue also introduces yet a third addition to the *Journal's* focus on competition between diverse natural resource views. You will note in a new *Journal* section a letter to the editor about an earlier issue's article on the Colorado River delta. We've added a response by the article's author. These letters and answers will add to the *Journal* more of the essential point and counter-point characterized by the Gosnell/Pollack-McElroy/Hayes exchange. They will make the *Journal* more like the world of conflict that Sam Deloria imagines, a world where different visions are presented in a single, tolerant forum.