

udall center update

No. 29
January 2006

News from the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona

“Native Nation Building” Radio Series to Premiere Nationally



NNI TV/Radio panelists Stephen Cornell (left) and Manley Begay (center) with host Mary Kim Titla

The Native Nations Institute (NNI), under the auspices of NNI TV/Radio, is launching a new ten-part radio series, “Native Nation Building,” on January 24, 2006, via the AIROS Native Radio Network and its tribal and public radio affiliates across the United States and Canada.

“Native Nation Building” is designed to share with Native people and the general public the lessons about indigenous self-governance and economic development that NNI has learned through more than two decades of community-based research with Native nations,” said NNI director Manley A. Begay, Jr., a citizen of the Navajo Nation.

Featuring a notable group of guests that ranges from governmental, business, and community leaders to scholars and educators, the roundtable interview program chronicles the growing number of nation-building success stories currently taking hold across Indian Country and explores the roots of those successes.

“The ten program segments examine different aspects of where, how, and why indigenous nation building is taking place, as well as fundamental issues that affect Native nations’ efforts to exercise sovereignty, restore economic vitality, and shape their own futures,” said Ian Record, NNI’s curriculum development manager and producer of NNI TV/Radio.

Each 30-minute segment (see sidebar) can stand alone, but taken together, the series offers a comprehensive overview of the ways Native nations are working to make self-determined community and economic development a reality.

To hear samples from each of the program segments, visit the NNI Radio homepage at www.nni.arizona.edu/nniradio.

For more information, contact Ian Record, NNI’s curriculum development manager, at recordi@email.arizona.edu or (520) 626-0664.

Native Nations Institute TV/Radio Beginning January 2006

Hosts: Mary Kim Titla (San Carlos Apache)
and Mark St. Pierre

Producer: Ian Record

Associate Producer: Jay Stauss
(Jamestown S’Klallam)

PROGRAMS

Introduction to Nation Building

Stephen Cornell and Manley Begay (Navajo)

Constitutions and Constitutional Reform

Sophie Pierre (Ktunaxa) and Joseph P. Kalt

Why the Rule of Law and

Tribal Justice Systems Matter

Robert Williams (Lumbee) and Robert Yazzie (Navajo)

Building and Sustaining Tribal Enterprises

Lance Morgan (Winnebago) and Kenneth Grant

Promoting Tribal Citizen Entrepreneurs

Elsie Meeks (Oglala Lakota) and Joan Timeche (Hopi)

A Capable Bureaucracy:

The Key to Good Government

Urban Giff (Gila River) and Joan Timeche (Hopi)

Tribal Service Delivery: Meeting Citizens’ Needs

Eddie Brown (Pascua Yaqui/Tohono O’odham) and
Karen Diver (Fond du Lac Chippewa)

Intergovernmental and Intertribal Relations

Jaime Pinkham (Nez Perce) and Sarah Hicks (Alutiiq)

Strategy and Leadership:

The Path to Self-Determination

Peterson Zah (Navajo) and Angela Russell (Crow)

Moving Towards Nation Building

Manley Begay (Navajo) and Stephen Cornell

RESEARCH

Udall Center Launches Book Imprint

With the recent printing of *Protecting the Fish and Eating Them, Too* (see sidebar), the Udall Center inaugurates a new format for its public-policy monographs: books.

Under the imprint, Udall Center Publications, the books will support the Center's mission of research and outreach related to environmental policy, immigration policy, and indigenous nations policy.

In addition, Udall Center Publications will solicit manuscripts from collaborating faculty and researchers at the University of Arizona, particularly Udall Center Fellows, and colleagues at other institutions.

The books will be published as small-format, library-quality paperback editions (ranging in lengths of 50 to 100 pages) and also will be offered as PDF files on the Center's Web site.

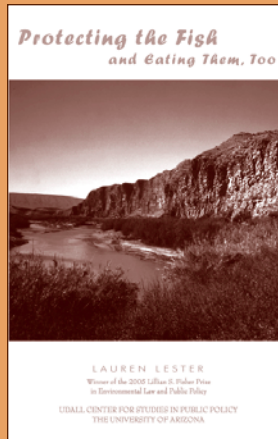
For more, contact Robert Merideth, editor in chief, Udall Center Publications, at merideth@email.arizona.edu or (520) 626-4393.

