



## NRULPC Newsletter Vol. 2, No. 5 September 2019

### Co-Directors Update

Welcome to the new academic year! While the temperatures may not have cooled off as much as we would like and we are still waiting for fall to be in the air, our undaunted Center and Clinic students and staff are off to a busy and productive start. In the Clinic report below, you will hear from Director Priya Sundareshan about her accomplished group of new students and the matters they are already actively working on. We are also pleased to launch the first “Board Member’s Column” with an excellent article by Kirk Johansen. At the end of the newsletter, you will see a description of the Center’s subscription to the “Public Lands Newsletter”, a new service provided to Board members and others who are interested in current debates and legislative actions about public lands.

There is a good deal to report about summer activities, too. Presentations were given at the Western Regional National Farm Bureau Western Regional Meeting held in Sedona and the Federal Lands Committee at an Arizona Cattle Growers Association meeting, and meetings were held in Flagstaff at NAU (see John and Priya’s report below). These led to many constructive discussions and a growing list of supporters for the Center’s and Clinic’s work to serve the legal needs of the natural resources’ community.

We have particularly good news to report due to the proactive efforts of Andy Grosetta. He presented the case for supporting the Center and Clinic to the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors. This led to the request for a monetary contribution as an agenda action item. With strong support from Chairman Randy Garrison, the Board approved a donation of \$5,000. We all join in sincerely thanking Andy for his outstanding service and commitment to the ideals of the Center and Clinic! In addition, the Center also received \$10,000 from the Arizona Cattle Industry Research and Education Foundation (Arizona

Cattle Grower's Association) to begin development of a web-based educational resource on the topic: "Issues and Barriers to Grazing on Public Lands." Progress on this project will be featured in an upcoming Newsletter.

Best wishes,

George and John  
Co-directors

**Natural Resource Use & Management Clinic**  
**Beginning Fall 2019 Semester**  
**By Priyanka Sundareshan**

Hello from your new Clinic Director, Priya Sundareshan! As the previous Clinic Director Bethany Sullivan mentioned in her outgoing note, I am both a graduate of the JD program at the College of Law and recipient of a Master's of Science from the Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC) Department within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. I am pleased to return to the University in this capacity, and excited to take the reins of the Clinic and incorporate an interdisciplinary approach as much as possible. Bethany left the Clinic in great shape which has made it much easier for me as I step into this new role.



We are now in full swing at the Clinic, with 7 JD students enrolled for the Fall semester. In class, the students are learning the fundamentals of natural resources and public lands laws, administrative law, and other components of legal practice. We have already had a guest lecture on forest restoration efforts by Diane Vosick of NAU's Ecological Restoration Institute, a new relationship that began through our meeting with NAU's School of Forestry in July. Additional speakers will be invited to the class during the semester. The students are also beginning to dig into their Clinic projects, which include:

- assisting the Center's analysis of the newly finalized Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule;
- finalizing an update to a Center handbook for ranchers to access the National Environmental Policy Act;

- understanding the rules governing state trust lands and their uses; and
- continuing to research state requirements for artificial beaver dams for restoration of ecological productivity to ranchlands.

Each student will also contribute a post to the Center's Western Lands blog about their Clinic project or other hot topics in natural resources. In addition, each student will have the opportunity for a class presentation on a particular statute of interest. Students will participate in field trips to see the work in action, including a tour of family ranching operations by Sarah King and possibly a tour of forest restoration research sites in Flagstaff. I will close by echoing Bethany's calls for suggestions of additional ways students can tour working landscapes!

## **Advisory Board Member Column**

**(our first Advisory Board article)**

### ***NRULPC***

**By Kirk Johansen**

What attracted me to serve on our NRULPC Advisory Board? I have represented forest products companies since 1975. It is my firm belief that the public at large, and many people having influence over public policy and legal decisions affecting our timber resource management, do not understand operational and natural resource management issues unique to this industry. I also firmly believe this extends to many other natural resource users. I believe that playing field is skewed against natural resource industry participants.



Our program educates agriculture and law students about “on the ground” natural resource industry practices, applicable law, related science, and users’ legal and public policy needs. How do we do this? We have an undergraduate course which covers the Administrative Procedures Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, all of which directly impact natural resource users. The law school has a public interest law clinic,

staffed by law students, with assistance from students and faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, covering matters involving the regulation and use of natural resources.

Our program assists natural resource industry participants in the west with their law and policy needs, in particular underrepresented members of this community.

Looking down the road a few years, our graduates will serve in the next generations of natural resource professionals, as lawyers, agency heads, politicians, and simply citizens who have interest in our democracy and will cast their votes on natural resource issues on an educated basis. I am hopeful and confident that their NRULPC experience will help “level the playing field” for participants in our natural resource industries.

So NRULPC is a win-win-win, for the students, for current industry participants, and for the future of our natural resource industries.

### **NRULPC/Clinic Staff Visit NAU**

On July 30, Clinical Director, Priya Sundareshan, and Center Co-Director, John Lacy, met in Flagstaff with James A. Allen, the Executive Director of the Northern Arizona University School of Forestry and a number of his colleagues. Such a meeting was initially proposed by NRULPC Advisory Board member Kirk Johansen to allow the Center and Clinic to take advantage of the excellent reputation and expertise of the School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University. Also in the meeting with Professor Allen were colleagues from economics,



Photo from NAU website: <https://nau.edu/>

environment and forest operations at the School. Following a presentation of the Center’s and Clinic’s activities was a discussion of the issues of interest to the School of Forestry in which students in the Clinic might be of assistance. John also explained that the law school would benefit from having a course in the legalities and policies surrounding forest products management. To this

end, a number of possible clinical topics were discussed and Prof. Han-Sup Han, Professor of Ecological Economics expressed interest in continuing the conversation. Subsequently, Priya invited Prof. Han to come to Tucson to make a presentation to the Clinic's students. Prof. Han also suggested making contact with Diane Vosick, NAU of Ecological Restoration Institute and this led to a guest lecture on issues in forest restoration by Ms. Vosick to the Clinic students via video-conference. Two Clinic students are now working on a project stemming from this new relationship. Professor Yeon-Su Kim also followed up with a syllabus of her existing course on Natural Resources Policy.

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*Public Land News – New Service for NRULPC Supporters*  
<http://www.plnfpr.com/>

*“Public Lands News is published bi-weekly for professionals involved with the use of the nation's federal lands. The publication provides subscribers the unvarnished, inside line on what powerful changes in public lands policy mean to them and their organizations. Public Lands News has been published continuously for the last 44 years.”*

## **Communication Outlets**

Please visit our various communication outlets:

- NRULPC Website: <https://extension.arizona.edu/nrulpc>
- NRULPC Newsletter Archive: <https://extension.arizona.edu/nrulpc-newsletter-other-resources>
- Western Lands, Western Waters Blog: <https://westernlandsblog.arizona.edu/>
  - You can now subscribe to our blog and be notified via email when new entries are posted! Enter the information requested at the bottom of the blog page and you will be subscribed.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
**Natural Resource Users  
 Law & Policy Center**  
 A collaboration between the  
 James E. Rogers College of Law and  
 the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

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