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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to introduce this special issue of the *Natural Resources Journal* on wildlife law and policy issues. The authors have contributed a great deal to the current discussion of crucial wildlife issues, ranging from local issues such as poaching, to major international issues such as the implementation of NAFTA and developments under CITES.

The idea for this special issue was formed in 1990 with the thoughtful assistance of *Natural Resources Journal* Editor Albert Utton. The concept dovetailed perfectly with the mission of the then-new Center for Wildlife Law at the University of New Mexico School of Law's Institute of Public Law, to broaden awareness of wildlife law and policy issues so that wildlife management, conservation and protection could be enhanced through a higher level of communication and understanding. Authors were solicited for articles that were broad-ranging and informative on the many changing issues and controversies surrounding wildlife law, policy and management. With the reauthorization of the Federal Endangered Species Act imminent, it was important to give audience to the myriad concerns and recommendations coming forth on this extremely important piece of national wildlife legislation. Authors Souder and Smith have presented well-conceived and original articles on the ESA, with diverse analyses and recommendations regarding economic and other aspects of the ESA.

In addition, we felt that it was crucial to consider developments under international laws affecting wildlife such as NAFTA, CITES and GATT. Attorney Snape presents a very timely analysis of the potential impacts of NAFTA on wildlife conservation efforts, and Professor Favre provides a detailed overview of the workings of CITES and the CITES Conference of the Parties held in Tokyo in 1992. My father Judge Musgrave, with Attorney Stevens, reviews the GATT dispute resolution panel's far-reaching action regarding the dolphin-tuna controversy. Finally, a truly international perspective on biodiversity preservation in Nigeria is offered by Author Osemeobo.

On the national scene, Seth Macinko offers a novel and original, yet time-tested and historic, solution to the daunting issue of fisheries depletion facing the commercial fisheries today. Within our Center for Wildlife Law, during 1993 we were finishing an enormous work, the *State Wildlife Laws Handbook*. We felt that the issues and potential solutions that were uncovered in the book's chapter on poaching in the United States deserved rewriting and publication in this *NRJ* issue, to broaden awareness of the growing threat of poaching to our nation's wildlife.

It is appropriate and important to publish a special issue on wildlife law and policy, as local, state, national and international wildlife legislation is being reexamined as visible deterioration of wildlife and

biodiversity is becoming apparent worldwide, as a result of rapid human population and technological growth. New laws, amendments, regulations and policies will shape the future of the very survival of millions of species of wildlife and the availability of other species as food and other resources for humans. The loss of biological diversity has for many until now been an unknown, and the attention we are finally giving to its importance, makes this issue all the more timely.

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