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Symposium: Water Law, Policy, and Science

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Symposium: Water Law, Policy and Science

On March 4–5, 2004, the University of Nebraska hosted the First Annual Water Law, Policy and Science Conference: Finding Solutions to Multi-jurisdictional Water Conflicts. The conference was the result of a joint effort by the University's Water Resources Research Initiative, which coordinated the contributions of the College of Law, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the School of Natural Resources, and the Water Center, as well as the Nebraska Water Conference Council, the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, and the Nebraska Bar Association–Natural Resources Section. Speakers from across the country included leading water law and policy scholars, educators, and writers. Among them were the outstanding authors contributing to this Symposium.

The *Nebraska Law Review* would like to thank the conference sponsors, along with Professor Sandra Zellmer, who coordinated the conference from the College of Law, and Aaron Popelka, who acted as the student liaison between the conference organizers, presenters, and writers for this Symposium and the *Nebraska Law Review* editorial board. The pieces in this issue represent slices of the conference and an expansion on many of the ideas presented there. The editorial board has been delighted to work with these talented and innovative thinkers and we hope you learn as much as we have from this Symposium issue.

The topics of the Articles included here are diverse—ranging from local and regional examples of specific challenges facing those involved in water management and policy, to broader, nationally applicable law and policy questions. This Symposium's authors skillfully take us from the Missouri River to Oregon, touching on a great number of states in between; from rivers and streams to the vital waters below the surface; from fields, farmland, and the varied natural habitats throughout the country to its courtrooms, state legislatures, and national policymakers and administrators; and from thinking about the natural energy and power of water to who has rights to use it and how. Most importantly, these authors challenge us to consider on

countless levels where we might go from here in managing and protecting the most valuable and vital natural resource that we have.

Gretchen S. Obrist
Editor-in-Chief