Protecting the Fish and Eating Them, Too

by Lauren Lester

Winner of the 2005 Lillian S. Fisher Prize in Environmental Law and Public Policy

46 pages \$6.00 ISBN 1-931143-25-0



The scarcity of water in the American West and the increased demands for the resource have created much tension of late between tribes, endangered species advocates, and the holders of water rights granted by the states for non-Native consumptive uses.

As tribes actively quantify their water rights and pursue development projects that enable them to use the water, they are faced with a seemingly insurmountable problem: how can tribes ensure the protection of critical habitats for endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act and at the same time avoid impacts to future tribal economic

development in the face of federal consumptive-water-use restrictions?

Lester provides a general overview of tribal water rights followed by a description of the Endangered Species Act, specifically the requirements imposed by the act that provide for the protection of habitat for listed species. Next, she offers a discussion about the intersection of critical habitat designation and the development of consumptive water use on reservation lands and presents a case study of the critical habitat designation of the silvery minnow in the Middle Rio Grande River, N.M. She concludes with an evaluation of tribal and agency recommendations regarding critical habitat designation in Indian Country and sets out further recommendations for protecting both species habitat and tribal sovereignty.

RECENT GRANT AWARDS

Bureau of Land Management

The Native Nations Institute was recently awarded \$13,000 by the Bureau of Land Management to assist the agency in developing alternate-dispute-resolution (ADR) policies and strategies—specifically, early communication and consultative processes—related to the bureau's decisionmaking processes involving tribal governments. Joan Timeche, NNI's assistant director, serves as principal investigator for the project.

Morris K. Udall Foundation

The Udall Center received \$296,000 from the Morris K. Udall Foundation to support an annual workplan of activities related to indigenous nations policy, environmental policy and conflict resolution, publications, a policy workshop, and maintenance of the Udall Archives and related library pro-

grams at the University of Arizona Library. Udall Center director Stephen Cornell and deputy director Robert Varady serve as co-principal investigators for the workplan activities.

W. K. Kellogg Foundation

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation has awarded the Native Nations Institute \$75,000 to support a preliminary project that explores conceptions of governance among indigenous peoples in the United States, Canada, and Australia. The project includes a set of conversations between indigenous leaders from the three continents about what governance means to them and the forms governance takes in their communities. Udall Center director Stephen Cornell is principal investigator on the project.

Research Travel Grants Available to Study Udall Archives

The University of Arizona Library Special Collections houses the papers of Morris K. Udall, Stewart L. Udall, David K. Udall, Levi Udall and Jesse Udall. The library's holdings also include related papers of noted politicians Dennis DeConcini, Lewis Douglas, Henry Ashurst, and George Hunt.

To encourage faculty, independent researchers, and students to use these materials, the Udall Archives Research Travel Grant awards up to two \$1,000 research travel grants per year. Preference is given to projects relating to issues addressed by Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall during their long careers of public service: environment, natural resources, Native American policy, conservation, nuclear energy,

public policy theory, and environmental conflict resolution.

Recent recipients of travel grants include Douglas Harris, a professor of political science at Loyola College, who investigated Morris Udall's influence in crafting liberal coalitions to secure leadership positions in the U.S. House of Representatives, and Daniel Cobb, a professor of history at Miami University of Ohio, who used the papers of Stewart Udall and other materials to help analyze how the notion of tribal self-determination moved from the periphery to the center of U.S. politics during the 1960s.

Eligibility: The grants are open to scholars, students, and independent researchers.

Awards: The \$1,000 research grants support only travel (and related expenses) to Tucson, Ariz.

Application procedures: Applications are accepted and reviewed throughout the year. Mail a completed application form with three sets of the following materials: (1) a brief essay (2-4 pages) describing your research interests and specific goals of your proposed project, and (2) a resume or curriculum vitae (2-3 pages).

Support for the Udall Archives travel grants comes via the Udall Center's annual workplan funded by the Morris K. Udall Foundation.

For more information, contact Amara Edwards, assistant archivist and librarian, at edwardsamara@u.library.arizona.edu or (520) 307-2817.

jopna

Joint Occasional Papers on Native Affairs (JOPNA)

History's Lesson for HUD and Tribes

by Miriam Jorgensen

JOPNA No. 2004-01 43pp. PDF 227KB

In 1998, Indian housing entered a new era. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) ended its practice of channeling funds for Washington-designed Indian housing programs to HUD-sponsored local Indian Housing Authorities (IHAs) and converted programmatic funds into block grants to tribal housing agencies, which were allowed to design and implement their own programs.

