Dual Regulation, Collaborative Management or Layered Federalism: Can Cooperative Federalism Models From Other Laws Save Our Public Lands?

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Can Cooperative Federalism Models from Other Laws Save Our Public Lands?

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Few would assert that the current governance model for managing the nation’s public lands, which grants exclusive authority to the federal government, has protected the natural resource values of those lands or provided a framework for the harmonious resolution of conflicts over their use. Dissatisfaction is apparent from recurrent proposals to privatize public lands or to devolve their ownership to the states. The emergence of the “wise use” and “county supremacy” movements directly challenges the authority of the federal government to manage its land. While this new state and local assertiveness is not without historical basis nor completely without merit, its proponents have yet to

Professor Babcock is an Associate Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center. This article is an outgrowth of the author’s presentation at the Natural Resources Law Center of the University of Colorado School of Law conference, Challenging Federal Ownership and Management: Public Lands and Public Benefits (Oct. 11–13, 1993), and on testimony she gave before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands Management, on November 2, 1993. The author would like to thank Peter Byrne, Vicki Jackson, Richard Lazarus, and Doug Parker for their insightful comments on earlier drafts of this article, and Barbara Rich, the author’s research assistant, for her invaluable assistance and attention to detail in preparing this article for publication.

1. The term “public lands” has varied greatly. While the term is most frequently used to mean all land owned by the United States, at various points in time, the phrase has been synonymous with the term “public domain lands,” the provenance and meaning of which is also a matter of some confusion and ambiguity. This article uses the terms public lands and public domain lands interchangeably to refer only to the lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). See George C. Cohen, PUBLIC NATURAL RESOURCES LAW § 1.102(1) (1970) for further explanation of the meaning of these and other comparable terms.

2. The Western historian Patricia Limerick refers to this conflict as an “infinitely sustainable boxing match.” Patricia Limerick, A History of the Public Lands Dyed, Natural Resources Law Center of the University of Colorado School of Law conference, Challenging Federal Ownership and Management: Public Lands and Public Benefits (Oct. 11–13, 1993) (paper in the possession of the author).


4. For a comment highly critical of delegating to states a role in managing national natural resources such as Yellowstone National Park, see Richard Schneebuck, Comment, State Participation in Federal Policy Making for the Yellowstone Ecosystem: A Meaningful Solution or Business as Usual?, 21 LAND & WATER L. REV. 397 (1986) (explaining that serious deficiencies in state legislation, limited state jurisdiction and national interests require retained federal control).

5. The wise use and county supremacy movements are well-organized efforts in the West opposing increased environmental protection on federal lands and the acquiescence by the federal government of more public lands for preservation purposes. See Anita P. Miller, All Is Not Quiet on the Western Front: The Battle for Public Lands, 25 UTAH L. REV. 827 (1993) (describing and analyzing legal basis of wise use, county supremacy movements); Bette Ern II, The “Wise Use” Movement: The Constitutional Right to Use Federal Lands Under the Preemption Doctrine, 30 Idaho L. Rev. 631 (1993–94) (concluding that county land use plans requiring federal agencies to include county governments in their management and planning processes are a valid constitutional response to preservationist policies).

offer a workable solution other than complete ouster of the federal sovereign.\textsuperscript{7}

Emerging theorems in conservation biology and ecology which are changing our view of the natural landscape, are placing additional strains on the current model. What once was a highly localized decision about how a specific piece of land within a fixed geo-political boundary should be managed, has gained regional (even global) implications.\textsuperscript{8} Ecologists are convincingly demonstrating that effective natural resource management implicates more than one governing authority in the management task, requiring consultation and coordination among political jurisdictions.\textsuperscript{9}

Ecologists and conservation biologists are also teaching us that chaos and diversity are more appropriate biological goals than equilibrium and single species restoration.\textsuperscript{10} The contemporary ecological paradigm recognizes that natural systems are open and not necessarily in equilibrium and that the focus of the paradigm should be on process or the "trajectory of change," rather than on the final endpoint.\textsuperscript{11} If, as conservation biologists contend, a landscape is composed of a mosaic of patches, each shifting in composition over time, then decisions about the management of these systems must include the capacity to adapt to new information and unanticipated systemic changes.\textsuperscript{12}

To realize the goals of conservation biology and ecosystem management, the institutions that govern these systems must be able to work together harmoniously, across political boundary lines and into a biologically uncertain future.\textsuperscript{13} The rigidity of the current public lands model creates substantial barriers to the achievement of these goals.\textsuperscript{14}

The era of special interest dominance of public lands policy may be over as well. The cattle and timber barons and hard rock miners who have ruled the public lands under a battery of nineteenth-century laws and policies, Charles Wilkinson's "lords of yesterday,"\textsuperscript{15} are giving way to multiple public lands "communities."\textsuperscript{16} The West is now a vanegated landscape of diverse communities loosely bound together in a patchwork of shared interests, occupations, and geographic locations, not by a single philosophy of commodity extraction.\textsuperscript{17} Governance institutions and procedures designed to accommodate bipolar conflicts among powerful special interests over the consumption of natural resources are ill-suited for conflicts in this new polycentric world.\textsuperscript{18}

This article's working premise is that unless the current governance structure for the management of public lands changes, the political conflicts over their
use and management will continue to blight their future, just as it has marred their past. Further, failing to adapt the management of public lands to our changing perceptions about the nature and needs of the biological and social communities that depend upon them will only engender a new generation of conflicts and further diminish the vitality of those communities. Nowhere are these conflicts more intense and the risks and consequences of failure higher than on the “public domain” lands; those lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under the authority of the Federal Land Policy & Management Act (FLPMA).

The purpose of this article is to determine whether there are alternatives models of federalism, which might improve the management of public domain lands. None of the models discussed here, however, proposes complete redivision of federal authority over public lands; rather they offer an enhanced role for states in the federal decisionmaking process. A continuing federal presence is assumed to be necessary to prevent inter-state distributional inequities from arising or economic discrimination from occurring. Only the federal government can correct market failures when they occur and uniformly protect national norms, such as our natural heritage. And even if the Western states are becoming more supportive of these norms as some asserts, serious questions would remain about the ability of those states to take on sole responsibility for management of these lands without an infusion of new funds.

The article examines three models of governance (“dual regulation,” “collaborative manage-

19. The article assumes that the present public lands management model is too broken to be fixed with minor changes to existing public lands laws and institutions, and that the current paradigm cannot be saved. Therefore, the models discussed in this Article are presumed to be substitutes for, not amendments or supplements to, that model.

20. According to Rasker, community stability can best be assured by economic diversity. Rasker, supra note 17, at 391. Rasker goes on to make the point that the cornerstone of an economic diversity strategy is the creation of a favorable business climate and the protection of the cultural, social, and environmental qualities that make a community a pleasant place in which to live and do business.


22. This article looks at “federalism” as an organizing principle of American government, as a theory of institutions, in which what is most important is the allocation of power between federal and state governments. Phrases used in this Article, like “federalism structure” or “federalism model,” refer to the apportionment of day-to-day management authority over public domain lands between the federal and state governments. The focus of this Article is on the very practical problems that that apportionment must solve. Less doctrinal and more theoretical questions about “principled” notions of federalism, derived from the constitutional debates over our federal structure of government or from more modern prudential concerns, and then application to the allocation of power on the nation’s public lands, while beyond the scope of this Article, are currently under examination by the author. For a more in-depth exposition of this distinction, see Hermon Powell, The Oldest Question of Constitutional Law, 79 Va. L. Rev. 633 (1993). For a closer look at the complexity of how power is distributed between the political institutions of state and federal governments in the latter part of the twentieth century, see Larry Kramer, Understanding Federalism, 47 Va. L. Rev. 1485 (1994).

