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## Vol. 8, no. 2: Editor's Note

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Analyzing the future of water law locally, nationally, and internationally requires an understanding of the historical basis of water policies. This issue contains a variety of articles, each focusing on different aspects of water law. However, all the articles share a common theme. Each article illustrates the importance of appreciating past lessons in order to plan for and improve the future.

In part one of *Dividing Western Waters: A Century of Adjudicating Rivers and Streams*, John Thorson, Ramsey Kropf, Dar Crammond, and Andrea Gerlak provide an in-depth look at the history and background of general stream adjudications in the western United States. Given the broad impact of general stream adjudications on western waters, these adjudications exemplify the importance of water to almost all water users in western states. After detailing the historical context and statutory authority for general stream adjudications, the authors present us with the practical implications and consequences of these adjudications in the western states.

Moving across the country to the east coast, our next article focuses on Lake Lure, located in North Carolina and featured in the movie, *Dirty Dancing*. *The Law of Lake Lure* by George Sherk clarifies the complex issues surrounding the ownership and regulation of Lake Lure. The article emphasizes the need for regulation of activities on the Lake and on the shoreline in order to avoid a "tragedy of the commons" situation.

Focusing on Colorado's water law, Rebecca Abeln addresses the public trust doctrine and its relation to instream flows in her article titled *Instream Flows, Recreation as Beneficial Use, and the Public Interest in Colorado Water Law*. Ms. Abeln's article suggests that the Colorado water law community must reconcile the traditional concepts of maximum application and consumption of water with water conservation, in order to ensure a sustainable water supply for the future.

Our second international perspectives section focuses on Water User Associations in Nepal. Andrew Allan examines the legal context and practical operation of Water User Associations. Mr. Allan concludes his article by suggesting ways to improve the current system in Nepal, in order to maximize the availability of water.

We sincerely hope these articles are thought provoking and provide a starting point for creatively addressing water problems locally, nationally, and internationally. The *Water Law Review*



appreciates your continued support and welcomes your suggestions, comments, or feedback.

Susan M. Curtis  
*Editor-In-Chief*