"The hope was that increased tribal control would greatly improve the quantity and quality of housing available in Indian Country," said Miriam Jorgensen, NNI's associate director of research. Jorgensen is author of a 2004 report recently made available in the Joint Occasional Papers on Native Affairs series, co-published by NNI and the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development.

In this paper, Jorgensen analyzes the differential success of the IHAs and provides important information about the conditions under which the new tribal efforts will be successful. Her results suggest that unless the new approach addresses core issues of tribal governance, it will be inadequate for real reform of Indian housing.

"IHAs that have access to capable judicial, political, bureaucratic, and socio-cultural governance mechanisms are better able to enforce rent payment, deter vandals, and constrain official opportunism," said Jorgensen, "and these are factors that negatively affect IHA performance."

And according to Jorgensen, IHAs located in environments that lacked such governance institutions are less able to develop and maintain the community's housing resources.

"Thus, unless tribal housing program development proceeds hand-in-hand with tribal institutional development, the promise of new, tribally controlled programs may go unfulfilled," she concludes.

OUTREACH

ECOSTART Draws Teachers, Students to the River

Connecting field observations with individual actions and public policy

by Anne Browning-Aiken, Floyd Gray, and Denisse Fisher

On a recent, cold November morning, students and teachers from Pima Vocational High School dipped their nets and test tubes into the San Pedro River and, amid the streamside vegetation and birdsong, discovered the surprising beauty of a desert river.

Under the auspices of the ECOSTART program, the group, from nearby Sierra Vista, Ariz., began their day's venture with a stop at San Pedro House, the point of access into the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, a 40-mile riparian corridor, running from the U.S.-Mexico border northward into Arizona. The corridor is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

At San Pedro House, the group learned to "read the land" from a large topographic map of the San Pedro watershed, then trekked to the river to begin their foray into environmental education. Before this visit, none of the students had seen a flowing river in Arizona.

ECOSTART – now moving into its third phase with support from Arizona Project WET, the Morris K. Udall

Foundation, and the University of Arizona Foundation – aims to educate teachers and students about the San Pedro River and how citizens and communities can help the survival of the river's ecosystem.

The San Pedro River and its associated habitat represent a premier wildlife corridor in an otherwise harsh and semiarid landscape. The delicate balance of the river's flow, arising from surface and groundwater sources, is now subject to significant alteration due to the combination of the region's climate and the increasing consumptive needs of the area's booming economy.

The group from Pima Vocational High School participated in ECOSTART through the school's "Poetry, Spirit and Water: Saving a Threatened River Project."

Another group of teachers from nearby Buena High School visited the San Pedro as part of a two-day, continuing-education workshop, also in November. The teachers aspired to improve their understanding of the geography and ecological processes associated with the river and to develop

curriculum content through which they could use the river as a natural laboratory for teaching their students.

The teachers learned how public policy and planning, ranging from the local to the international level, can play a strong role in water quality and in the quantity of the river's flow.



Anne Browning-Aiken

High-school teachers and students participated in November 2005 in ECOSTART's classroom and field exercises along the San Pedro River near Sierra Vista, Ariz.



Anne Browning-Aiken



Anne Browning-Aiken



Robert Merideth

Judith Gans (left), manager of the Udall Center's Immigration Policy Program, provided an overview to the board on the history, context, and policy dimensions of immigration in the United States.



Robert Merideth

Udall Center deputy director, **Robert Varady** (foreground, seated at the right) serves as a member of the board (see related article on page 8).

Good Neighbor Environmental Board Discusses Border Security and Environment

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board - comprising representatives from federal agencies, state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector - is an independent committee that advises the U.S. president and Congress on "good-neighbor" practices and policies related to environmental issues and infrastructural needs along the U.S.-Mexico border.

In October 2005, hosted by the Tohono O'odham Nation, the board met in Tucson, Ariz., to discuss topics related to border security and the environment.

For more information on the Good Neighbor Environmental Board, contact Elaine Koerner at koerner.elaine@epa.gov.

NNI Hosts Australian Visitors to Explore Indigenous Governance

With support from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Native Nations Institute hosted representatives from Reconciliation Australia - Jason Glanville, policy and partnerships director; Tanya Hosch, project manager for the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre meeting; and Rowena Withers, Indigenous Governance Awards project coordinator - on a two-week fact-finding trip to meet with indigenous leaders from across the United States.

Reconciliation Australia is an independent, non-government foundation, based in Canberra, established by Australia's Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation to provide national leadership on reconciliation (see www.reconciliationaustralia.org).