23. The Article does not address the question of who should own the public lands. Therefore, issues of state or county devotion and privatization are not discussed, nor is the validity of the normative goals set out in the public lands laws, since none of the models requires their change.

24. Professor A. Dan Tarlock sets forth many of these rationales in his article. A. Dan Tarlock, National Power, State Resource Sovereignty and Federalism in the 1980s: Stailing America’s Magic Mountain, 32 Ariz. L. Rev. 111, 121–22 (1983). A more refined look at the question than is offered here might also examine the purpose for which the land is being managed and the conflicts that might arise from that management, the strength of the federal Interest in the particular land or resource being managed, the impact of the decision on local interests, the extent of parity between the competing jurisdictional interests, and the reversibility of the consequences.


A strong theoretical argument can also be made that states should play some role in management of these lands. These arguments are based on the recognized state roles play in our federal system of government. Core federalism values commonly asso- ciated with the states include preservation of liberty, conc participation and diversity. For further exposition of this thought and its consequences, see The Federalist Nos. 10, 45 (James Madison (Clinton Rossiter, ed., 1951)); Richard B. Stewart, Madison’s Nightmare, 57 U. Chi. L. Rev. 335 (1990) (arguing that the very fictions Madison feared at the local level, necessitating a strong federal sovereign, have taken over government at the national level); Powell, supra note 22, at 681–88. See also Ann Althaus, Variations on a Theory of Normative Federalism: A Supreme Court Dialogue, 42 Duke L.J. 979 (1993) (convergence on normative principle that federalism is important because it protects rights of citizens).

One could also argue from the vantage of political expediency that maintaining some measure of state control over management of these lands will enhance the legitimacy of that management, and from the vantage of administrative efficiency that the complexity of land use issues of this nature suggests that effective regulation and enforcement should be grounded in knowledge of specific local conditions. See James H. Wickesaw, The Quiet Revolution Continues: The Emerging New Model for State Growth Management Statutes, 18 Harv. Envtl. L. Rev. 489, 923–30 (1994) (applying this reasoning to advocate on behalf of a consistency model for land use planning under which local governments maintain a strong presence subject to state oversight).

26. Cowart and Fairfax argue that growth in the states’ capacity to manage environmental resources is a critical component in the push to devise a new scheme of public land management. Cowart & Fairfax, supra note 6.
ment" and "layered federalism") found in other areas of environmental law to determine whether their application to public domain lands might lessen the federalism tensions inherent in the current model and enhance the land manager's ability to make decisions that are both ecologically sound and reflect the new voices populating these lands. Achieving rational ecosystem management and a more democratic mode of decision making may be of greater importance than attaining non-fractional governance. Intergovernmental friction may be a necessary, unavoidable, even welcome byproduct of our "compound republic" form of government; a transaction costs of a federal structure that relies on overlapping and sometimes conflicting jurisdictions of governance to safeguard those liberties not protected by the explicit constitutional guarantees. No such benefit accrues from the other two problems.

The structure of the article is straightforward. Part II examines the current federalism model on public domain lands and concludes, despite some of its virtues, the model has caused inter-governmental friction and created barriers to rational ecosystem management and community-based participation in the decision making process. Part III describes and then critiques each of the alternative federalism designs against the same three criteria. The article concludes by suggesting which, if any of the models holds the greatest promise for resolving the problems besetting public lands management. While the author recognizes that these problems may be too complex, diverse and endogenous to the public lands experience or a specific geographic area to enable a "single size fits all solution," she hopes that the analytical exercise of examining these models may enrich the storehouse of ideas we draw from in the search for solutions.

II. The Prevailing Federalism Or "Dominant Federal" Model

The current governance model on public domain lands grants the federal government legal primacy or dominance over those lands. The salient feature of the "dominant federal" model is that the federal government administers resource management programs on public domain lands by itself. There is no statutorily mandated management role for the states. BLM issues grazing permits, mining patents, oil, gas, coal, and geothermal leases, and offroad vehicles permits, not the state land management agency. The state has no legal authority to manage the natural resources that are the subject of these authorizations, even when their management directly implicates the state's vital interests.

There have been experiments with more "cooperative" or reciprocal models of federalism on public lands at various points in our history, but none of these has significantly changed the

27. There are models which change the basic constitutional federalism design (such as might be suggested by English land use law), create new governmental entities (public corporations), or make use of interstate agreements (interstate compacts), which might solve some or even all of the problems associated with management of public domain lands. How far our institutions and systems of governance should be restructured in the search for a solution to the public lands' dilemma, however, is beyond the scope of this Article.

28. Dave Froymayer, A New Look at Federalism: The Theory and Implications of Dual Sovereignty, 12 ENVTL. L. 903, 912 (1982). Indeed, the Federalists envisioned that friction between the central government and the several states might even come to a show of force, which they coun tenanced because of the importance of the states in protecting the rights of the people. See, e.g., The Federalist No. 26 (Alexander Hamilton) (states are to "sound the alarm" if the conduct of the national rulers appeared improper and serve not only as the voice but the "Arm" of the people's discontent), and The Federalist No. 46 (James Madison) (stating that opposed to the United States would be a "militia amounting to near half a million citizens with arms in their hands ... fighting for their common liberties and united and conducted by governments possessing their affections and confidence"). The Federalist (Clinton Rossiter ed., 1961), quoted in Kramer, supra note 22, at 1515–17.

29. This article does not disaggregate complaints about the management of public lands that reflect only the self-interests of single user groups from those who champion a broader public cause and maximization of the public's share of the distributional benefits from these lands. In the author's opinion, the former should be entitled to little deference in any discussion about managing public resources, and should not by themselves cause any changes in the present federalism model.

30. For greater information about the application of this precept to rangeland, see George C. Cogges, The Law of Public Rangeland Management IV, FLPMA, PRIA, and the Multiple Use Mandate, 14 ENVTL. L. 1 (1983).

31. The rigidity and absurdity of this arrangement is perhaps best illustrated in the case of so-called "checkerboard lands," an eponymous pattern of Western land ownership reflective of the historic public lands disposition practices of the nineteenth century, where each jurisdiction manages its squared subpart of the renewable and nonrenewable resource in accordance with its management goals and directives.

32. See, e.g., Bowen Blair, Jr., The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area: The Act, Its Genesis and Legislative History, 17 ENVTL. L. 863 (1987); Cowart & Farx, supra note 6, at 421–59 (discussing a variety of administrative techniques that have been utilized by state, local and federal resource managers to manage public domain resources cooperatively).
balance of power between the federal government and the states. Laws like the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act require little more than consultation with state agencies, giving the states no power over federal agency decisions. FLPMA’s “consistency” provisions stop well short of giving states and local communities a land use planning-based veto over activities on public domain lands. On public domain lands, the federal government is, as the model’s title implies, “dominant.”

While the “dominant federal” model, with its unitary sovereign, provides some assurances that national norms will be met and that distributional inequities between regions will be minimized, the model has caused problems for public lands governance. The model’s dependence upon centralization, coercive control over state action is responsible for much of the tension and frustration fueling the “county supremacy” and “wise use” movements. By offering only a single target for takeover, the model allowed special interests to capture federal land management agencies with calamitous results for the natural resource base. And, by largely excluding states from the management exercise, the model has done little to encourage states to develop their own natural resource management capabilities, perpetuating the myth of state inability and unwillingness to assume a more active management role over these resources.

