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EDITOR'S NOTE

The summer of 2002 will surely be remembered by all in the water law community. At the time the *Water Law Review* went to press, the snow pack in the mountains was less than half of average and several communities already had water restrictions in place. In light of the less than adequate water supply facing the West this year, it seems fitting that the majority of Volume 5, Issue 2 focuses on alternatives to our current system of water management and allocation.

Water is a fluid resource, essentially incapable of being governed in accordance with political boundaries. Paul Drucker's article demonstrates problems that may arise when water bodies are governed not only by states, but also by Indian tribes. It is hard enough to get a few states to agree to water allocations, adding several hundred Indian tribes to the mix only magnifies the issues. Alf Brandt then describes one of the programs California is looking to in order to better balance the tension between consumptive use and instream flows. Although the program is still in its infancy, the CALFED Environmental Water Account provides one option to easing this tension. Kara Gillon's article proceeds to discuss how watershed management is working in the Southwest. Watershed management is an entirely different way of managing water resources. The technique focuses on ecological and geographical boundaries rather than political boundaries. Ms. Gillon's article also discusses binational water management, as many watersheds cross not only state and tribal boundaries, but also national boundaries.

The shortage of water we are facing this summer will also affect recreation and conservation uses. Lori Potter, Kathy Kanda and Steven Marlin address the "right to float" in their article, *Legal Underpinnings of the Right to Float Through Private Property in Colorado: A Reply to John Hill*. In addition, Peter Nichols discusses the implications of conservation easements on water, and whether it is likely the Colorado Supreme Court will recognize such easements. Both recreation and conservation significantly affect the allocation of water and will play a large role in the coming summer's water issues. Finally, Jeffrey Clayton urges us to rewrite water law, looking to economic factors to guide us. Mr. Clayton's commentary provides a different perspective, encouraging readers to open their minds to new ideas and concepts.

Ultimately, no matter where you are this summer, the shortage of water will play a large role. So whether you are a water lawyer, a water engineer, an academician, or someone for whom water is a fascinating subject; whether you are sitting in an office, or out in the wilderness hiking the Colorado Trail, take a moment to do as Mr. Clayton suggests, and "dream" of what "could be." Take a moment to entertain those far-fetched thoughts that you rarely let out of the back of your mind, and see where they lead....

Rebekah King
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