The visit was part of an ongoing collaborative partnership, commencing in 2002, between NNI, Reconciliation Australia, and other institutions in Australia interested in indigenous governance.

"The visit showed persuasively that a dialogue between aboriginal Australian and American indigenous leaders about the nature of indigenous governance could produce insights and learning on both sides," said Stephen Cornell, director of the Udall Center and coordinator of the exchange program.

(A) Reconciliation Australia representatives **Tanya Hosch** (left) and **Jason Glanville** (center) met in Albuquerque, N.M., with **Regis Pecos**, former governor of Cochiti Pueblo and chief of staff to New Mexico's Speaker of the House of Representatives. (B) In Window Rock, Ariz., Reconciliation Australia representatives Glanville (left) and Hosch (right) met with **Robert Yazzie** (center), retired Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. Reconciliation Australia's **Rowena Withers**, also participating in the tour, is behind the camera in both photographs.



Rowena Withers



Rowena Withers

Udall Center Publications "5-for-5" Sale

Order any five of the publications listed here for \$5 (postage included). Order as many as you want - in \$5 increments. All you have to do is mark the publications you want and quantity of each, fill out the order form below, make your payment to "University of Arizona", and mail the form and payment to: UA/Udall Center, 803 E. 1st Street, Tucson, AZ 85719. Offer valid while supplies are available.

— **Elusive Identity: Lessons from an NGO on Mexico's Northern Border**

by Emily M. Brott and Anne Browning-Aiken

Presents the results of a survey of members of the Asociación Regional Ambiental Sonora-Arizona (Sonora-Arizona Regional Environmental Association, or ARASA), a young Mexican environmental grassroots group that has faced substantial threats to its survival and efficacy. The research assesses strategies for strengthening the group and offers potentially useful suggestions for other organizations facing similar issues.

2003 27p. ISBN 1-931143-24-2 \$5

— **Saving the Sierra: Alternative Mechanisms for Conserving Northern Mexico's Last Wild Places**
by Mich Coker

Assesses the current state of biodiversity conservation in Mexico and explores several mechanisms for securing permanent conservation status for Mexican lands. Strategies include establishing conservation easements, building alliances with transnational corporations, educating local communities and regional governments, enforcing international obligations, as well as the outright purchase of biologically-rich lands.

2003 20p. ISBN 1-931143-22-6 \$4

— **... to the Sea of Cortes: Nature, Water, Culture, and Livelihood in the Lower Colorado River Basin and Delta: Symposium and Workshop Digest**

by Robert G. Varady, Andrea Kaus, Robert Merideth, and Katherine Hankins

Provides a comprehensive review of this conference, held in Riverside, CA, in 2000, which brought together a diverse set of over 200 stakeholders, scholars, and policy-makers from the United States and Mexico to discuss the future of the Lower Colorado River Basin and Delta. Participants debated the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders and laid a groundwork for future policy and research agendas in this area.

2003 ISBN 1-931143-23-4 \$7

— **Beyond Transboundary Environmental Cooperation: Civil Society and Policy Outcomes on the U.S.-Mexico Border**

by Basilio Verduzco

Analyzes the relationship between the mobilization of civil society and the development and implementation of transboundary environmental institutions, such as the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission, in the U.S.-Mexico border region. Suggests avenues for the expansion of transboundary cooperation.

2003 26p. ISBN 1-931143-21-8 \$5

— **Binational Watershed Councils as Instruments for Conflict Resolution in the Upper Santa Cruz Watershed**

by Christopher Brown

Explores opportunities for watershed approaches to water-resource problems in the Upper Santa Cruz River Basin along the U.S.-Mexico border (Arizona and Sonora) and discusses the utility such approaches may offer in resolving cross-border water conflicts.

2002 25p. ISBN 1-931143-18-8 \$5

— **Collaborative Conservation in Theory and Practice: A Literature Review**

by Alex Conley and Ann Moote

Brings together a selected, representative sampling of the academic, popular, and gray literature, and introduces the reader to over 300 publications addressing many different disciplines—from watershed management to democratic theory, from international development to alternative dispute resolution.

2001 33p. ISBN 1-931143-13-7 \$6

— **Feasibility of Purchase and Transfer of Water for Instream Flow in the Colorado River Delta, Mexico**

by Peter W. Culp

Presents an overview of the developing legal regime that governs the allocation of water on the Colorado River and asserts that voluntary purchases and transfers of water provide a simple method of assuring a reliable and politically palatable supply of water for the Delta. Proposes the clearest means to overcoming barriers to doing so and discusses the potential reductions in river salinity that could result from a delta flow program if the right source of water is chosen.