The “dominant federal” model’s dependence upon political boundary lines and single-use designations defies well-accepted precepts of conserva-

33. Cowart & Fairfax, supra note 6, at 408 [historical, physical and fiscal realities have led federal and state governments to share de facto management of public lands]. For a more theoretical exposition of the same conclusion, see Kramer, supra note 22 [political parties, structure of administrative state, exit rights, and cultural commonalities link fortunes of federal and state office holders in a reciprocal dependence requiring each to pay attention to needs of other].

34. 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–70d (1994). See id. § 4332 [preparation of environmental impact statements]; Cowart & Fairfax, supra note 6, at 415 n.211 [discussing the extent to which NEPA Guidelines have been incorporated in BLM planning regulations].


36. FLPMA § 202(c)(8) requires that the Secretary’s land use plans shall provide for compliance with federal and state pollution control laws. 43 U.S.C. § 1712(c)(8) (1994). FLPMA § 202(c)(9) imposes a consistency obligation on those plans to “the maximum extent [the Secretary] finds consistent with Federal law and the purposes of this Act.” 43 U.S.C. § 1712(c)(9) (1994). These requirements have been interpreted by BLM as requiring “consideration of resource-related plans and policies of state and local governments.” 43 C.F.R. § 1610.3–2(e) (1999); Cowart & Fairfax, supra note 6, at 417.

37. Lesby, supra note 25. Even Cowart and Fairfax, who cite the consistency language in FLPMA as providing a statutory basis for more cooperative federal-state-local management of public lands, admit that the importance of these provisions is “probably more political and symbolic than legal,” noting the language does not give the states a veto over federal programs or initiatives and that the federal land manager has ultimate authority to determine whether federal programs are consistent with state and local priorities and even to over-ride those priorities to achieve federal objectives. Cowart & Fairfax, supra note 6, at 418. See also Beyle, supra note 25, at 220–21 [noting that under FLPMA’s coordination mandate, “there are no structural guarantees that views of state and local governments or the public will be taken into account” as the Act does not define what is meant by “meaningful public participation”].

38. Miller, supra note 5; Anita P. Miller, The Western Front Revisited, 26 Utah L. Rev. 845 (1994). For an interesting perspective on the context and history of the comparable, earlier Sagebrush Rebellion, see Cowart & Fairfax, supra note 6.


40. While the condition of BLM rangeland has improved, in 1991 35% was still classified by the Council on Environmental Quality as poor or fair, compared to 82% in 1993. COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, fig. 24b, at 346 (1992). For an analysis of the impact of grazing on public lands, see Myles J. Watts & Jeffrey T. LaFrance, Grazing, and Contrary: The Grazing Fee Issue, in MULTIPLE USE, POLITICAL ECONOMY RESEARCH CENTER 99 (Tony L. Anderson ed., 1994). See also Huffman, supra note 3, at 49; Wilkinson, supra note 15; Coggins, supra note 30.

41. Fairfax, et al. assert that state environmental management capabilities (i.e., the political and legal authority authorizing states to administer natural resource laws, the states’ institutional capacity to implement these laws and the availability of a relevant information-base) have improved as a result of experience administering pollution control laws and interacting with federal government under multiple-use statutes. Fairfax et al., supra note 6. Others argue that the experience under the multiple-use statutes has been too limited to give states comparable expertise in the natural resource management area. Schneebeck, supra note 4 [state legislation rarely addresses issues like establishing priorities between competing uses of natural resources, is frequently fragmented between different state agencies and few, if any, mechanisms for requiring coordination between interested agencies exist at the state level], Melinda Bruce & Tenesa Rice, Controlling the Blue Roof: Issues and Trends in State Land Management, 29 Land & Water L. Rev. 1 (1994) [modifications must be made in existing state land use management practices for long-term sustainability of the resources on those lands]; C. Maison Heidelberg, Note, Closing the Book on School Trust Lands, 45 Va. L. Rev. 1581 (1959) [modification of the framework governing management of state school trust lands is warranted].

42. Public lands law virtually zones public lands for various uses. For example, if a mining claim for a hard rock mineral is filed, the land is dedicated to hard rock mineral development regardless of other present or future uses it might sustain. 30 U.S.C. §§ 22–59 (1994). Even public domain lands, which are to be managed under a multiple-use sustained yield standard, Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, 16 U.S.C. §§ 528a–31 (1994), which implies some co-existence of different uses, are, in fact, managed to achieve either range use values, public recreational values or wilderness values, but not all of these values at one time, because the managers lack the tools and the will to reconcile the resulting conflicts. Coggins, supra note 30, at 63–65.
tion biology\textsuperscript{43} and biodiversity protection,\textsuperscript{44} as well as notions of “sustainability.”\textsuperscript{45} The model rests upon the notion that species can be protected in perpetuity through management in isolated preserves, even though the preserve’s boundaries are permeable, its conditions and residents always in flux.\textsuperscript{46} The model’s reliance upon a commodity stability strategy, which emphasizes commodity extraction as the sole interest of public lands communities, conflicts with and threatens the emerging amenity-based foundation of the new western economy.\textsuperscript{47} Regional demographic changes\textsuperscript{48} underlying this new economy are also undermining the model’s legal systems and institutions that cater to commodity extraction interests.\textsuperscript{49}

The process by which decisions are made about the management and allocation of public resources on public lands has remained largely closed to broad-based citizen participation and heavily weighted toward special interests with their greater resources. The formalism of this process, together with its bipolar and essentially adversarial structure,\textsuperscript{50} imposes multiple barriers to participation by inchoate, diversified communities. The common practice of land managers under the “dominant federal” model to record the voices from these diverse communities as “little more than chits on a tally sheet”\textsuperscript{51} is contributing to the crisis in public confidence in the ability of the federal government to manage public domain lands.\textsuperscript{52}

The “dominant federal” model causes significant tensions on the nation’s public lands. The model also presents substantial barriers to rational ecosystem management and enhanced community-based involvement in the decisionmaking process affecting these lands. These problems undermine the model’s positive features, namely the theoretical prospect that its application will achieve national norms and prevent inter-state distributional inequities. But, do models proposing a more coopera-

\textsuperscript{43} Moss, supra note 9 (conservation biology’s adaptive management practices are at odds with recognizing law’s need for boundary certainty).

\textsuperscript{44} Biodiversity protection also requires site-specific, decentralized decisionmaking. However, devolution of these functions to local government offers the potential of even greater habitat fragmentation and more intense controversies about prospective land use. Local governments additionally lack the regulatory authority and revenue to do the job. A. Dan Tarlock, Local Government Protection of Biodiversity: What Is Its Niche?, 66 U. Colo. L. REV. 559 (1993).


\textsuperscript{46} Rodgers, supra note 12, at 890 (stating that natural systems resist law-sanctioned boundaries between jurisdictions, between public and private property holders, and between historically sanctioned entitlements and future needs).

\textsuperscript{47} Rasker, supra note 17, at 397. According to Bates, the National Forest Service’s commodity stability policy which emphasizes commodity extraction as the sole interest of public lands communities, ignores the multiplicity and diversity of these communities. See Bates, supra note 16.

