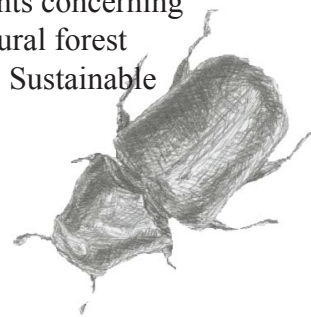
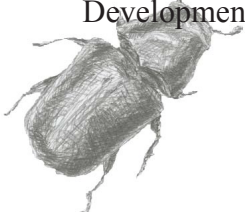


# Are Our Forests Dying? Forest Health in the Rockies

## COLORADO COLLEGE State of the Rockies Project Speaker Series 2010-2011

Vast stretches of forest have for centuries been a hallmark of the Rockies region, sustaining wildlife and vegetation even as cities depend upon them for water and wood, while people flock to them by the millions for recreation and solitude. A “red plague” of bark beetle kill is now evident, with millions of acres of lodge pole pine dying off in the signature cycle of dead red pine needles, then stark gray tree trunks, and finally vast areas of fallen tree debris. Natural cycles of tree birth, maturity, decline and stand regeneration have now been disrupted by human habitation and recreation in the wild land-urban interface. A century of aversion to wildfire has left dense, diseased, mono-age forests. They are now highly vulnerable to disease, catastrophic fire, and drought, made worse by warmer winters and multi-year dry spells. Who is responsible for this forest health “mess” on such a vast scale? Can the rapidly dying forests be treated, selectively thinned, made less prone to fire? Where are the resources to be found to make even marginal improvement on millions of acres across the Rockies? Are there lessons humans will learn from this cycle of forest disease and death that will make future such incidents less destructive?

During 2010-2011 the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project presents a monthly forest health symposium, a topic of common concern and importance throughout much of the Rocky Mountains. This year’s series will feature speakers who will share their expertise and thought-provoking insights concerning our forests, their traditional ecological cycles, and impacts of human intervention in once-natural forest cycles. Colorado College Co-Sponsors: Cultural Attractions Fund for financial support; Slade Sustainable Development Workshop; Environmental Program.



**Monday September 13, 2010**

7:30 PM Gaylord Hall, Worner Campus Center on the Colorado College Campus

## **“Are the trees falling? How pine beetle and wildfire shape Rocky Mountain forests”**

David Theobald, CSU Professor  
Jason Sibold, CSU Professor

**Dave Theobald | Assoc. Prof. in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Colorado State University**



Dave is a landscape ecologist interested in understanding patterns of landscape change and their effects on wildlife habitat and biodiversity, especially in the Rocky Mountain west. He received his B.A. and Ph.D. from the Department of Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder, and his M.A. from Department of Geography, University of California, Santa Barbara. Recent projects he has led include leading a natural resource condition assessment of Rocky Mountain National Park, analyzing trade-offs in the effects of proposed planning policies on the sustainability of Ouray County, directing the inventory of open space and protected lands in Colorado (COMaP), developing national forecasts of development patterns that are consistent with climate change scenarios (called Integrated Climate and Land Use Scenarios), and identifying movement through natural landscapes at continental scales.

**Jason Sibold | Assistant Professor of Geography, Dept. of Anthropology, Colorado State University**



Jason is a biogeographer with research focused on disturbance ecology with a specific interest in how wildfires and insect outbreaks shape forest ecosystems. His research is centered in the Rocky Mountains, and Andes and Coastal Range of south-central Chile. Jason received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the Department of Geography at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Current research projects include modeling post-mountain pine beetle outbreak forest landscapes in Rocky Mountain National Park, identifying the relative roles of past pine beetle outbreaks and climate change on patterns of recent wildfires in Glacier National Park, and investigating fire-climate-regeneration relationships in Alerce forests of south-central Chile.

**Monday October 18, 2010**

7:30 PM Armstrong Theater, on the Colorado College Campus

-Book signing after lecture-

# “Big Burn: the lasting legacy of the nation’s largest wildfire”

Lecture By:

**Timothy Egan**



**Timothy Egan | Award Winning Author of The Big Burn and The Worst Hard Time**



Brought to you by:

Timothy Egan is the author of six books. His most recent, *THE BIG BURN – TEDDY ROOSEVELT AND THE FIRE THAT SAVED AMERICA*, was a New York Times Bestseller and a winner of the 2009 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award. His book on the Dust Bowl, *THE WORST HARD TIME*, won the 2006 National Book Award for nonfiction, considered one of the nation’s highest literary honors. He also shares a Pulitzer Prize, from 2001, as part of a team of New York Times reporters for their series, “How Race is Lived in America.” Mr. Egan is an online, op-ed columnist for the New York Times, writing his “Opinionator” feature once a week – with a Western perspective. Prior to that, Mr. Egan worked as a national correspondent for the Times, roaming the West. He has covered everything from the Exxon Valdez oil spill, to the O.J. Simpson trial to the collapse of small town America in the Great Plains. Mr. Egan is a regular contributor to BBC Radio, doing a series of vignettes on American life. A graduate of the University of Washington, Mr. Egan also holds an honorary doctorate of letters from Whitman College, and an honorary doctorate from Willamette University. A third-generation Westerner, Mr. Egan lives in Seattle.



