

ARTICLE ABSTRACT

A New Approach in Water Management or Business as Usual? The Milk River, Montana

*Barbara A. Cosens\**

With an eye for history, Barbara A. Cosens provides an analysis of how modern laws come to terms with changes in water supply, demand, and values. The Milk River basin is used to examine an effort to use negotiation to meet problems not solved by current law. In the context of the Milk River tribal settlement process, Cosens addresses the broader challenges of managing and distributing a water basin associated with multiple jurisdictions and the process of reallocating important resources during drought.

\* Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies Program, San Francisco State University. Mediator for the Walker River dispute. Former legal counsel, Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission. Lead counsel on negotiations to settle the reserved water rights of the Fort Belknap Reservation, the Chippewa Cree of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in Montana. L.L.M. Northwestern School of Law, Lewis and Clark College, J.D. University of California, Hastings College of Law, M.S. Geology University of Washington, B.S. Geology, University of California Davis.