\textsuperscript{48} Such changes include increasing urbanization, the growing political power of recreationists and preservationists, and the appearance of multiple public lands communities. Rasker writes about the “footloose techno-yuppies with portable computers” or “modern cowboys,” who have made policies of multiple-use sustained-yield begin to lose their meaning.” Rasker, supra note 17, at 996. Cowart and Fairfax note that these changes are also providing an impetus for states to affect greater interest in increasing state fiscal and environmental controls over public lands resources. See Cowart & Fairfax, supra note 6.

\textsuperscript{49} Wilkinson also describes at great length the extent to which the legal system, upon which the dominant federal model is based, has sustained a set of practices and policies that have historically favored large, single interests which are now asynchronous with modern values. See Wilkinson, supra note 15.

\textsuperscript{50} Marcus E. Ethanage comments that the administrative process, with its procedures designed under the influence of legal values and doctrines, is clearly “better suited to producing effective adversarial arrangements with appropriate protection of private rights than to creating avenues for public involvement in policy making.” Marcus E. Ethanage, Procedures for Citizen Involvement in Environmental Policy: An Assessment of Policy Effects, in CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC DECISION MAKING 115, 128-29 (Jack DeSario & Stuart Langton eds., 1987).

\textsuperscript{51} Rasker, supra note 17, at 393 (quoting Sarah F. Bates, Discussion Paper: The Changing Management Philosophies of the Public Lands, in W. LANDS REV. No. 3 (1993)). Rasker goes on to point out that this “head-counting” approach to conflict resolution actually fosters polarization and conflict, and according to Wilkinson, is exploited by the federal land management agencies so that they can be seen as a “compromising, reasonable, middle of the road entity.” Id. (quoting Charles F. Wilkinson, Toward an Ethic of Place, in BEYOND THE MYTHIC WEST 71, 74 (1990)).

\textsuperscript{52} Both Rasker and Flournoy write about the need for natural resource managers to adopt different analytical techniques to account for the ever-increasing complexity of our relationship to the natural environment, techniques, which are predicated upon the existence of many different public lands communities and are responsive to their needs. Rasker believes that the market-based approach merits serious attention as an additional management tool to be applied selectively as a supplement to the scientific and public participation models of management Rasker, supra note 17, at 393-96. While Flournoy favors the “multiple alternative-multiple attribute analysis” developed by a working group convened by the federal government for the systematic identification and assessment of the values affected by wetlands alterations. Alyson C. Flournoy, Coping with Complexity, 27 LOY. L.A. L. REV. 809, 817-19 (1994). One of the advantages, Flournoy notes in the multiple alternative-multiple attribute model is that it provides not only decisionmakers, but members of the public with a clear view of the policy choices to be made, making regulatory decisions more accessible to the public and therefore, more democratic, which, in turn, may increase public acceptance of regulatory decisions. Id. at 823.
III. Alternative Models of Cooperative Federalism

The article examines three "cooperative federalism" models found in other areas of environmental law. The first is the "dual regulation" or "state primacy" model, under which states are administratively delegated regulatory primacy to enforce federal laws through existing state laws and institutions. The second is the "collaborative management" or "consensus-based" model, under which a joint federal, multi-state institution is created for the sole purpose of developing consensus derived plans that will be used by the various jurisdictions to manage federally designated natural resources. The final model is the "layered federalism" or "consistency" model, under which individual states develop and administer natural resource management plans with which proposed federal activities must be consistent. An analysis of each of these models shows that at least two of them offer some advancement over the existing "dominant federal" model and thus suggest some direction for improvements to it.

A. "The State Primacy" or "Dual Regulation" Model

The first model is the state primacy or "dual regulation" model used by the federal pollution control laws. Under this model, federal regulatory authority is administratively delegated to states with federally approved programs giving the states de jure primary regulatory authority to implement federal directives. Federal funds are granted annually to offset the costs of administering the federal program.

The "dual regulation" model, at least facially, offers substantial enhancement of the state role in administering federal laws, as state agencies, laws and courts replace their federal equivalents. However, although states develop, implement and enforce their own regulatory programs under this model, these programs must be consistent with (at least as stringent as) their federal counterpart. To assure this result, the federal government closely oversees state compliance with federal standards and retains authority to reassert federal jurisdiction, restrict or condition federal funding of the state program, or enforce directly, if state performance is deemed derelict. Although the "dual regulation" model has some positive features, chief among which is the prospect that its insistence on uniform standards will achieve national norms and avoid inequities among the states, the model has some serious deficiencies making its application to public domain lands problematic.

The first of these problems is its uneasy historical fit with the public lands experience, despite the fact that both models rest on a presumption of federal authority to regulate the activities proscribed by Congress. The practical reasons behind delegating primary jurisdiction to implement pollution control laws to the states, i.e., the nation's size and...
geographic diversity, the close relationship between pollution and land use (long-considered a local prerogative), the federal government’s limited resources, and the states’ previous experience administering laws of this type, only partially resonate with the public lands experience.64 Although there is diversity among the types of public domain lands and their acreage is vast, the “dominant federal” model requires fewer federal resources to administer than are required for the administration of pollution control programs regulating millions of individual sources.65 Further, no argument for state primacy on public lands based on experience or local prerogative can be made, because the prevailing “dominant federal” model excluded (and still excludes) the states from any meaningful management role. Thus, the state experience administering pollution control laws at the state level before the 1970s was significantly more substantial, although less felicitous, than the state experience managing resources on state public67 and school trust lands.68

The “dual regulation” model also has some serious design deficiencies which might lessen its effectiveness when applied to the nation’s public domain lands. First, the model tries unsuccessfully to synthesize two inherently conflicting goals—state primacy and the achievement of national norms. This tension often emerges in matters involving state enforcement of federal pollution control mandates. States generally prefer a more cooperative, flexible approach toward environmental enforcement than allowed under the federal law. State agencies want to accommodate local industries and are sensitive to local political pressure. Federal agencies, mindful of federal mandates that specifically disallow “local” considerations, walk a tightrope between the state’s desire for flexibility and the national need for uniformity and consistency.70

Further, a governance design, in which one jurisdiction takes the lead in developing policies the other has primary responsibility for implementing, is bound to cause conflict.71 Indeed, the federal

