

threats and challenges. The Colorado River Compact of 1922 was devised during a wet period, and changing flow patterns could flare up into verbal fireworks again. However, this time the raw political power of California and Arizona would fan the political fires.

Colorado's Front Range water managers have not stopped eyeing the perceived abundance of Western Slope water and are met eyeball-to-eyeball with the "not a drop of water" mantra of Western Slope water users. Are we in store for more head cracking? Optimistically, we can point to the recently released State Water Plan of Colorado for some guidance. Granted, the challenge is in the details, but water users across the state are working to find solutions to these tough, wicked problems. It is a challenge that Taylor, Nelson, Smith, Stone, and Aspinall would relish.

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Persistent Progressives: The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. By John Freeman. (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2015. xvi + 235 pp. 42 halftones, map, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth, ISBN 978-1-60732-432-4.)

In *Persistent Progressives: The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union*, John Freeman presents the history of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU) from its roots in the various Grange organizations in the late nineteenth century to the present. RMFU's current mission statement reflects the same activities and goals from when the union formed:

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union is a progressive, grassroots organization founded in 1907. RMFU represents family farmers and ranchers in Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. RMFU is dedicated to sustaining our rural communities, to wise stewardship and use of natural resources, and to protection of our safe, secure food supply. RMFU supports its goals through education and legislation, as well as by encouraging the cooperative model for mutual economic benefit (www.rmfu.org).

Persistent Progressives documents the history of the union in great chronological detail. In doing so, the book depicts the rise of a progressive and modern movement, a paradigm shift based on the ongoing struggle to save small family farms and ranches from corporate agriculture. Ironically, this progressive agricultural shift stems from clinging to old ideas and values brought from immigrant cultures, such as irrigation methods brought by Hispanics and the long-term farming methods of the Germans from Russia.

While the book provides the history and context behind the actions, success, and many failures of the RMFU, it also illustrates what can be accomplished at a grass roots level to maintain the profitability of small farmers and ranchers. These small farmers and ranchers, after all, are an environmentally sustainable alternative to corporate mega-farming and -ranching operations.

The struggles addressing the economic issues of small farmers and ranchers also concern political, social, and environmental issues. Social efforts include involving youth and family through youth clubs, camps, and sponsored family activities. Involvement in the “buy fresh, buy local” movement and sponsoring food cooperatives as well as backyard and neighborhood gardens brought fresh produce to low-income urban residents living in food deserts.

A good portion of the documented struggles of the RMFU and its members happened during the drought and depression years of the first half of the twentieth century. In documenting these struggles, the author points out the grit and determination of those whose shoulders bore the success or failure of these efforts. The ability to adapt to changing times, new trends and the climate of the arid and often drought-stricken West echo current national trends. Issues of water rights involving the Ogallala Aquifer, for example, continue to this day.

To reach global markets, the RMFU focused on organic agriculture—both crops and beef—even venturing into a Kosher slaughterhouse. Indeed, in terms of conservation and environmental issues, agriculture is often thought of as adding to environmental problems. But here Freeman excels at detailing the history of progressive action the RMFU took to support sustainable methods that include holistic land management. RMFU president David Carter saw organic agriculture as a way to revitalize rural Colorado and agriculture in general. In 2001 Carter stated that “multifunctionality . . . recognizes that farmers and ranchers produce far more than raw commodities. Agriculture provides open space, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, clean air and other attributes” (p. 176).

While the book centered in the Rocky Mountains, chronological reference is made to relevant events and political struggles in neighboring states and the nation as a whole. The book provides readers insight not only to those interested in the history of the RMFU but to anyone interested in the struggles of small farmers and ranchers and grass-roots progressive movements addressing peoples struggles to gain control of at least part of their own destiny.

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Anti-Black Violence in Twentieth-Century Texas. By Bruce A. Glasrud. (College Station: Texas A&M Press, 2015. vii + 209 pp. Selected secondary sources,