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From Reclamation to Sustainability: Water, Agriculture, and the Environment in the American West

Lawrence J. MacDonnell



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[abstract and table of contents only].

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From Reclamation to Sustainability: Water, Agriculture, and the Environment in the American West

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The development of water resources has played a vital role in shaping the West, as has the struggle to control its use. As competing interests, from agricultural business, urban water users, conservationists, and others disagree how best to apportion limited resources.

From Reclamation to Sustainability traces the history of water use in four distinct locations in the West: The Lower Arkansas Valley, the Grand Valley in Colorado, the Truckee and Carson Basins of California and Nevada, and the Yakima Basin in Washington State. These four studies give a deeper understanding of the experiences of irrigation farmers, urban tech-industrialists, Native Americans, environmentalists, and others who are deeply invested in water policy. They also illustrate that although the specific challenges vary from place to place, there is a common challenge in the West to reconcile its history of development with new challenges of sustainability.

MacDonnell gives powerful examples of problems that have been caused by overdevelopment, as well as the many strategies that have been implemented to combat those problems. He also argues that solving these problems will require market-based approaches that bring together the many parties who have a stake in water usage, so that their interests are treated equitably and sustainably.



FROM RECLAMATION TO SUSTAINABILITY

Water, Agriculture, and the Environment in the American West

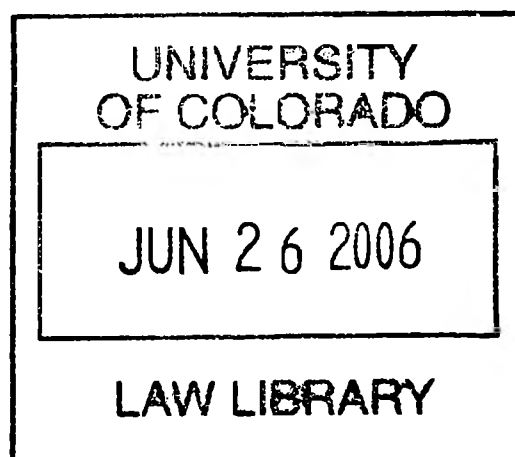
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ENVIRONMENT IN THE AMERICAN WEST

LAWRENCE J. MACDONNELL

IN COOPERATION WITH
THE NATURAL RESOURCES LAW CENTER



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Contents

List of Figures	vii
Preface	ix
Introduction: Living in a Land of Limited Water	1
Part 1. The Lower Arkansas Valley: After the Water is Gone	11
Chapter 1. Colorado's Arkansas River	13
Chapter 2. Watering and Cultivating the Prairie	23
Chapter 3. Stretching a Limited Water Supply	35
Chapter 4. Irrigation Water for Sale?	51
Chapter 5. A Hostile Takeover?	61
Chapter 6. Looking Ahead	75
Part 2. The Grand Valley, Colorado: Where Fruit, Fish, and Growth Collide	87
Chapter 7. Growing Peaches in an Arid Mountain Valley	89
Chapter 8. The Problem of Salt	109
Chapter 9. Competition From Across the Divide and Closer to Home	115
Chapter 10. Water for Native Fish	119
Chapter 11. The Promise—and Problems—of Water Conservation	127
Part 3. The Truckee and Carson Basins: Sharing Water in a Desert	135
Chapter 12. Life in a Land in Between	137
Chapter 13. Redeeming the "Irredeemable"	143
Chapter 14. An Environmental Reckoning	153
Chapter 15. The Ongoing Search for Redemption	159
Chapter 16. What Happens to Irrigation?	167
Chapter 17. What Next?	171

Part 4. The Yakima Basin, Washington: Making the “Old West” Work	179
Chapter 18. The Place	181
Chapter 19. The First People	185
Chapter 20. Reclamation in the Yakima	189
Chapter 21. A Tale of Two Irrigation Districts	199
Chapter 22. Adjudicating Water Rights	205
Chapter 23. The Salmon	209
Chapter 24. Taking Stock	219
Part 5. From Reclamation to Sustainability	229
Chapter 25. From Reclamation to Sustainability	231
Chapter 26. Reducing the Gap Between Diversion and Consumption	239
Chapter 27. Allowing Our Rivers to Function Like Rivers	247
Chapter 28. Water That Changes Use to Meet Demand	257
Chapter 29. Getting There	265
Epilogue: A Faustian Bargain?	287
Notes	295
Index	367

Figures

1.1	The Arkansas River Basin, Colorado	12
1.2	Site of the Sand Creek Massacre	21
2.1	Colorado irrigation canals started by T. C. Henry, 1883–1892	28
2.2	Typical Twin Lakes Land and Water Company Advertisement	33
3.1	John Martin Dam and Reservoir	39
3.2	Carl Genova setting gated pipe	46
3.3	Retention pond for return water	47
3.4	Extension Service Agent Jim Valliant explaining surge irrigation demonstration project	48
4.1	Downtown Ordway	57
4.2	Side oats—a native grass	58
5.1	Saline soils in the Lower Arkansas Valley	68
6.1	Frank Milenski at the Catlin Canal Diversion Dam	79
6.2	Sunset at Nee Noshe Reservoir	84
7.1	The Grand Valley, Colorado	90
7.2	The Grand Valley Region	91
7.3	Book Cliffs as seen from Orchard Mesa	92
7.4	View of Grand Valley lands prior to the Grand Valley Project	96
7.5	Waiting for project water in the Grand Valley, 1913	97
7.6	The Roller Dam on the Colorado River	98
7.7	Irrigating oats with water from the Grand Valley Project, 1917	100
7.8	Talbott Farms on Orchard Mesa	104
7.9	Packing peaches at Talbott's Plant	105
9.1	The Colorado River Basin	114
10.1	A Colorado pikeminnow caught in the Yampa River, 1935	120
11.1	May 1947: Kenneth Matchett uses siphons to irrigate on his farm near Grand Junction, Colorado	128

12.1 Truckee-Carson Basin	138
12.2 Pyramid Lake	139
13.1 Homesteading along the Carson River, 1908	145
13.2 The Carson Desert prior to irrigation, 1911	146
13.3 Building the Truckee Canal to carry water to the Carson Watershed, 1905	146
13.4 The dedication of Derby Dam, 1905	147
13.5 Lahontan Dam, 1912	148
13.6 Truckee Canal emptying into Lahontan Reservoir	149
13.7 Flood irrigating alfalfa, 1908	150
14.1 Historical Pyramid Lake Levels	155
15.1 Measuring cui-uis at Marble Bluff Dam	161
18.1 Yakima River Basin	180
18.2 Espresso stand in Ellensburg	182
19.1 Tribal fishing platforms in the Yakima River	186
20.1 Yakima Project Map	193
20.2 Building the Tieton Dam, 1915	194
20.3 Building the Tieton Canal to carry water to the Naches Watershed, 1916	195
20.4 Camp at Keechelus Dam Site, 1913	196
20.5 Pulling stumps to build dam at Keechelus near head- waters of the Yakima River, 1913	197
20.6 Cle Elum Reservoir in the headwaters of the Yakima River	198
21.1 The Sunnyside Canal	200
23.1 Chinook salmon life cycle	210
23.2 Fish passageway at Roza Diversion Dam	212
24.1 Yakima Project office	220
31.1 Orchard Mesa Check Dam	324