

W A T E R R E S O U R C E S

# IMPACT

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**NORTH AMERICAN  
TRANSBOUNDARY/  
BORDER ISSUES**

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# NORTH AMERICAN TRANSBOUNDARY/ BORDER ISSUES

ERIC J. FITCH

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This issue of *Water Resources IMPACT* focuses on some of the issues encountered when a river, lake, or aquifer crosses the invisible line that we call a political/legal jurisdiction and the complications that can arise from the management of these resources. These waters are shared between towns, townships, cities, counties, parishes, states, provinces, and countries. The articles touch upon a few places where consensus and conflict have chances of arising but also on what is being done to share these resources for the benefit of all.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### 3 The International Joint Commission and Management of the Great Lakes and Boundary Waters ... *Dave Dempsey*

The Great Lakes are a singularly important resource shared by the United States and Canada. The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 established the International Joint Commission (IJC) to adjudicate disputes over all waters that are shared across their boundaries. This article describes the activities of the IJC in peacefully and successfully sharing these resources.

### 6 Transboundary Governance of Groundwater and Aquifers: You Can't Separate One From the Other ... *W. Todd Jarvis*

Groundwater is a huge transboundary management issue – who is responsible for it, who gets to use it, who has the responsibility to keep it clean? This article discusses the complicated business of managing groundwater resources across these jurisdictions and preserving their viability for future generations.

### 10 Canada-United States Water Relations: One Canadian's Perspective ... *Ralph Pentland*

One of Canada's foremost experts on water resources provides his perspective on sharing not only on one of the longest international borders but also on jointly managing some of the major freshwater resources in the world.

### 14 Multi-Jurisdictional Challenges of Transboundary Water Management: Lessons From the Columbia River Treaty Reviews ... *Kim Ogren*

Sitting astride the U.S.-Canadian border is the Columbia River. Its headwaters are in Canada. It drains parts of British Columbia, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. It is managed under the auspices of both countries and the province and states. This article provides perspectives on the most recent joint review of the basin management plan.

### 18 The Colorado River Basin: A Basin Under Perpetual Distress ... *Mark Svoboda*

The most important transboundary water shared by Mexico and the U.S. is the Colorado River. This article discusses the future of the Colorado River under the stresses of climate change. Few water bodies have been more contested. What are the stressors that will arise when climate change diminishes the flows of this already overtaxed river system?

WATER RESOURCES

# IMPACT

VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 6 • NOVEMBER 2014

## Other features in this issue ...

### ▲ AWRA BUSINESS

- 5 Scheduled 2015 AWRA Meetings Mark Your Calendars!
- 9 Announcement of New JAWRA Editor Effective January 1, 2015
- 25 Application Instructions for Richard A. Herbert Scholarships for 2015-2016
- 26 Board Election Results for 2014 (Take Office Effective January 1, 2015)
- 27 Recipients of AWRA's Annual Awards for 2014
- 30 Topics for IMPACT for 2015
- 30 AWRA 2014 Executive Committee
- 30 Send Us Your Feedback for This Issue
- 31 Spring Specialty Conference - Los Angeles
- 31 Summer Specialty Conference - New Orleans
- 31 Editor's Note
- 32 Highlights of October 2014 *Journal of the American Water Resources (JAWRA) Papers*
- 32 Advertising Opportunities in IMPACT
- 33 AWRA's Member-to-Member Referral Program ... Earn \$5 for Each New Member

### ▲ OPINION/INFO COLUMNS

- 21 What's Up With Water ... The Rock Cried Out No Hiding Place ... *Eric J. Fitch*
- 22 The New Economy of Water ... Study Finds Alarming Groundwater Losses in the Colorado River Basin ... *Tanner Ketellapper and Clay J. Landry*
- 23 President's Message ... AWRA's Value to You ... Did You Know? ... *C. Mark Dunning*  
(Opinions expressed by our columnists are their own and do not represent the opinion or position of AWRA.)

- ▲ WATER RESOURCES PUZZLER . . . . .24
- Answers . . . . . 32

### ▲ ADVERTISERS

- Dynamic Solutions International, LLC . . . . .9
- GoldSim Technology Group, LLC . . . . . 13



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