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<td>64. It is interesting to note that these reasons resulted in state regulatory primacy to administer pollution control programs, even though there was a sense with regard to federal regulatory and social programs in general that the national government’s performance would be superior to that of the states and that federal programs were corrective for state and local neglect and local entrenchment of privilege. Stewart, supra note 25, at 340.</td>
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<td>65. To give the reader an idea of the enormity of the regulatory universe administered by the states, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency collects information under various federal pollution control laws about more than 30,000 abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites, 328 toxic chemicals released to the air, water and land from more than 17,000 manufacturing facilities, and has a database for water quality information alone that contains over 170 million data points on surface and groundwater quality, sediments, streamflow, and fish tissue contamination, which provides information on which regulatory programs principally administered by the states are based. COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, supra note 40, at 260-61.</td>
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<td>67. According to a 1970 survey conducted by the Public Land Law Review Commission, states administer about 4% of the total land mass of the United States. These lands include approximately 20 million acres of lands designated as forests and 13% of the lands used for grazing under government (federal or state) control. Excluding Alaska, state agencies control nearly as much land as federal agencies dedicated to propagation of fish and wildlife, but a significantly smaller fraction of the total land dedicated to public park use. PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW COMMISSION, STATE LAND RESOURCES AND POLICIES, at S-1, S-2 (1970). More recent information about the acreage administered by the states can be found in WESTERN STATE LAND COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION, 1991-92 DIRECTORY, tbl. 1 (1992) (states hold more than 45 million acres), quoted in Bruce &amp; Rice, supra note 41, at 2. See also Sally K. Fairfax et al., The School Trust Lands: A Fresh Look at Conventional Wisdom, 22 ENVTL. L. 797, 832 (1992) (41 million acres managed as grant lands).</td>
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<td>68. For example, Fairfax et al. find in state management of school trust lands, models and approaches to public resource management that might “enrich discussions of public resource management now dominated by decontextualized and polarized issues arising at the federal level.” Fairfax et al., supra note 67, at 803. See also Cowart &amp; Fairfax, supra note 6. For critical views of state land management, see Heidelberg, supra note 41, at 1582 (current framework governing management of state school lands should be modified); Bruce &amp; Rice, supra note 41, at 23-26 (land management policies of western states is lagging behind times because states view public lands primarily as income source and believe their resources are perpetual).</td>
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<td>69. Melnick &amp; Willes, supra note 66, at 235.</td>
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<td>71. See generally E. Donald Elliott, Federal Versus State Environmental Protection Standards: Can a National Policy Be Implemented Locally? Keynote Presentation: Making the Partnership Work, 22 ENVTL. L. REP. (ENVTL. L. INST.) 10.010 (1992); Melnick &amp; Willes, supra note 66;</td>
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al-state relationship in the “dual regulation” model has been burdened almost to the point of disability by allegations of inconsistent federal oversight and micro-management of state programs, wasteful duplication of effort, delayed and conflicting decisions, and lack of finality. The “dual regulation” model, with its reluctant sharing of power with the states, has not productively synthesized the conflicts between the two jurisdictions. The model’s concentric, overlapping power sharing structure reflects an inherent distrust of state performance, a distrust almost as great as that reflected in the “dominant federal” model that grants states no role at all in the administration of federal land management programs. A model that is premised on distrust of the state partner and results in strained inter-governmental relationships would be no improvement over the “dominant federal” model.

In addition, the political unpopularity of federal oversight “sticks” and limited federal resources supporting their use results in uneven, often ineffective federal oversight. Ineffective federal oversight of state performance curtails the federal government’s capacity to counter-balance excessive state responsiveness to local political and economic pressure. This puts at risk the model’s ability to achieve national norms and avoid distributional inequities among the several states, undermining the theoretical advantages of the model. At the same time, the pressure to maintain national norms makes the federal government uneasy about approving experimentation and diversity in state regulatory programs. Therefore, the “dual regulation” model might inhibit federal land managers from responding to the need for regional variations in natural resource management strategies.

The “dual regulation” model does not correct the problems caused by the fragmentation of natural systems by political boundaries, since it preserves the state as the decision making unit. The “dual.
regulation" model allows states to develop regulatory regimes that reflect a state's priorities with respect to use of the ambient environment. These regimes can bisect an inter-state resource like a river or an airshed, artificially dividing the ambient environment at the state's boundary. Only rarely does the model allow for regional planning or standard setting opening only a very small window for implementing the cross-jurisdictional, landscape-oriented protection favored by conservation biologists.

Further, as principally a creature of the administrative state, the content and contours of the "dual regulation" model, even more than those of the "dominant federal" model, are formed, shaped and reformed through the formalism of the administrative process. This formalism, together with the bipolar and adversarial nature of administrative proceedings and their dependence on "specialized scientific knowledge, technical jargon," and lawyers, creates multiple barriers to public participation, especially by inchoate, fragmented community-based interest groupings. Studies have shown that elaborate administrative procedures have had little success in democratizing administrative decisionmaking. What public access is produced is systematically unrepresentative of the public interest and favors interests that are already influential. For example, public hearings, when they do occur, often occur late in the decision making process, at inconvenient times (i.e., during working hours), are inhibiting in format, and frequently pit ordinary citizens against technical experts from the agency or applicant. The agencies administering these proceedings have neither the flexibility nor resources to respond, other than in the most superficial way, to the cacophony of voices heard in typical public hearing or formal written submission. The process responds best to the entrenched, familiar voices that collect around unified positions.

There is little reason to expect, therefore, that transferring the "dual regulation" model to public domain lands would eliminate problems with the "dominant federal" model. The model might even exacerbate existing federal-state tensions on public domain lands and lead to further erosion of national norms despite the theoretical promise of the reverse result. The model does nothing to eliminate the existing politically fragmented natural landscape, and its complete dependence on the administrative process. Robert B. Reich, Public Administration and Public Deliberation: An Interpretive Essay, 94 Yale L.J. 1617, 1624 (1985). For a general discussion of the administrative process, see James T. Harrington & Barbara A. Frick, Opportunities for Public Participation in Administrative Rulemaking, 15 Nat. Resources Law 537 (1983).

86. The administrative and judicial processes require participants to distill their interests into highly focused, oppositional statements or positions. Although one may be able to identify discrete public lands communities, these communities are made up of many people with different interests and values which cannot easily be reduced to single, unitary positions. Bates, supra note 16. See also Reich, supra note 85, at 1624.

87. Ethridge, supra note 50, at 115, 122. Ethridge goes on to say "citizen participation encouraged by formal hearing procedures has not often contributed to the 'complicated, creative balancing of conflicting interests in controversial areas.' Instead, it has frequently served to make decisions of public policies more ideological, more difficult, and less representative of the broader public interest." Id. at 124.


89. Jurisdictional standing to secure judicial review of administrative decisions, the technicality and complexity of the record, costs, and other procedural formalities create barriers to public participation under this model. Owen M. Fiss, Comment, Against Settlement, 93 Yale L.J. 1073, 1073-78 (1984); Melanie Rowland, Bargaining for Life: Protecting Biodiversity Through Mediated Agreements, 22 Env'l L. 503, 519 (1992).

90. See supra note 54 and accompanying text. See also Bates, supra note 16, at 91 (noting that most public hearings are arranged to impede community consensus).

91. Reich, supra note 85, at 1624.
istrative process for making decisions may erect additional barriers to diversified, community-based public participation in the public lands management decisionmaking process.

B. The “Federal-State Consensus” Or “Collaborative Management” Model

The second model is the federal-state consensus or “collaborative management” model employed by the Clean Water Act’s National Estuary Program.92 Under this model, the federal government funds and facilitates the development of an institution to develop a plan to address the environmental and resource depletion problems caused by unregulated human activities in the estuary.93 There is much to commend in this model for the management of public domain lands.

First, estuaries and public domain lands share common historical predicates. Both are multi-jurisdictional and land based pollutants can concentrate access to federal lands surrounded by state or private lands.94 Federal land holdings in many parts of the West are neither unified nor integrated, but inter-mixed with state and private holdings.95 Further, development on public lands is often tied to development on nearby state and private lands.96 This checkerboard pattern of intermingled land holdings continues today making integrated management of public domain lands a multi-jurisdictional challenge.97

Public domain lands have also historically functioned as an unregulated commons, susceptible to Hardin’s “tragedy.”98 Although public domain lands may not be a “true” or “legal” commons, as they are subject to laws regulating their use and access, they function as a da facto commons, because these laws have not been consistently enforced.99 Unauthorized use and access to these lands occurred historically and continues to occur today.100 Therefore, the public domain lands experience appears to be more congruent with the “collaborative management” model than with the “dual regulation” model.

