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Readings on Flagstaff Mountain, Excerpt from Conclusion of Salt Dreams: Land of Water in Low-Down California (1999)

William deBuys

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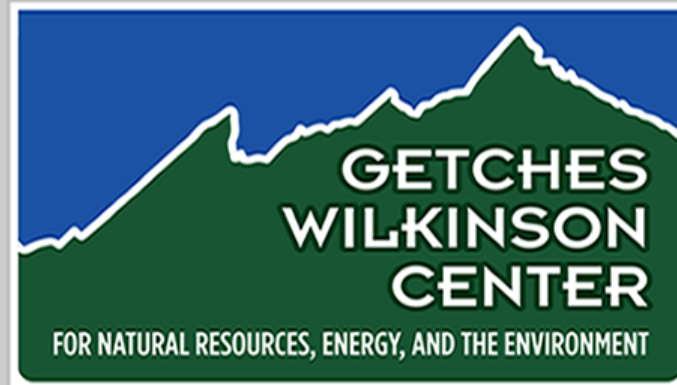
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READINGS ON FLAGSTAFF MOUNTAIN

William deBuys

Excerpt from conclusion of
Salt Dreams: Land and Water in Low-Down California
(To be published September 1999
by University of New Mexico Press)

Strategies in Western Water Law and Policy:
Courts, Coercion and Collaboration
June 8-11, 1999

NATURAL RESOURCES LAW CENTER
University of Colorado
School of Law
Boulder, Colorado

SALT DREAMS: LAND AND WATER IN LOW-DOWN CALIFORNIA

Excerpt from the conclusion. To be published September 1999 by University of New Mexico Press.

The tide of history has shifted. The most powerful stories in the North American past have concerned the efforts of European Americans to reshape the land to suit their needs and dreams. The spread of neo-European settlement, the subjugation of native people, the development of agriculture and industry, the growth of cities, the utilization of rivers, forests, rangelands, and other resources, these things and their kin have shaped the physical expression of history's passage on the continent. Both literally and figuratively, much of what has happened in this part of the world since 1492 has involved the breaking of new ground. But that story is now largely the story of the past. The story of the future will be more like the story of the Salton Sea. It will concern society's efforts to live with and at times ameliorate the consequences of what was broken. We have entered an age of obligatory adjustment and repair.