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Editor's Letter

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**PUBLIC LAND & RESOURCES
LAW REVIEW**

“Guard, protect and cherish your land, for there is no afterlife for a place that started out as Heaven.”

— C.M. Russell ¹

Dear Readers,

In the Spring of 2012, the Editors of the Public Land & Resources Law Review were given an unprecedented opportunity to continue our 35 year tradition of the Public Land Law Conference with a twist: collaboration with the American Bar Association. As with any conference, we started with the idea that this event had to present new ideas and feature scholars on the cutting-edge of public land, environmental and Indian law. As passionate students of natural resources law and policy, we wanted the conference to be part of the solution to the seemingly intractable conflicts over the state of environmental management. And we had big shoes to fill from the distinguished history of the Public Land Law Conference.

Our conferences began in 1978, predating our first publication by a couple of years. Marjorie Hunter Brown led the effort to begin our journal to bring western public lands and Indian law issues to the national stage of legal scholarship.² With our roots in Montana, the editors and staff of our law review live with complex issues affecting the environment on a daily basis. As outdoor enthusiasts, we hike the trails of our local wilderness areas every fall. In fire season, our hometown of Missoula sometimes sees hazy skies from fires more than a hundred miles away. During spring runoff, many of us float the wild whitewater of the state’s rivers. In winter we ski the backcountry of our mountains. Our passions led us to law school classes where we had the opportunity to integrate ourselves in the legal issues affecting our natural world. These passions are the reason we joined the Public Land & Resources Law Review.

When we sat down with our faculty advisor, Sarah Bates and our friend Tom Jensen, we expressed our interest in creating a holistic theme for the conference. Tom and Sarah suggested looking at the public resources by categories, rather than issue by issue. Oceans, terrestrial lands and rivers are all within the public domain and are all under tremendous pressure to withstand the needs of a growing population. We wanted to incorporate the perspective of those who live with the land: the students, raft guides, fisherman, hunters and native Americans, juxtaposed with call for

¹ <http://cmrussell.org/about/about-charles-m-russell>

² For a discussion of Marjorie’s legacy at the University of Montana, see our article at: <http://scholarship.law.umt.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1212&context=plrlr>.

increased energy production on undeveloped public land. We took these ideas to the planning committee came up with a theme:

Balancing Act and Paradigm Shift: The Role of Public Lands in America's Energy Future.

The 2013 edition of the Public Land and Resources Law Review presents articles from select presenters on each of the three public land categories: Oceans, Terrestrial Lands and Rivers.

The Editorial Board would like to recognize a few individuals who made this journal and this conference possible. First, we give special thanks to the underwriters of this edition, and a platinum sponsor of the symposium: the law firm of Holland & Hart, LLP. Our friend and supporter, Tom Jensen deserves three cheers for his guidance during the development of the conference, as well as his participation as an author and presenter.

We offer our thanks to our partners at the American Bar Association, particularly the planning committee: Alexandra Dunn, Cynthia Drew, Gee Ogletree, Connie Rogers, Ethan Shenkman, and Rebecca Turner. In particular, the chair of the Planning Committee, Jeff Dennis has been truly generous in his time and support in making this symposium a success.

Our Faculty Advisor Sarah Bates has been priceless with her guidance and mentorship over the years, as much in planning this symposium as ever. We cannot thank you enough. Dean Irma Russell, of the University of Montana School of Law, has been strong supporter and advocate for this journal and has dedicated her time to ensure the longevity of the environmental law program. Thanks also to the entire School of Law staff.

Thank you to our authors, presenters, and moderators: Joe Hovenkotter, Eric Eberhard, Scott Anderson, Sam Kalen, Rebecca Watson, Dan Belcourt, Robin Craig, Tom Jensen, Alex Dunn, Connie Rogers, Rob Glicksman, Matt Clifford, Jeremiah Williamson, Michelle Bryan-Mudd, Matt Clifford, Jeff Dennis, Sarah Bates, and Steve Brown. Also, thank you to the the employees and board of the American Bar Association who helped make this possible. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the symposium. We hope that we were able to share a little piece of our love for the public lands of the west.

Finally, to our colleagues at the law review: you all rock. Your hard work this year has demonstrated your commitment to carry on the unique and critical task of ensuring that the legal issues relating to our public land are not forgotten.

Regards,

Bradley Jones
Conference Editor

Dustin Leftridge
Editor-in-Chief