The multi-jurisdictional and un-regulated commons characteristics of estuaries resulted in the formulation of a collaborative, non-directive governance model, quite different in approach from the “dominant federal” or “dual regulation” models.101 The National Estuary Program’s “collaborative man-

92. 33 U.S.C. § 1330 (1994). The progenitor of the federal-state consensus model found in the National Estuary Program is the interstate management plan developed by Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. For a detailed chronology of the development of that plan and the Chesapeake Bay program, see Maylor A. Reutter, The Chesapeake Bay: Saving a National Resource Through Multi-State Cooperation, 4 VA. J. NAT. RESOURCES L. 186 (1985).

93. Agricultural, industrial, municipal, recreational, and other activities on the land can both directly and indirectly affect estuarine water quality and hydrodynamics. Both atmospheric and land based pollutants can concentrate in and be retained by an estuary. Robert D. Hayton, Reflections on the Estuarine Zone, 31 NAT. RESOURCES J. 123, 136 (1991). According to Hayton, these problems have brought on a crisis of global proportions. Id. at 125.

94. The estuarine zone is not sharply delineated, but like any ecosystem it is a dynamic, sometimes turbulent, and often extensive region. Thus, many states may find themselves in the estuarine zone even though their citizens may not directly benefit from its existence. For a description of the estuarine (or interface) zone and the value of estuarine systems, see id.

95. As pointed out by Cowart and Fairfax, surface title is not the only complexity in the pattern of western land ownership as a result of the federal practice of retaining subsurface mineral rights when it deeded away land to homesteaders and ranchers. Cowart & Fairfax, supra note 6, at 410-12.

96. Id. at 410 (noting particularly the contentiousness of access to federal lands surrounded by state or private lands).

97. Again, according to Cowart and Fairfax, the reality of western land ownership patterns invites (some might say requires) some level of state and local involvement in the management of public land and resources. Id. The theoretical framework for these observations can be found in the work of Grodzins and others. MORTON GRODZINS, THE AMERICAN SYSTEM: A New View of Government in the United States (1966), cited in Fairfax et al., supra note 6, at 420 n.17. For further explication of this theoretical framework and its progenitors, see Kramer, supra note 22.

98. See Garrett Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons, 162 SCIENCE 1243 (1968), reprinted in MANAGEMENT THE COMMONS (Garrett Hardin & James Baden eds., 1977) (where many actors share the same resource, rational choice leads to the resource’s eventual destruction, because an individual’s short term gain exceeds her harm and the harm to the resource can be dispersed among its many users).

99. James Huffman, The Incredibility of Private Rights in Public Lands, 65 U. Colo. L. Rev. 241, 259 (1994). Huffman argues that even into the twentieth century most non-commodity resources, like wildlife, hiking, camping, and boating, were free for the taking. Id. at 260. These unauthorized uses were then legitimized by the preemption laws. Id. at 259 (discussion of preemption laws). Huffman goes on to argue that unlimited equal access will lead to the tragedy of the commons and its destruction, and while limiting equal access may alleviate distributional and degradation problems, this can only be accomplished at an unacceptably high cost to average individual welfare. Id. at 271.

100. For example, the failure of BLM to control access by cattle to public domain lands makes the public lands a commons for that purpose and, according to most experts, is the reason for the loss of hundreds of millions of acres of and semi-and land in the western United States. George C. Coggins, Livestock Grazing on the Public Lands: Lessons from the Failure of Official Conservation, 20 GEO. L. REV. 749 (1943-45); Coggins et al., The Law of Public Rangeland Management I: The Extent and Distribution of Federal Power, 12 ENVTL. L. 335 (1982); Myra Klockenbrink, The New Range War Has the Desert as a Fict. IIY. TIMES, Aug. 20, 1991, at C-4.

101. Under our constitutional system of government, one state has no power to control another, and the federal sovereign has neither the political will nor the resources to force a federal solution on the states in an historically unregulated, multi-state commons. For examples of unsuccessful attempts by states to control water pollution in adjacent states, see Arkansas v. Oklahoma, 503 U.S. 91 (1992); City of Milwaukee v. Illinois, 451 U.S. 304 (1981). For a discussion of some other examples of regional planning by states, see Paul D. Banker, Jr., Note, The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act: The Problem with State Land Regulation of Interstate Resources, 31 WIS. & MICH. L. REV. 733, 739-44 (1990).
agreement” model establishes an institutional framework and process for preparation of a multi-state plan to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of designated estuaries.° The plan is prepared under the aegis of a “management conference” composed of representatives from all affected political jurisdictions (i.e., federal, state and local governments and inter-state governmental entities) and interests in the estuarine zone.° Management plans can only be approved by the federal government upon concurrence by the affected states’ governors.° Once approved, any federal action must be consistent with the plan.°

The “collaborative management” model, on its face, provides for significant reductions in federalism tensions. The parties operate in a non-hierarchical (i.e., the requirement for state concurrence), cooperative effort to design a solution to what is perceived to be a shared problem.° This contrasts sharply with the hierarchical, non-parity, directive federal-state relationship in both the “dominant federal” and “dual regulation” models. Under the “collaborative management” model, the federal government functions as a facilitator, not an overseer, of state and local participation, as opposed to performance, and as a provider of technical and financial resources to aid in plan development. Acceptance of the plan at the local level is enhanced because of direct participation in plan design by state and local governments and the increased likelihood such participation has resulted in a document more sensitive to state and local concerns.

However, the consensus process can also generate substantial transaction costs° and result in a compromised final product.°° There are no controlling norms guiding federal approval of the plan, no requirement that the plan meet federal standards, unlike the “dual regulation” model.°° Therefore, there is no way of assuring that distribu- tional inequities between estuaries in different parts of the country will not be created. Further, plan implementation depends upon the voluntary cooperation of affected jurisdictions and must await separate action by state and local governments conforming their laws to whatever new standards or procedures are required by the plan.°° The management conference has no continuing function once the plan is approved.

The “collaborative management” model, however, does a significantly better job than either the “dominant federal” or “dual regulation” models of removing the barriers to rational ecosystem management, because it offers a trans-political boundary institutional framework (the management conference). Interstate Cooperation, 102 HAVER L. REV 842 (1989). The author’s analysis of the National Association of Attorneys General vertical restrain guidelines demonstrates how interstate cooperation preserves the core values of federalism (liberty, civic participation, and diversity).

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ference) for managing a regional resource. The goal of the model's planning process is to synthesize and rationalize differences among the affected states in how they manage the natural system; in other words, to eliminate the artificial differences caused by political boundaries. Most plans also provide for future plan adjustments, allowing for conservation biology's adaptive management.111

The structure of the "collaborative management" model's management conference, with its many different participants and its use of a consensus, collaborative approach to decisionmaking (i.e., the planning process), encourages diversity of views. A consensus approach is more open to different communities than the formal bi-polar, adversarial approach of the "dominant federal" and "dual regulation" models.112 The democratic, more transparent nature of the planning process levels the playing field between community-based interests and special interests. The participation of community-based interests in the process also validates and strengthens the interests they represent, increasing public confidence in the final product.113

While the "collaborative management" model harbors some significant risks, such as high transaction costs, the possibility of a compromised final product and sacrificed national norms as well as implementation uncertainty, it offers a means to overcome the federalism frictions now present on public domain lands as well as the ecosystem management and public participation problems inherent in both the "dominant federal" and "dual regulation" models. The shared historical predicates with the "dominant federal" model may also make the imposition of this consensus driven model on public domain lands an easier fit than the "dual regulation" model.

