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Ariel Dinar and Edna Tusak Loehman, Eds., Water Quantity/Quality Management and Conflict Resolution

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Ariel Dinar and Edna Tusak Loehman, Eds., *Water Quantity/Quality Management and Conflict Resolution*

ous state wetland offices. *Wetland Mitigation* is an excellent resource for any practitioner involved in wetland mitigation.

Gregg Lemkau

ARIEL DINAR AND EDNA TUSAK LOEHMAN, EDS., WATER QUANTITY/QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION, Praeger, Westport, Connecticut, London(1995); 499pp; \$69.50; ISBN 0-275-94782-3, hardcover.

Industrialization, urbanization, and population growth have led to increasing demands on water supplies throughout the world. As the scarcity of this natural resource continues to grow, there will be greater danger of conflicts and disputes among suppliers and users. In response to this pressing issue, Dinar and Loehman have collected a series of essays that address improved water management, conflict resolution, and cooperation. While their approach is from an economic perspective, the book is not just for economists; it should be instructive to anyone concerned with the future of water management.

Divided into two sections, the first focuses on water management institutions and processes. Case studies from the United States and other countries expose the reader to a variety of water management philosophies. The essays vary from a comparison of two institutional approaches to resolving interstate water disputes (Colorado and Delaware River basins), to the application of the Clean Water Act, to the San Francisco Bay Estuary, to a discussion of water use and transfer in Taiwan, to several discussions of how water disputes are handled in countries such as India, Canada and Australia. One benefit of this comparative approach is that it demonstrates the strengths and weaknesses of different institutions. By looking at a variety of possibilities, one might be inspired to develop new and creative strategies for water management.

More specifically, the articles within this first section discuss relationships between institutions, the economic principles underlying different types of institutions, and how these principles affect water allocation. For example, one article examines conflicts over water transfers in terms of the associated social costs and suggests that a water bank might provide an alternative to the pure market system for allocating water rights. Another article considers the role of equity and efficiency in water allocation. Overall, the articles in this section emphasize conflict resolution processes, negotiation strategies, and their respective applications in a practical setting. The articles suggest that conflict resolution can be improved through mediation, and that mediation will become more prominent in the future. In addition, various authors highlight the benefits of coalition formation, collective action and cooperative efforts as approaches for successful water management.

The second part of the book presents methods of economic analy-

sis for institutional design and conflict resolution. Among the methods discussed are empirical analysis, simulation, mathematical modeling and experimentation. Practitioners may be interested in seeing how the different methods of economic analysis are relevant in the evaluation and comparison of alternatives and interest group preferences.

The editors suggest that by considering the design approach to solving water problems, we can be more proactive in responding to problems. For example, water pricing can be a powerful management tool for improving efficiency of water use. It is also useful for conserving water and making decisions for optimal use. For those who remain skeptical, the Howitt and Vaux case study on the California water bank demonstrates how economic incentives can be blended successfully with government regulation. Thus, the editors conclude that "water management should not be carried out solely through a market process or through a purely bureaucratic process. The ideal system would blend economic incentives, conflict resolution processes, and government action in a democratic system."

Vicki L. Spencer

DAVID M. GILLILAN AND THOMAS C. BROWN, INSTREAM FLOW PROTECTION: SEEKING A BALANCE IN WESTERN WATER USE, Island Press, Washington, D.C. (1997); 417pp; \$30.00; ISBN 1-55963-524-X, softcover.

In *Instream Flow Protection*, David Gillilan and Thomas Brown provide a comprehensive look at the issues that surround the concept of instream flows. In the process, they provide an overview of western water use and explore the political, economic, legal, and scientific issues accompanying attempts to balance the competing goals of maximum water use and environmental protection. An invaluable resource for anyone interested in western water policy, this book provides discussion and analyses that should benefit casual readers, also well as practitioners, technicians, and scholars alike. From an explanation of the technical nature of quantifying necessary stream flows to discussion of the legal and scientific principles, *Instream Flow Protection* is an integrative study of the interrelationships between water, the environment, and society.

The book begins by defining what the term "instream flow" means and why some have opined that it is "one of the region's primary water research needs." As the authors explain the importance of providing adequate instream flows in the rivers of the west, they point out that "[t]he combination of scarce supplies and numerous demands has put heavy pressure on the West's rivers and streams." In Chapter Two, the authors set the stage for the emergence of the instream flow concept. They explore the history of western water use and the evolution of western water law. Looking at the circumstances surrounding the set-