



NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL

Volume 63
Issue 2 *Summer*

Summer 2023

Front Matter

Natural Resources Journal
University of New Mexico

Recommended Citation

Natural Resources Journal, *Front Matter*, 63 NAT. RES. J. (2023).
Available at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nrj/vol63/iss2/1>

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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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Back cover design by Ashley Baca,
Front cover design by J. Spenser Lotz
Summer 2023, Vol. 63, No. 2
Natural Resources Journal (ISSN #280739)
Published by the students of the University of New Mexico School of Law

Natural Resources Journal

1117 Stanford NE
UNM School of Law, MSC11 6070
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

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NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL

Published two times per year by the University of New Mexico School of Law

Vol. 63

Summer 2023

No. 2

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)* would like to acknowledge the many people who made issue 63.2 possible. The editorial process involves a diverse ensemble of students, authors, and outside advisors all working together, and this issue would not have been possible without each one of them and the work they have done in writing, editing, sourcing, and citing the articles contained here.

We are endlessly grateful to the board and the staff of the *NRJ* for their time and effort in publishing this edition. As an interdisciplinary journal, the *NRJ* is frequently tasked with reviewing information that is challenging to source and cite because it draws from a variety of sources much broader than those typically found in law review articles. We are grateful to the *NRJ* staff for going above and beyond in their work on citations in this issue. We are also immensely appreciative of our board for taking on citations work in addition to their other responsibilities.

It is also with great pride that we celebrate the return of student case notes to the *NRJ*. *NRJ* staff members had the option of writing either a book review or a case note in the fall, and more than half of the staff elected to write notes. It was a hard decision, but we ultimately selected four of the notes for further editing and publication in the summer issue. Both our citations and manuscript editors took on significantly more work in order to prepare these case notes for publication, and we are grateful to them and the staff authors for the additional work that went into this process. Case notes are an invaluable way for students to develop legal writing and analysis skills, and we hope that the *NRJ* will continue to produce thoughtful analysis of NREL cases.

Additionally, we want to acknowledge Professor Joseph Schremmer, the *NRJ*'s academic advisor. His insights into journal policy and management have been instrumental in getting us through the process. We also extend our thanks to him for providing the trophy for the inaugural *Bluebook Cup* kickball game between *NRJ* and the *New Mexico Law Review*. Although the *NRJ* did not triumph, we look forward to next year's board not only reclaiming the cup for our editorial desk, but to continue the *NRJ*'s commitment to excellence.

Finally, as is our tradition, we want to thank you—our readers. Whether you have been a subscriber for years or just happened upon one of our articles by chance, we are so grateful for you. All of our work is for you. Your support is what has kept the *NRJ* going for over 60 years, and we aim to continue publishing interesting, relevant scholarship for you ad infinitum.

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*, we are pleased to present issue 63.2.

In our first article, *First in Time: The Place of Tribes in Governing the Colorado River System*, authors Matthew McKinney, Jay Weiner, and Daryl Vigil discuss the history and role of tribes as users of the Colorado River. In this article, the authors have created an invaluable resource to help policymakers and legal scholars understand the complexities of tribal involvement in the Colorado River Compact and advocate for tribal inclusion and leadership in future decision-making.

Also relating to tribal NREL concerns, our second article, *(Some) Land Back...sort of: The Transfer of Federal Public Lands to Indian Tribes Since 1970*, by Audrey Glendenning, Martin Nie, and Monte Mills, provides the first comprehensive collection and analysis of Congressional actions transferring ownership interest in public lands to federally recognized Indian tribes. The article discusses the broad social movement of #Landback and raises important questions about historical and continuing patterns of public land ownership and control.

Our third article, *Seeking to Be Like Water: Plastic Regulation in the People's Republic of China*, is by Gerry Nagtzaam and Elena Karataeva. The authors discuss the international plastic economy, focusing specifically on Chinese efforts to regulate plastic and reduce plastic pollution. Through their analysis, the authors conclude that efforts to regulate plastic at the end of the waste stream may be insufficient to curb plastic pollution, especially when such efforts have a “greenwashing” effect that allows producers to generate more plastic without facing scrutiny or regulation.

In our final professional article, *From Austin to Santa Fe: Exploring the Prosecution of Environmental Crimes Within EPA Region 6*, authors Dr. Joshua Ozymy and Dr. Melissa Jarrell Ozymy discuss trends in environmental criminal prosecution in EPA Region 6, offering insights and suggestions for systemic improvements. The authors use large-scale trend data and individual case studies to provide the reader with a valuable understanding of EPA’s prosecutions over the past several decades and highlight areas where institutional support is needed.

In addition to professional articles, this issue also features student work including case notes and book reviews written by *NRJ* staff. These include analysis of new standing requirements from *Environment Texas Citizen Lobby, Inc. v. ExxonMobil Corp.* by Noah Allaire, international law and refugee rights in the face of climate change in *Teitiota v. New Zealand* by Elena Papadacos, and climate change nuisance claims in the Tenth and Second Circuits, with *Bd. of Cnty. Commissioners of Boulder Cnty. v. Suncor Energy (U.S.A.) Inc* by Serafina Seluja and *New York v. Chevron Corp.* by Jeremy Wirths, respectively. This issue concludes with two book reviews: *Up to Heaven and Down to Hell: Fracking, Freedom, and Community in an American Town* written by Colin Jerolmack and reviewed by Abigail Lutz, and *Wildlife as Property Owners: A New Conception of Animal Rights* written by Karen Bradshaw and reviewed by Justin Starr.

We hope that you enjoy the second issue of Volume 63.

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