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# The Western Confluence: A Guide To Governing Natural Resources

*Will Harmon, Matthew McKinney*  
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## THE WESTERN CONFLUENCE



### *A Guide to Governing Natural Resources*

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#2470354 in Books Island Press 2004-07-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 1559639636256 pages | File size: 21.Mb

**Will Harmon, Matthew McKinney : The Western Confluence: A Guide To Governing Natural Resources** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Western Confluence: A Guide To Governing Natural Resources:

For 150 years, the American West has been shaped by persistent conflicts over natural resources. This has given rise to

a succession of strategies for resolving disputes—prior appropriation, scientific management, public participation, citizen ballot initiatives, public interest litigation, devolution, and interest-based negotiation. All of these strategies are still in play, yet the West remains mired in gridlock. In fact, these strategies are themselves a source of conflict. The *Western Confluence* is designed to help us navigate through the gridlock by reframing natural resource disputes and the strategies for resolving them. In it, the authors trace the principles of natural resource governance across the history of western settlement and reveal how they have met at the beginning of the twenty-first century to create a turbid, often contentious confluence of laws, regulations, and policies. disputes. Ultimately, the authors argue, fully integrating the values of interest-based negotiation into the briar patch of existing public decision making strategies is the best way to foster livable communities, vibrant economies, and healthy landscapes in the West. Relying on the authors' first-hand experience and compelling case studies, *The Western Confluence* offers useful information and insight for anyone involved with public decision making, as well as for professionals, faculty, and students in natural resource management and environmental studies, conflict management, environmental management, and environmental policy.

About the Author MATTHEW MCKINNEY is director of the Public Policy Research Institute at the University of Montana in Missoula. WILLIAM HARMON is communications director of the Western Consensus Council based in Helena, Montana.