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Can TMDLs Ensure a Clean and Healthful Environment?

Introduction

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CONFERENCE

Can TMDLs Ensure a Clean and Healthful Environment?

Exploring Water Quality under Federal Laws and the
Montana Constitution

The editors of the Public Land and Resources Law Review are pleased to present a sample of the papers presented at the Twenty-Fourth Annual Public Land Law Conference held on April 27-28, 2001. The Conference, first held in 1978, is sponsored by the Law Review, The Center for the Rocky Mountain West, and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. Throughout its history, the conference has hosted national experts as well as local practitioners to discuss some of the most important and timely topics of the day.

This year's Conference topic, water quality, is certainly a timely issue; as water quality itself is timeless. Since water quality pervades every aspect of daily life, the Law Review editors thought it particularly important to share the Conference proceedings with the legal community at large. The papers focus on the maintenance and improvement of water quality through the development and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) regulatory program, as well as the broader water quality context in Montana which focuses on the discussion of Montana's constitutional provisions ensuring a right to a clean and healthful environment, as per the landmark decision of *MEIC v. Dept. of Env'tl. Quality*, 296 Mont. 207, 988 P.2d 1236 (1999). The Conference participants provide an excellent analysis of the issues surrounding TMDLs and constitutional provisions related to water quality from every perspective. It is our hope that both academics and practitioners in the field find this a helpful reference or starting point for further legal research and analysis.

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