Designing Local Irrigation Organizations for Democratic, Equitable, and Ecologically Sustainable Social Development: Theory and Two Cases in Nepal [abstract]

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David M. Freeman, *Designing Local Irrigation Organizations for Democratic, Equitable, and Ecologically Sustainable Social Development: Theory and Two Cases in Nepal* [abstract], in *ALLOCATING AND MANAGING WATER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: LESSONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD* (Natural Res. Law Ctr., Univ. of Colo. Sch. of Law 2002).

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ABSTRACT

What kind of local organizations effectively mobilize local people—their knowledge, material resources, and loyalty—and empower them to provide important community infrastructure in a manner supportive of successful democratic, equitable, and ecologically sustainable social development? What kind of organizations provide vehicles for meaningful participation in social development, and constitute viable links between central government ministries and local social-ecological niches in the countryside? What attributes do effective organizations have that distinguish them from organizations in third world contexts; most specifically, the ideas will be illustrated by materials drawn from a comparison of two irrigations systems in Nepal- one at Sursia-Dudhaura (a heavily subsidized failure) and another nearby at Bangeri (a farmer managed success). How water users are organized has everything to do with water productivity, equitable distribution, and ecological sustainability of production agriculture.