

2015 Annual Report

Division/Section/Committee Title:

Natural Resource, Energy and Environmental Law Section

Date:

January 5, 2016

Chair/Co-chairs:

Adrian Oglesby, 2015 Chair

Sally Paez, 2015 Chair-Elect

Activities Undertaken Since Last Report:

The NREEL Section held several social events in 2015 to encourage professional networking among our members and Board. On April 30th, we hosted a well-attended spring mixer at the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Santa Fe. We also co-hosted a fall mixer at the School of Law on October 15th. Hosted in conjunction with the Environmental Law Students Society and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, the event drew over 85 participants.

NREEL was pleased to partner with the Indian Law Section to send Professor Jeanette Wolfley to the Annual State Bar Convention in Colorado, where she presented on “National Parks and the Collaborative Process with Native American Communities.”

The NREEL Board hosted a summer retreat and CLE at the Valles Caldera on July 31st - August 2nd. Participants enjoyed an elk-viewing tour, a tour of river restoration sites, and a CLE. Karl Johnson and David Yepa presented the CLE on the topic of the Jemez Pueblo aboriginal title claims to the Valles Caldera.

The NREEL Board hosted our annual CLE on December 18th. This year we tackled the topic, “Navigating New Mexico Public Land Issues.” The NREEL Board also partnered with the Animal Law Section this year as a co-sponsor of a September 18th CLE on “Creative Lawyering to Change Policy and Law.”

The NREEL Board continued our new tradition of recognizing a NREEL Lawyer of the Year. The 2015 recipient was Greg Nibert of Hinkle Shanor LLP in Roswell.

Ongoing Activities:

None.

Issues Requiring Board of Bar Commissioner Action: (Provide supplemental materials when applicable.)

At its October 22nd meeting, the NREEL Board voted to amend its By-Laws. The amendments are intended to clarify the qualifications for NREEL Board representatives from the UNM School of Law. The faculty position description has been expanded to

allow participation by law professors who do not belong to the New Mexico Bar but are in good standing with another Bar. The student position description has been clarified.

The Amended By-Laws, approved by the NREEL Board on October 22, 2015 are attached for approval by the Board of Bar Commissioners.