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Lawyers who function in their profession, whether as private practitioners or public servants, are an integral part of the system by which a democratic society governs itself. If they are to properly discharge the responsibilities of this role, their education for the profession must be broad and intensive. In its breadth, that education must encompass a full understanding of and belief in the democratic respect for individual personality and the democratic processes designed to allow individuals to develop and participate in a free, self-governing society. In its intensification it must impart a high degree of competence in the craftsmanship of the law—in those skills and insights essential to an adequate performance of the lawyer's function as advocate, judge, legislator, teacher, administrator, or civic leader. Such education neither begins nor ends in the law school, and the School of Law is continually concerned not only with its own curriculum but also with the quality of pre-legal education and with the continuing self-education that should be pursued by all members of the profession. Consequently, students are urged to enter the School with as broad a cultural and educational background as possible. Accordingly, the basic requirement for admission is now a baccalaureate degree from an approved college or university. The student will spend the equivalent of six semesters of study in the School of Law in courses designed to bring the teachings of history, philosophy, and the social sciences to bear upon the solution of legal problems and to develop the skills and insights essential to research, analysis, synthesis, criticism, and exposition. Due to the low ratio of students to teachers (fewer than 15 to 1), substantially more individual and small group work is possible in the School than in most law schools. For application materials and further information, visit us online at <http://lawschool.unm.edu>.

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The isolation of scholars in various fields concerned with resources problems continues to be a principal impediment to progress. . . . [R]esources problems are so complex that traditional lines of approach prove inadequate. . . . Rarely do we find the work of the lawyer and the non-lawyer appearing side by side. . . . The primary function of the [new] Journal is to meet this need. . . .

—from the Foreword of Vol. 1, No. 1, 1961

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It is the purpose of the *NRJ* to publish articles of value to members of the legal profession and to individuals active in the resources field. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the *NRJ* Editorial Board, the Law Faculty, or the Regents of the University of New Mexico

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The editors of the *Natural Resources Journal (NRJ)* extend our gratitude to the many individuals who contributed to issue 63.1. It has been a pleasure to work with the authors in this issue and we are grateful for their scholarship and collaboration throughout the editorial process. Issue 63.1 is the culmination of the tireless efforts of the *NRJ* staff and board, without whom this endeavor would not have been possible. We express our immense appreciation for their efforts in ensuring this issue's quality, accuracy, and content. In particular, we are grateful for the *NRJ* board's time and energy in checking citations, reviewing articles for publication, and providing vision for issue 63.1. As editors, we strive not only for fidelity to the animating principles of the *NRJ*—to provide a forum for interdisciplinary scholarship regarding natural resources and environmental law—but, equally, to provide a valuable learning experience for our staff. With this experience in mind, we are making strides to reintroduce student legal writing to the *NRJ*. Writing and preparing an article for publication is a significant undertaking, and we appreciate the extra work that has gone into issue 63.1.

We are thankful for the guidance of Professor Joseph Schremmer, the academic advisor for volume 63 of the *NRJ*. He has provided a trove of information regarding journal policy and procedures, which we have used to improve our editorial process and lay the foundation for the *NRJ* to continue its history of excellence.

Lastly, we thank you—our readers. Whether you have been a reader for years or are just sitting down with an issue for the first time, we are so grateful for you. Your support is what has kept the *NRJ* going for over 60 years, and we hope to continue publishing interesting and timely natural resources and environmental law scholarship for years to come.

ZIA PUEBLO

We are grateful to the Zia Pueblo for allowing the use of the Zia symbol as the *Natural Resources Journal* logo. The symbol has sacred meaning to the Zia people. Four is a sacred number that symbolizes the Circle of Life: four winds, four seasons, four directions, and four sacred obligations. The circle binds the four elements of four together. Owing to the symbol's importance and significance to the Zia Pueblo, the 2022–2023 *NRJ* board updated the logo to be an unaltered symbol. We are grateful and honored for the Pueblo's permission to use the Zia symbol.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico—Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache—since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples.

We gratefully recognize our history.

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the editorial board and staff of the *Natural Resources Journal (NRJ)*, we are pleased to present issue 63.1. This has been a year of renewal for the *NRJ*: a great deal of institutional knowledge was lost due to the ransomware attack on the UNM School of Law and the COVID-19 pandemic further hindered our ability to collaborate and share information with our predecessors on the *NRJ*. Nevertheless, we persevered and are proud to present issue 63.1. We are fortunate to continue providing an invaluable platform for new developments in the natural resources and environmental law field.

In the first article, *New Mexico's Greenbelt Law: Disincentivizing Water Conservation Through Agricultural Tax Breaks*, authors Annalise Porter, Robert P. Berrens, and John Fleck discuss N.M. Statutes Section 7-36-20. More commonly known as New Mexico's "Greenbelt" law, this statute was originally intended to protect land for agricultural use and environmental conservation. However, as the article's authors expose, this law effectively subsidizes wealthy landowners and has failed to live up to its original purpose. Porter, Berrens, and Fleck draw attention to the myriad issues with the law and urge a re-tooling of institutional arrangements and definitions to update the law and make it coherent in an era of climate change, increasing aridification, and unreliable water supplies.

The second article, *In the Dark: The Scapegoating of Renewables After Grid Failures* by Teddy Gonzalez and Jillian Knox, discusses the political and economic pressures facing the U.S. electrical grid and how fossil fuel stakeholders increasingly make renewable energy sources the scapegoat for large-scale blackouts and other grid-related challenges. This article explains the adverse impacts of this trend and suggests several potential strategies for addressing it.

Next, David Bengston, Ph.D., provides an overview of *wild cards*—events like the COVID-19 pandemic which are improbable on paper, but have huge impacts on established systems and paradigms when they actually occur. In *Wild Cards in Natural Resource Planning: High Impact Surprises That Shape the Future*, Bengston points to the difficulties in planning for *wild cards* while providing strategies to identify, assess, and manage them in natural resource and environmental planning.

In the issue's final article, *Beyond All Drought: Improving Urban Water Conservation in the West Through Integrative Water and Land Use Policy*, authors Benjamin Longbottom and Aley Gordon, discuss how land use policy can be an effective way to combat water insecurity resulting from climate change and population growth. The authors argue that integrating water and land use policy promotes urban water conservation as well as sustainable and equitable development.

Beyond professional articles, this issue also includes three book reviews. Since its first issue in 1961, the staff of the *NRJ* has reviewed books related to the field of natural resources and environmental law. In the past, this allowed professionals to gain a wider perspective of the academic discourse and be alerted to new texts. While this niche has become less essential due to the easy access to information via the internet, book reviews, nonetheless, remain core to the *NRJ* offerings. Critique is a way for students to be creative and practice their writing in a more conversational medium than in briefs or traditional law review articles. In this issue we sought to feature student work alongside that of an established legal scholar. To that end, this issue contains a review of John Leshy's *Our Common Ground* by Professor Sandra Zellmer of the University of Montana School of Law alongside two student reviews; *Smokescreen*, written by Chad T. Hanson and reviewed by Brenda

Macías López, and *Animal, Vegetable, Junk* written by Mark Bittman and reviewed by Michael Quintana.

Finally, issue 63.1 closes with an essay by Chief Judge Manuel Arrieta based on his presentation to the UNM School of Law in October 2022, titled “Climate Change Litigation: The Future is Now.” Delivered in a conversational style akin to his presentation, this essay discusses some of the opportunities and challenges around adapting the law to climate change in New Mexico and beyond.

We hope that you enjoy issue 63.1.

J. Spenser Lotz and Deanna Warren
Co-Editors-in-Chief