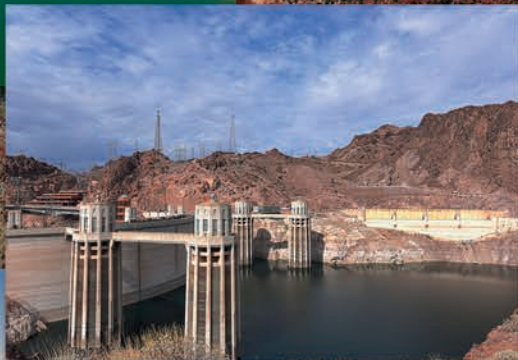


W A T E R R E S O U R C E S

# IMPACT

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**NORTH AMERICAN  
TRANSBOUNDARY/  
BORDER ISSUES**

**AWRA**

*Community, Conversation, Connections*

AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION



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# NORTH AMERICAN TRANSBOUNDARY/ BORDER ISSUES

ERIC J. FITCH

Editor-in-Chief ~ [fitche@marietta.edu](mailto:fitche@marietta.edu)

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

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