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Editor's Note

Editor

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Environmental conflict was born of friction between the search for a better life and the desire to protect our natural resources. The exponential success that society has enjoyed in the former effort in recent years has intensified the conflicts with environmental values. On January 1, 1970, President Nixon signed the National Environmental Policy Act thus ushering in a new era of federal involvement in resolution of environmental conflicts. No longer would the federal government act in ignorance of the environmental damage it was causing. If some damage was inevitable, then perhaps recognition of that fact might at least encourage mitigation of the damage.

As we approach the Twenty-First Century, environmental conflicts abound, and the need to find common ground on which man and his environment can coexist in harmony appears ever greater than it must have seemed in 1970. Wyoming alone faces many difficult choices involving federal decisions—choices between wolves and livestock in the Yellowstone ecosystem; choices between timber harvesting, mineral development, and recreation on national forest lands; choices between water development and preservation of our water resources in their natural state. States across the country, but especially in the West, confront similar choices.

In an effort to provide a forum for persons involved on all sides of these choices, the LAND AND WATER LAW REVIEW is pleased to present a collection of articles and essays about NEPA, its successes and its shortcomings, and its promise for the future. Perhaps man can someday learn to coexist with nature without conflict. Until that day, thoughtful analyses of these conflicts may help guide society toward sound decisions.

The Editorial Board of Volume XXV of the LAND AND WATER LAW REVIEW wishes to thank all the authors for their dedication to bring their diverse viewpoints together in this issue. I would personally like to thank William A. Wilcox, Jr., Articles Editor, who brought this collection of articles and essays together and Professors Mark Squillace and Bob Keiter for their commitment to this project and their critiques on the works contained in this section. Finally, I would like to thank Sharon Breitweiser for her tireless assistance in preparing these pieces for publication.

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