

Government as the Guardian of the Public Trust

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When one discusses the public stake in governance, it is important to understand the role of government as guardian of the public trust. The resources that are held in common for the use and enjoyment of all the citizens are protected and managed by the state and the competing uses of those resources must be balanced with a recognition that the responsibility of government lies with both current generations and generations to come.

This presentation will discuss the importance of protecting the public trust in the context of management of natural resources and will offer the proposition that the public stake in governance is indeed large for it is the common resources that are affected by legislative or administrative decisions.