

SYMPOSIUM

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW UNDER TRUMP

The inauguration of President Donald J. Trump marked the beginning of an uncommon era in national politics. Over the past year and a half, keeping abreast of unpredictable and sudden developments in foreign policy, immigration, civil rights, and the environment has caused the American public to experience whiplash. The Trump Administration's environmental policies are not only hard to follow, they are difficult to predict. At *Environmental Law's* Spring 2018 symposium—*Environmental Law Under Trump*—scholars and practicing attorneys emphasized the unprecedented nature of the Trump Administration's policies. Among the extensively experienced and highly knowledgeable speakers and guests, a consensus emerged that the field of environmental law is now in uncharted territory. The abandonment of science-based decision making, the push to deregulate across the board (especially where the Obama Administration made regulatory progress), and an animosity toward environmental public interest groups are all characteristics of the Trump Administration that surfaced throughout the symposium like a refrain.

This issue contains scholarship from select speakers in attendance at the symposium. Professor Dave Owen examines the current state of compensatory mitigation policies and explains why leaders in conservative thought have recently turned against this method of compromise between development interests and environmental stewards. Professor Kalyani Robbins contemplates the role of private property in valuating and protecting ecosystem services distinct from, but alongside the regulatory system. Professor Michael Blumm and Olivier Jamin track the Trump Administration's actions concerning public land management and argue that ceding control of these lands to local interests against the wishes of the majority of Americans is a form of monopoly repugnant to the concept of publicly-owned land. Finally, Professor Pat Parenteau outlines the 2015 Clean Water Rule—which he describes as a conservative interpretation of Supreme Court precedent—and lays out the challenges faced by an Administration seeking to repeal the rule.

Environmental Law sincerely thanks those who contributed to this issue, whether by authoring a piece, assisting or advising the authors, planning the symposium, or attending the symposium. Although the subject of this issue is uniquely tailored to the times during which it was published, the scholarship contained within serves both as an accounting of a historic administration and as a guide to future readers who may face Trumpian policies redux.

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