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Ring Bearers of the Rocky Mountain West

Gregory J. Hobbs

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Ring Bearers of the Rocky Mountain West

POETRY

JUSTICE GREGORY J. HOBBS, JR.

In Volume 3 / Issue 2, Volume 5 / Issue 2, and Volume 7 / Issue 2 of the *Water Law Review*, we have published a selection of poems by Justice Hobbs. In the tradition of updates to previous publications, we hope you enjoy this additional selection.

RING BEARERS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST

O, Ring bearers of the Rocky Mountain West—
Pinyon, Ponderosa, Doug Fir, Bristlecone—
packed-to-the-core tenacious recorders

You stand watch on mountain up-slopes,
foothill arroyo down-slopes,

May we borrow your driest,
your brim-full, memories?

We have need of your common signals:
for seasons of want, stay together close;
expand to greet all sufficient opportunity
in tall-grass lupine summers.

No ignorance stored in you,
the nearer we penetrate
ours relents community solitude.
Gregarious, you spread
your knowledge concentrically, like planets
round a center fire do, unevenly. Make
a stand grandly in the place you've chosen,
populate bills of light given you.

How they shrink or swell,
you ensemble streams and rivers
marked within.

May we call your-names?
Seldom-Wanderers,
Stress-Abiders,
Constant-Conservators,
Great Divide Sentinels.