2001 45p. ISBN 1-931143-14-5 \$7

— **Resources for Environmental Conflict Resolution: Selected Bibliographies, Databases, and Publications**

by Gwen Alexander and Rachel Yaseen

Provides an annotated bibliography of bibliographies in the area of environmental conflict resolution, including resources on collaborative conservation, community development and strategic planning, ecosystem management, and resource allocation, among other relevant subjects.

2000 24p. ISBN 1-931143-03-X \$3

— **Assessing Research Needs: A Summary of a Workshop on Community-based Collaboratives**

by Ann Moote, Alex Conley, Karen Firehock, and Frank Dukes

Summarizes discussions held during a 1999 meeting in Tucson among academics, professional mediators and facilitators, collaborative group participants, federal agency employees, and environmental activists on the role of research in informing and assessing community-based approaches to managing natural resources.

2000 20p. ISBN 1-931143-04-8 \$4

— **Conflict on the Culebra! A Role Playing Simulation Game for Teaching Environmental Conflict Resolution Techniques**

by Rick Yarde, Robert Merideth, and Susan Moodie

A simulation exercise that aims to facilitate conflict resolution in a western watershed. By simulating environmental conflicts, the program encourages stakeholders (ranchers, farmers, environmentalists, developers, water planners, and other interested citizens) to assume roles other than their own and enact the conflict scenario with facilitators.

1999 24p. ISBN 1-931143-05-6 \$5

— **Trouble in Tortugal! A Role Playing Simulation Game for Teaching Environmental Conflict Resolution Techniques**

by Kirk Emerson, Hal Movius, and Robert Merideth

A simulation exercise that aims to facilitate conflict resolution in a western rangeland. By simulating environmental conflicts, the program encourages stakeholders (ranchers, environmentalists, developers, district rangers, and other interested citizens) to assume roles other than their own and enact the conflict scenario with facilitators.

1999 24p. ISBN 1-931143-06-4 \$5

— **Environmental Conflict Resolution in the West**
edited by Kirk Emerson, Rick Yarde, and Tanya Heikkilä

Offers panel and presentation summaries from the "Environmental Conflict Resolution in the West Conference," held in Tucson, Arizona, in April 1997. Topics include the role of science in western environmental dispute resolution, cross-cultural challenges in western environmental conflicts, and managing intergovernmental conflict, among others.

1997 242p. ISBN 1-931143-08-0 \$10

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STAFF NEWS

Under the auspices of the University of Arizona's Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program in the John E. Rogers College of Law, **Stephen Cornell** and **Joan Timeche** conducted an executive education session in October for the members of the council of the Cold Lake First Nation from Alberta, Canada.

In November, **Cornell**, **Timeche**, and **Miriam Jorgensen** attended the 62nd annual session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Tulsa, Okla. Accompanying the trio were representatives from Reconciliation Australia visiting the United States through the Kellogg Foundation-funded program, "Exploring Indigenous Governance" (see related article on page 5).

And in December, **Cornell** spent two weeks in Australia as part of an ongoing exchange between the Udall Center/NNI and Reconciliation Australia and Australian National University's Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. **Cornell** serves as a member of the advisory committee for the two organizations' Indigenous Community Governance Project. In Darwin, he met with the committee and then facilitated a panel and workshop on indigenous governance capacity building. Later, **Cornell** met with officials of the Northern Territories government in Darwin, and then with national government officials in Canberra, to discuss indigenous policy issues.

Anne Browning-Aiken contributed to three posters presented at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Center for Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA) at the University of Arizona held in October: "ECOSTART: Binational Environmental Education in the Upper San Pedro River Basin, Arizona and Sonora" (with **Denisse Fisher**, a graduate

research assistant at the Udall Center, and other ECOSTART co-authors), "Including Climate Change into Water Resources Management Decisionmaking: Application in the Upper San Pedro Basin" (with **Aleix Serrat-Capdevila**, a graduate research associate at the Udall Center, and other SAHRA co-authors), and "SAHRA and Udall Center Internship: Applying Binational Experiences and Technology to Improve Brazilian Water Management in a Social Context" (with other SAHRA co-authors).

