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## Introduction

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## INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, the *Natural Resources Journal* has been an interdisciplinary endeavor, dedicated to providing a forum for the discussion of natural resources and environmental law issues. Through our rich history, the *NRJ* has at times published special issues focused on narrow subjects. At other times, the Journal has published a volume dedicated to topics discussed at symposia. And yet at all times the content of the *NRJ* has been chosen entirely by the editorial board and published with the help of a dedicated staff, all law students at the University of New Mexico.

Volume 58.1 is a return to our roots, and we are pleased to invite you to enjoy the selection of articles contained herein. Although we chose no specific subject to cover, all articles share a common theme that broadly encompasses the power differentials permeating the field of environmental and natural resources law, including environmental justice issues that remain as important to highlight now as ever. With this underlying theme in mind, we chose to cast a wide net across all areas of environmental and natural resources law to cultivate a volume rich with varying concepts and positions from authors with diverse backgrounds and professional lives. Publishing a journal requires countless hours of work from all parties involved, but the payoff comes at this moment, as a professional in the field reads this volume to keep up to date with the current law, and for many years down the road, when law students and other scholars find these articles useful to advance their own insights and solutions to future issues. We are incredibly proud to publish articles that not only provide information and analysis but take a stand on the natural resources and environmental justice issues they encompass by offering enlightening observations and meaningful solutions.

Below, is a brief overview of what is contained within volume 58.1 of the *Natural Resources Journal*. As noted before, although there is a common thread throughout these articles, they represent a truly interdisciplinary collection of works. Additionally, we are most excited to publish a volume that both previews the careers of several law students, while also showcasing the intricately researched products of proven masters of their profession.

We begin with an examination of the current state and procedural past of water rights in Indian country, namely in California, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. Written by Stephen Greetham, *Water Planning, Tribal Voices, and Creative Approaches*, addresses what states can do to make progress on Indian water rights. Mr. Greetham serves as Senior and Special Counsel, Water and Natural Resources, to the Chickasaw Nation and has a wealth of experience advocating on behalf of tribes to secure negotiated settlements of their water claims. Drawing on this experience, as well as a variety of other sources, Mr. Greetham has produced a roadmap to a more beneficial solution to tribal-state water conflicts.

Next, *Human Rights and the Global Climate Change Regime* explores the effects of the current climate change regime on human rights across the globe. Written by Dr. Atieno Mboya Samandari, this article analyzes the potential consequences of current market mechanisms to curb climate change operationalized in the Paris Agreement, on developing countries' human rights. The article does not merely expose several apparent weaknesses in the regime's mechanisms, but it provides specific reasonable options to further minimize the effects of carbon marketization on human rights in developing countries. Dr. Samandari's article is a breath of fresh air for a world being choked by greenhouse gas emissions.

Carrying on the discussion of pollution politics, *Alchemical Rulemaking and Ideological Framing* provides a rich history of regulating mercury emissions from electric power plants in the United States that put the most sensitive and valuable members of our society, pregnant women and children, at risk. Dr. Andrew Carter provides a detailed account of the similarities and differences of the Bush and Obama-era mercury regulations. The future of the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule is not secure under the Trump administration, and this article provides an example of how statutory language can be interpreted in drastically different ways to arrive at the desired solution. Dr. Carter's storytelling delves into the depths of administrative history to provide an understanding of how ideologies and politics can influence the way our country addresses regulation of massive commercial industries.

Returning to issues in Indian country, *New Mexico Tribal Cannabis* explores the issues of cannabis cultivation, possession, and use on pueblos and reservations in New Mexico. We are honored to publish this article written by our past co-Editor-in-Chief Matt Ramirez not only because this article comes from our *NRJ* family, but because this article provides a thorough analysis of a pressing issue and offers realistic and concrete solutions. Mr. Ramirez proffers model legislation and compact terms crafted by carefully sifting through and utilizing the most valuable jurisdictional approaches to the subject, including proposed but failed legislation from the 2017 New Mexico regular session.

Finally, this volume concludes with an appeal to reexamine the way in which Americans deal with our over-abundance of food waste to create better conduits and share that abundance with susceptible and struggling populations. *A Lot to Digest* showcases the tremendous amount of food waste in the United States and offers sensible solutions applicable to all points of the supply chain. Alexandra Evans and Robin Nagele provide a full plate of issues from farm to table, which lead to economic, environmental, and social costs. This article is a fine example of the true beauty of *NRJ*'s approach to scholarship: Ms. Evans and Ms. Nagele are students at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. The *NRJ* is a truly interdisciplinary journal, making the publication available to students as well as professionals from all fields. Enough humblebragging, this article is a sweet end to volume 58.1 which we trust you will savor.

The editorial board has cultivated a rich bouquet of topics for you to learn from, engage with, and act upon if you are able. We are extremely honored to welcome you to volume 58.1 of the *Natural Resources Journal*.

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Submissions Editor