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## Front Matter

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## INTRODUCTION

The *Natural Resources Journal* usually spreads the articles in each issue across the multi-disciplinary breadth of its editorial interests. However, this issue comes as close as we are likely to get to a concentration on one theme. That theme is one that we haven't touched for a long time: race and class and the intersection of these two pressing concerns with the broad area of natural resources. It is not a particularly comfortable area, but it is a particularly important one that often gets short shrift in our focus on politics and policy, law and economics, rocks and trees and water. This issue welcomes you to the broad theme of environmental justice.

Professor Eileen Gauna, a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law, opens by analyzing current issues in environmental justice against the background of the history of the environmental movement. Professor John Schelhas then reviews the literature on racial discrimination and ethnic differences in valuing and using natural resources. Three lawyers, John O'Connell, Tom Luebben, and Cathy Nelson, involved for over 25 years in the century-long struggle over Western Shoshone lands, ground Gauna's and Schelhas's general concerns in historical and contemporary accounts of the efforts of the Dann sisters to maintain their aboriginal rights to native land in the face of U.S. opposition. None of this is pretty reading, but it is important.

Two additional articles in this issue continue the theme in more muted tones. Professor Barbara Cosens' article analyzes a very recent decision by the Arizona Supreme Court, changing the measure of reserved Indian water rights from the former "practicably irrigable acreage" standard to a new "homeland" one. The switch represents a new way to measure Native American claims to common water sources in the west and a fundamentally new way of thinking about U.S. commitments to Native Americans. Similarly, the analysis by recent UNM School of Law graduate Katrina Albright on the legal standing of animals using the principles of ecofeminism is bound, simply by its unique perspective, to make readers think of the wildlife resource in new ways.

Finally, for those readers overwhelmed by the new perspectives presented here, we also offer some excellent standard fare. Of all resources, water is both the most basic and the most fundamental to the *Journal's* core mission. The articles here dealing with the economics of pricing municipal water (Brookshire et al.) and the excellent student piece on recent developments in New Mexico conjunctive management (Jones) add new wine to the old NRJ barrels. The pricing article raises fundamental issues about the real costs of increasing western urbanization. The conjunctive management article assesses the current administrative relationship between ground water and surface water in the place where conjunctive management was born almost 50 years ago.