C. "Federal Consistency" Or "Layered Federalism" Model

The third, and final model is the "federal consis-
tency" or "layered federalism" model found in the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).114 Under this model, a state develops and administers a federally funded coastal resource management program that meets uniform federal standards.115 Federal activities (both within and outside the program area) must be consistent with the state's program to the "maximum extent practicable" unless contrary to the national interest.116 Like the "collaborative management" model, the "layered federalism" model has much to commend it.

The historical experience underlying the "layered federalism" model, however, is significantly different from the public lands' experience; closer to that underlying the "dual regulation" model. The states' ability to manage coastal areas was considered superior to that of the federal government, because the states already had the necessary resources, administrative machinery, enforcement powers, constitutional authority, and experience to do the job;117 historical predicates quite different from the states' experience on public domain lands.118 Further, federal funds and the clear power shift to the states was perceived as a means to correct past distributional inequity in the coastal zone, where the nation as a whole had received the benefits of coastal development and the impacted states bore all of the costs.119 Perceived distributional inequities on public lands have historically been corrected or offset by federal funds, not by a redistribution of power.

While consistency between federal and state programs is not an unfamiliar concept in the public lands context, the public lands version is much weaker than that employed in the "layered federalism" model, more aspirational than controlling.120 Under the "layered federalism" model, states can veto a proposed federal initiative that is inconsistent with the state's program, giving the states considerable leverage against the federal government. Under FLPMA, the federal planning process is mere-

111. Included in the plan are normative guidance (statutory and regulatory standards) and shared aspirational goals, which may reduce future conflicts. 33 U.S.C. § 1330 (1994); 40 C.F.R. §§ 35.9000–35.9070 (1995).

112. Reich, supra note 85, at 1624 (discussing how current practice of public policymaking ignores the views and interests of poor and diffused groups). The author suggests that public deliberation is beneficial to these groups as it brings them together where they are able to recognize common interests and jointly create new public values. Id. at 1635–36.

113. In addition, a consensus approach, in contrast to the formalistic or adversarial approach of the "dominant federal" or "dual regulation" models, by encouraging examination of assumptions, inclusive thinking and a means for finding common ground among various interests, provides the ideal environment in which to recognize different communities. Bates, supra note 16.


117. Boyce, supra note 25. According to Houck and Rolland, the CZMA "presumes" coastal land use is primarily a state affair, and provides funding with only limited, programmatic federal review of state performance. Houck & Rolland, supra note 25, at 1289.

118. See supra note 41 and accompanying text.


120. Leshy, supra note 25, at 169.
ly to be informed by state and local concerns. Reserving federal authority in the federal government reflects congressional belief that the integrity of the governing federal laws and congressional policies should not be compromised by conflicting local concerns. A finding substantially at odds with the congressional findings underlying the "layered federalism" model.

Although the "layered federalism" model sounds similar in some respects to the "dual regulation" model, there are significant differences of particular relevance to this analysis. The "layered federalism" model is more truly a state-lead design than the "dual regulation" model. The model envisions a strong role for state and local governments in the program area. The state administers its coastal zone program without federal intrusion or even participation. Although states must consider federal interests in their individual draft plans and conform to national criteria, they are largely left free to develop and administer their programs without the federal government second-guessing them. And, while the federal government can restrict or condition federal funding and withdraw plan approval, just like it can in the "dual regulation" model, federal oversight of state performance under this model is considerably less objectionable to the states, because the traditional federal "sticks" of the "dual regulation" model are substantially offset in the "layered federalism" model by the federal consistency provision. Further, since local concerns are elevated under the model as a result of states being encouraged to tailor their plans to meet local needs, the federal consistency model, like the collaborative management model, should also produce a product that is sensitive to these needs, and, therefore, supported by the local communities. Thus, the friction inherent in the "dual regulation" model's heavy reliance on federal oversight to achieve desired state perfor-

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121. 43 U.S.C. § 1712(c)(9) (1994) ("[T]he Secretary shall, to the extent he finds practical, keep apprised of State, local, and tribal land use plans."). Congress intended, among other things, for FLPMA to increase the opportunities for state and local governments as well as the general public to participate in land management decisions. The Public Land Law Review Commission, whose recommendations contributed to much of the content of FLPMA, noted many reasons for increasing the role of state and local governments in the public land decision making process, including the need to allow for more effective resolution of problems such as depressed local tax revenues due to property tax immunity of federal lands and zoning and pollution control problems on non-federal lands caused by uses of contiguous federal lands. For a further discussion of this and other related points, see Beyle, supra note 25, at 216.

122. 43 U.S.C. § 1712(c)(9) (1994) (land use plans shall be consistent with state and local plans to the maximum extent the Secretary finds consistent with federal law and the purposes of the Act). See also Beyle, supra note 25, at 216. Under the CZMA, state or local authorities determine the consistency of federal programs with state coastal zone management plans. 16 U.S.C. § 1456(c) (1994).

123. Beyle, supra note 25, at 222 n.116 (quoting H.R. REP. NO. 1724, 94th Cong., 2d Sess. 58 (1976)). Beyle writes of the contradictory desire of Congress to bring states and local governments into the federal land management process more which was tempered by an even stronger desire that federal primacy and control over public lands was still considered essential given the prevailing state record on management of their own lands. Id. at 216-17.

124. A key to more effective protection and use of the land and water resources of the coastal zone is to encourage states to exercise their full authority over the lands and waters in the coastal zone. 16 U.S.C. § 1451(i) (1994). Because of their proximity to and reliance upon the coast and its resources, the coastal states have substantial and significant interests in the protection, management, and development of the resources of the exclusive economic zone that can only be served by the active participation of coastal states in all federal programs affecting such resources. Id. § 1451(m).

125. In contrast, under CWA § 402(d) each state with delegated authority to administer the national pollution discharge elimination system permit program must submit to EPA a copy of each permit application received by the state. 33 U.S.C. § 1342(d) (1994). The state cannot issue a permit until 90 days have passed without EPA noting its objection to the permit.

126. The Secretary of Commerce cannot approve any state management plan unless the views of federal agencies principally affected by the plan have been adequately considered, 16 U.S.C. § 1456(d) (1994), the plan provides for adequate consideration of national interests involved in siting of energy facilities which are of greater than local significance. Id. § 1455(d)(8), and lands which are held in trust by or subject solely to the discretion of the federal government are excluded from the definition of "coastal zone," id. § 1453(1). See Beyle, supra note 25, at 211-12.

127. 16 U.S.C. § 1458(e) (1994) (suspension of federal financial assistance if coastal state failing to adhere to management program or grant terms).

128. Id. § 1458(d) (approval shall be withdrawn if coastal state fails to cure defects in its compliance with its management program or grant terms).

129. State program authority to condition or reject outright certain types of federal and federally-supported development has been upheld against claims of preemption and interference with interstate commerce. Houck & Rolland, supra note 54, at 1297. See also Michael A. Wolf, Accommodating Tensions In the Coastal Zone: An Introduction and Overview, 25 NAT. RESOURCES L.J. 7 (1995).