Robert Varady attended the Fourth Conference of the International Water History Association (IWHA) in December held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. The theme of the conference was "Water and Civilization." Varady, the IWHA's secretary, delivered a keynote address on "The International Hydrological Programme and the 'World of Water.'"

Kimberly Abraham is now an administrative associate working with Udall Center Steve Cornell.

Emily Dellinger joined the Udall Center this January as a research and editorial associate, working with researchers in the Center's Environmental Policy Programs and with Udall Center Publications staff.

Katherine Meehan, a doctoral student in geography and regional development, has joined the Center's Environmental Policy Programs team this semester as graduate research associate. Law student **Mark Blair** began work this semester as graduate research assistant for NNI and **Suzanne Sombrero**, a master's student in public administration and policy also began work for NNI as a graduate research assistant.

Keith Larrimore, a pre-computer science junior, joined the Center in December as an undergraduate assistant.

VISITORS

Dr. Manuka Henare, from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, was a visiting scholar at the Udall Center for two weeks in October and November. Henare is associate dean of Māori and Pacific development, founding director of the Mira Száshy Research Centre for Māori and Pacific Economic Development. While at the Center, Henare worked on research

and book projects having to do with Māori natural resources and governance, including one on fisheries management, with Manley Begay and Ian Record. His visit puts into practice an agreement reached between the Udall Center and the Mira Száshy Research Centre to foster research and scholarly exchange and cooperation.

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The Udall Center specializes in applied policy research and outreach in the areas of: (1) environmental policy, primarily in the Southwest and U.S.-Mexico border region; (2) immigration policy of the United States; and (3) indigenous nations policy, with a focus on indigenous self governance and economic development in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere.

udallcenter.arizona.edu

The Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy (NNI) - founded by the Morris K. Udall Foundation and the University of Arizona, and housed at the Udall Center - serves as a self-determination, self-governance, and development resource for indigenous nations in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere.

nni.arizona.edu

OUT THERE

Connecting Policy Research with Policy Dialogue along the U.S.-Mexico Border

For more than twenty years, Robert Varady, deputy director of the Udall Center, has pursued the academic's approach to U.S.-Mexico border environmental policy – through an active research agenda.

But, it turns out that his work, in addition to producing a body of research publications, has helped advance, along with the work of other scholars, public participation and dialogue related to environmental issues and decisionmaking in the region.

His research began in the mid 1980s with a study of the impacts of copper smelters on air quality in the border region. The effort pulled together panels of scientists and other stakeholders to discuss in an open forum the scientific, social, and policy dimensions of the issue.

The success of that model in providing the space, or forum, in which to hold public dialogue on contentious environmental issues became the basis for many subsequent efforts.

By 1989, Varady had become associate director of the Udall Center, and with the Center's director, Helen Ingram, and the late Albert Utton, professor of law at the University of New Mexico, initiated what would become a decade-long relationship with the Ford Foundation.

The relationship fostered the establishment of binational venues in which key individuals from academia, government agencies, and nongovernmental

organizations met to present and share knowledge and perspectives on border environmental policy.

"When we held our first gathering in 1991, there was virtually no infrastructure in Mexico to support nongovernmental environmental organizations," said Varady, "because financial and human resources were very limited."



Robert Varady at the U.S.-Mexico border

But it was at one of the Ford Foundation-sponsored workshops, held in 1996, that the notion was hatched on convening a regular border meeting, or *encuentro fronterizo*, to encourage the growth and maturation of nongovernmental organizations on both sides of the border.

The first Encuentro Fronterizo was held in Ciudad Juárez in 1998, and it and subsequent meetings have attracted hundreds of individuals and NGOs.

The gatherings, organized by a binational partnership of universities and

nonprofit organizations, have provided a convergence of interests, ideas, and funding to support NGOs working on environmental issues in the border region.

In 1994, the C. S. Mott Foundation joined the Ford Foundation in funding the Udall Center to recommend strengthening public participation within the emerging NAFTA-related border environmental institutions – the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), and the North American Development Bank (NADBank).

One lasting outcome has been BECC-net, the Udall Center's 11-year-old electronic discussion group.

More recently, Varady has participated as a member of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB), an advisory body that calls attention to particular issues related to the border environment and advises the president and Congress.

The GNEB experience also taps into Varady's experience as a researcher since the board considers issues of special interest and prepares explanatory and analytical reports.

"As a researcher, I didn't really get involved in this to change the world," said Varady, "but it is satisfying to see that real world changes *can* be addressed through scholarship – and to have had a hand in the progress."



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