

A Note From the Issue Editor

BY JOHN R. ZIMMERMAN, ESQ.

As Nevadans, we are fortunate enough to live a relatively short distance from large areas of public land, a situation that presents numerous opportunities as well as challenges. If you enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, hunting or other outdoor pursuits, it's likely that you will enjoy these activities on public land. This land is also used for other purposes – among them grazing livestock, mining and developing renewable energy sources – which provide financial support to our federal, state and local economies. In this issue of *Nevada Lawyer* we will learn about the huge amount of public land in Nevada (massive when compared with that in other states in the U.S.), and delve into a few of the varied and complex laws impacting the management of that land and the natural resources it offers.

In this month's first feature, Linda M. Bullen walks us through the complex network of federal, state, and local laws and regulations that natural resource practitioners must navigate in order to assist their clients in developing any large-scale renewable energy projects on public land. Second, Richard W. Harris brings us a concise introduction to federal land ownership in Nevada and how it affects resource development in the state. Finally, Sarah R. Liljefelt, W. Alan Schroeder and Therese A. Ure explore the difficulties inherent in establishing public rights-of-way – difficulties that can have a huge impact on our access to, use of and enjoyment of public lands.

The law of public lands is steeped in the history of the American west and has adapted to meet the challenges and demands of the 21st century. As issue editor, I hope you enjoy reading about a few of the laws that impact our use of public lands in Nevada. And, while celebrating our nation's independence this Fourth of July, we should take some time to reflect on the numerous benefits and opportunities provided by our right to use public lands in Nevada. ■



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