130. 16 U.S.C. § 1455(d) (1994). Another example of the extent to which the coastal zone management program is, at least, structured to be sensitive to local concerns can be found in § 306(d)(2)(B) in which states are enjoined not only to establish an "effective mechanism" for continuing consultation with local governments to assure their full participation in implementing the state's coastal zone management program, but the mechanisms themselves must provide for an opportunity for comment by local governments in any situation where implementation of any management program decision would conflict with any local zoning ordinance. 16 U.S.C. § 1455(d)(2)(B) (1994).
mance is not a significant factor in the "layered federalism" model. 131 In fact, criticisms of the program have less to do with its governance model than its limited financial resources and overly broad scope. 132

The reduction in federalism tensions, however, is not without cost. A state-lead program without clear national standards and federal oversight, features of the "dual regulation" model can create substantial differences and inequities among the states and be an invitation to industry forum shopping. 133 By allowing each state unfettered authority to "resolve for its own coastal area basic choices among competing uses for finite resources," 134 no particular result in favor of any resource can be assured, jeopardizing the achievement of national norms favoring protection of those resources. 135

The "layered federalism" model's effectiveness at controlling coastal development and limiting environmental damage, just like the "dominant federal model," depends on coordination between the various layers of government as well as among agencies within each layer. 136 Yet, the consistency mechanism can be its own cause of conflict between the various layers of government despite the fact its use should trigger intra-state jurisdictional negotiations and offer a way to eliminate inconsistent regulatory requirements among the different jurisdictions within a state. 137 Experience with the model reveals that the different layers of government operate independently of each other, with "tunnel vision" and a myopic sense of territoriality. 138 This behavior can result in duplicate programs, programmatic conflict, turf wars, and less environmental protection, sounding remarkably like the experience under both the "dominant federal" and "dual regulation" models. 139 However, these problems are experienced most keenly at the state and local level. State-local tensions replace the federal-state tensions of the "dominant federal" and "dual regulation" models, turning the model into a battleground for conflicting philosophies over the distribution of power between state and local governments. 140

Although, the "layered federalism" model is limited by state boundaries, like the "dominant federal" and "dual regulation" models, the model holds somewhat more promise for achieving rational ecosystem management than might be expected. The power to find parochial federal programs inconsistent with broader state natural resource goals and the importance of local concerns create an opportunity for making rational ecosystem decisions in an ecologically defined area within a state. 141 In addition, the planning approach underlying the "layered federalism" model, as it underlies the "collaborative management" model, and the absence of binding, uniform standards, a feature of the "dual regulation" model, allows for state experimentation and innovation, 142 and for conservation biology's adaptive management state control have acted to inhibit such strategic behavior. 143

131. Supervision of state performance and enforcement of the Act by the federal government, although of a continuing nature and comprehensive in scope, generally leads only to non-binding suggestions for state program improvement. Mandatory recommendations, according to Houck and Rolland, are restricted to process-oriented improvements. The Secretary's only oversight is to suspend federal funding, if a state fails to adhere to an approved program, and then only after an elaborate process, which, again according to Houck and Rolland, serves as both a shield against federal attempts to de-fund aggressive state programs and against complaints of program violations in favor of development interests. The CZMA provides no private federal cause of action against states, local governments or private parties claimed to be in violation of state coastal management programs, therefore, citizen oversight over state program performance is limited as well. See generally Houck & Rolland, supra note 54, at 1294-99.

132. See Richard Hildreth & Ralph W. Johnson, CZMA in California, Oregon, and Washington, 25 NAT. RESOURCES J. 103 (1985) (program's broad scope and federal resource limitations threaten to enervate program or turn it into a one-issue program).

133. Inequities are also created among applicants as a result of the enhancement of the states' powers and the dominance of state and local concerns over national concerns. The states' ability to impose more stringent requirements can cause non-uniform changes in regulatory burdens imposed on applicants by federal laws, regulatory differences between coastal and non-coastal states, and higher transaction costs. Scott C. Whitney et al., State Implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Consistency Procedures—Litigations or Unconstitutional?, 12 HARV. ENVTL. L. REV. 67 (1988); cf. Boyle, supra note 25, at 214 (experience has shown CZMA dispute resolution mechanism and the scheme of shared federal-
agement principles to be applied. The model is less inclusive of diverse public voices than might be anticipated from its emphasis on planning. Broad public participation is invited in state plan formulation and state plans must include procedures for public participation in the permitting process as well as consistency determinations. However, once the plan is approved, the process becomes less inviting and inclusive and more hierarchical and formal, replicating the barriers to participation by diverse public communities found in the “dual regulation” model.

Although the historical predicates behind the federal consistency or “layered federalism” model are less compelling when applied to the public domain lands than the “collaborative management” model, the “layered federalism” model does offer some benefits. The model appears to reduce federal-state tensions, although, in practice, it may merely transfer those tensions down a layer to state and local governments. The model also offers some potential for rational ecosystem management within a state and diversification of public participation in the decisionmaking process. The model, however, may cause high transaction costs for third parties, and does not assure the fulfillment of national norms with respect to protection of natural resources or prevent distributional inequities from occurring among the several states.

IV. Conclusion

This discussion should make clear that no single model discussed in this article offers a complete panacea to the federalism tensions, ecosystem management irrationality and lack of community inclusivity afflicting public lands management today as a result of the application of the “dominant federal” model. The least curative approach, and thus the least appealing substitute for the current paradigm, is that offered by the “dual regulation” model. Experience with the first model reveals that its theoretical promises are largely chimerical.

The “collaborative management” and “layered federalism” models, on the other hand, do offer some advancements over the “dominant federal” model. Enhanced state roles under these models have led to a lessening of federal tensions as well as a greater opportunity for rational ecosystem management and more inclusive decisionmaking. At the same time, application of these more cooperative models of governance may make more problematic the achievement of national norms and, at least with regard to the “layered federalism” model, the avoidance of distributional inequities. Therefore, none of these models warrants wholesale relocation to public domain lands without careful weighing of what is gained and lost in the substitution process.

If changes to the current public lands governance model are going to be made, however, it may be more important to resolve the ecosystem management and public participation problems of the “dominant federal” model than its federalism tensions. Friction in our federal system of government has been in existence since the formation of the republic. The mere fact that these tensions exist at all on public lands, where there is no institutional role for either state or local governments, is a testament to the endemic and persistent nature of the problem under our system of government. Examination of the three federalism models shows, at most, a lessening of these tensions, but not their complete disappearance. To hope for more, in the case of public domain lands, therefore, may be to hope for too much.

The same cannot be said, however, with respect to overcoming the political and institutional barriers preventing rational ecosystem management and democratic decisionmaking on public domain lands. Unless these problems can be solved, the biological and social communities that depend upon those lands will wither and die. Therefore, features of the three models examined in this article that remove these barriers should be looked at seriously in the redesign process, even if the models’ other attributes are not so promising.

143. According to critics of the “layered federalism” model, the ad hoc, fragmented decisionmaking approach fostered by the model is the antithesis of rational ecosystem decisionmaking. Oliver A. Houck, Ending the War: A Strategy to Save America’s Coastal Zone, 47 Mo. L. Rev. 358, 361 (1988). See also Rychlak, supra note 136, at 994–99.


145. Id. § 1455(d)(14).

146. For a description of the dispute resolution mechanisms of the CZMA showing both the formalism of those mechanisms as well as their effectiveness at averting conflict and delay, see Beyle, supra note 25, at 212–16. For a contrary view of the provision’s conflict avoidance effectiveness, see Whitney et al., supra note 133.