

Preface and Acknowledgements

This study builds upon a vast body of research conducted over two decades at the Natural Resources Law Center. The Center's research and educational activities pertaining to western water resources include well over a dozen major conferences and approximately 50 publications, including the following books: *Tradition, Innovation and Conflict: Perspectives on Colorado Water Law* (MacDonnell, 1986), *Water and the American West* (Getches, 1988), *Instream Flow Protection in the West* (MacDonnell et al., 1989), *Controlling Water Use: The Unfinished Agenda of Water Quality Protection* (Getches et al., 1991), and *Searching Out the Headwaters* (Bates et al., 1993). Among the issues most commonly addressed in these investigations have been federal water development and management, modifications to state prior appropriation doctrines to address environmental issues, water marketing, and new trends in water law, policy, and administration. The Center has also served in an advisory role on dozens of water issues, including recent work for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the CALFED Bay-Delta Project, and the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission.

In recent years, the water agenda of the Center has been shaped by the emergence of the so-called "western watersheds movement." Understanding that movement, and the relationship of the movement to other water and natural resources issues, is currently a major area of emphasis. Among the most relevant publications exploring these themes are *The Watershed Source Book* (NRLC, 1996), *Resource Management at the Watershed Level* (Kenney, 1997), *Restoring the Waters* (NRLC, 1997), *The State Role in Western Watershed Initiatives* (NRLC, 1998), *Historical and Sociopolitical Context of the Western Watersheds Movement* (Kenney, 1999a), and *Arguing About Consensus* (Kenney, 2000). In various ways, each of these efforts has contributed to *The New Watershed Source Book* ("Source Book"), which is as much a compilation of acquired data and knowledge as it is new research. But more than providing an opportunity for the Center to revisit past investigations, the revision of the *Source Book* has been a seed upon which many recent and ongoing investigations have been integrated. True to the spirit of a document called a "Source Book," this report is the Center's best attempt at one-stop-shopping for all your western watershed related needs. We sincerely hope that it proves as useful and influential as the original version.

Given this history, it is difficult to fully capture the range of individuals and organizations that deserve acknowledgement for this work. Although I have overseen the project through its two year history, the genesis of this work can also be traced to the insights of Betsy Rieke, former Director of the Center, and my current colleagues at the Center: Kathryn Mutz, Gary Bryner, David Getches, Charles Wilkinson, and Jim Corbridge. Our collaboration with Mike Hart in this project has also been particularly useful. Much of the legwork for the project was accomplished by law students, including Jason Peckham, Dave Turner, Bill Caile, and Courtney Hill. Intern Christine Hurley also made valuable contributions. Another student, Sean McAllister, remained with the project even after graduation, helping to turn several file cabinets of raw data into a coherent draft. Of course, those cabinets first began to fill during research on the original *Source Book*, another multiyear Center project employing a different team of professional and student researchers. Much of the leadership for that effort came from Larry MacDonnell and Teresa Rice, former Director and Associate Director, respectively, of the Center. The contributions of former Research Associate, Sarah Van de Wetering, were also

significant. Maps for this and the original version of the *Source Book* were skillfully crafted by the University of Colorado cartography lab, currently directed by Jim Robb. All these individuals deserve recognition for helping the Center to establish itself in this area of inquiry.

Of course, the majority of the data and insights found in this report did not originate in the Center, but were culled from the legions of individuals involved with watershed initiatives throughout the West. Many of those parties now tell us that they have been “studied to death,” a somewhat disconcerting thought given that the new *Source Book*, like the original, will undoubtedly be used as a tool for connecting researchers with on-the-ground practitioners. Hopefully, some of the analyses provided in the new *Source Book* will allow those researchers to ask more insightful (and mutually interesting) questions and provide more useful products than in the past, as this new edition is designed to be more than a mere “phone book.” Only if that goal is accomplished will the document justify the time demanded from those practitioners targeted by our steady string of surveys and interview requests.

Others deserving recognition and thanks are those individuals that have supported our investigations focusing on collaborative modes of decision-making, of which the watersheds movement is a prime example. Again, this is a diverse group, but at a minimum includes: Reed Benson, Gail Bingham, Louis Blumberg, Steve Born, Ron Brunner, Guy and Heidi Burgess, Sam Burns, Jo Clark, Hanna Cortner, Ann Dahl, Maxine Dakins, Don Elder, Michael Fife, Robert Frodeman, Karen Hamilton, DeWitt John, Rick Knight, Peter Lavigne, Mark Lubell, Dan Luecke, Roz McClellan, Matt McKinney, Sarah Michaels, Ann Moote, Deborah Paulson, Sari Sommarstrom, Maggie Shannon, Toddi Steelman, Steve Toben, and A. Dan Tarlock. The contributions of my colleague Kathryn Mutz regarding forestry partnerships is particularly appreciated.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge those organizations that provided the funding and faith needed to complete this project. In particular, the General Service Foundation and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation stepped forward with the critical mass of funding needed to initiate this project. Supplemental contributions from the Hewlett Foundation, Ford Foundation, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ensured completion of the work, and have positioned the Center to move forward in this area. While we regrettably anticipate that this is the last edition of the *Source Book* in its current form—the movement has garnered too much speed and size to be manageably tracked in any one publication—there are no shortages of unanswered research questions to explore. Undoubtedly, we will again be soliciting the support of the funding community in addressing those remaining questions. While I will not speculate on the likely success of those requests, it is worth mentioning that we are encouraged by the breadth of foundations, agencies, organizations, and individuals that have made watershed restoration a priority, and who recognize that achieving the goals of the western watersheds movement will require the efforts and expertise of a broad community of concerned parties. We greatly appreciate those parties that have allowed us to be a part of that community.

Doug Kenney, March 2000