**Monday November 8, 2010**

7:30 PM Gates Common Room, Palmer Hall on Colorado College Campus

# **“The White is Turning Red: Case Study of the White River National Forest”**

Tony Dixon, Region 2 of US Forest Service  
Jan Burke, Region 2 of US Forest Service

## **Tony Dixon | Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. National Forest Service**



Antoine “Tony” Dixon became Deputy Regional Forester of the Rocky Mountain Region in June 2008 having responsibility for assisting Regional Forester Rick Cables manage resources on the 22 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota and Kansas. Dixon, a 20-year employee of the US Forest Service, was previously Forest Supervisor of the National Forests in Mississippi, headquartered in Jackson. Dixon launched his agency career as a Public Affairs Specialist on the Routt National Forest in Colorado. He also worked as a Public Affairs Specialist in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Golden, CO. During much of his career, however, he has been in the southeast, where he served as the Deputy Regional Director of Public Affairs and as the Freedom of Information Act Coordinator in the Atlanta-based southern region headquarters. He served as a Program Analyst, Legislative Affairs Specialist, Deputy Area Budget Coordinator, and Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief of the National Forest System in the agency’s Washington Office. He was also Acting Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in Alabama. Dixon has a bachelor’s degree in marketing and forestry from Alabama A&M University and a master’s degree in administration from Central Michigan University. In 2004, he was a Senior Executive Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and was certified for Senior Executive Service in 2010. Dixon is a member of the Society of American Foresters and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He also enjoys traveling, snowboarding, and golfing.

## **Jan Burke | Forest Health Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. National Forest Service**



Jan Burke has significant experience in team leadership, strategic and project planning, and implementation where Forest objectives for vegetation, fuels, and forest health management feature collaborative and integrated strategies in support of: primary economic bases in timber, recreation and service industries; and, wildlife habitat management. If you were to ask, she would tell you that, unlike the traditional forester’s role, most of her professional career has dealt with managing ecological disturbances associated with bark beetle mortality and their effects on human habitat – most notably the current mountain pine beetle infestation that now affects over 3.5 million acres in Colorado and Wyoming. Jan’s Forest Service career began in 1985 in Southern Utah where she worked as a forestry technician on the Dixie National Forest. Inspired to build a professional career with the Forest Service, she returned to college to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management at Colorado State University. She has also completed additional graduate course work at Colorado State, Utah State and N. Arizona universities in landscape ecology, forest economics, and silviculture. After 11 years working as a district forester and zone timber program manager on the Arapaho National Forest, Jan accepted a position in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office as the National Fire Plan Silviculturist in 2001. In addition, she has completed work assignments in Alaska, Wyoming, S. Dakota and the Washington Office, as well as, an International Forestry detail to Guinea, W. Africa. Jan is currently the Forest Health Coordinator for the White River National Forest in northwestern Colorado. In addition to her current position, Jan has served as the timber management officer and Forest silviculturist for the White River since from October 2005. As a [long] displaced native of New England, Jan still considers herself a “damned Yankee,” even though she has lived in the Rocky Mountain west since 1973. Her passions include bicycling, skiing, and green forests!

**Monday December 6, 2010**

7:30 PM Gates Common Room, Palmer Hall on Colorado College Campus

# **“Colorado State Government & Forests: Controversy over Health, Climate and Roads”**

Mike King, Executive Director, Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources  
Nolan Doesken, Climatologist, Colorado State University

**Mike King | Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources**



Mike is a native West Slope Coloradoan. Mike became the Assistant Director for Lands, Minerals and Energy Policy in January of 2006 and was appointed as Deputy Director in September of 2006. Prior to his employment in the Executive Director’s Office, Mike worked in the Policy and Regulation Section at the Colorado Division of Wildlife in various capacities for six years and was an Assistant Attorney General from 1993-1999. Mike received his Bachelors degree in journalism from CU-Boulder, law degree from the University of Denver and a Masters in Public Administration from CU-Denver’s Graduate School of Public Affairs. Mike currently lives in Parker with his wife Amy and their three children.

**Nolan Doesken | Climatologist, Colorado Climate Center, Colorado State University**



Nolan Doesken has been at Colorado State University with the Colorado Climate Center since 1977 serving as the Assistant State Climatologist until his appointment as State Climatologist in 2006. Nolan received a B.S. in Meteorology and Oceanography from the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan in 1974 and M.S. in Atmospheric Science from the University of Illinois in 1976. Last year he finished a two year term as the president of the American Association of State Climatologists. In addition to monitoring current and long term climatic conditions in Colorado, Nolan is also the founder and national director of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network (CoCoRaHS).

**Monday January 31, 2011**

7:30 PM Gates Common Room, Palmer Hall on Colorado College Campus

## **“Environmental groups and public involvement in forest health decisions”**

Suzanne Jones, Central Rockies Region Director, The Wilderness Society  
Sloan Shoemaker, Executive Director, Aspen Wilderness Workshop

### **Suzanne Jones | Regional Director, Central Rockies Region, The Wilderness Society**



Suzanne Jones is the Regional Director for The Wilderness Society’s Colorado Office in Denver, where she has been for more than 13 years. She also serves as co-chair of the Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance, a coalition of 26 local, state and national groups in Colorado and southern Wyoming working to protect the wildlands and wilderness of the Southern Rockies. Before moving back to Colorado where she spent much of her youth, Suzanne worked in Washington, D.C. for three years for the National Wildlife Federation lobbying on endangered species issues, and a year working as a congressional staffperson for the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Suzanne has a M.S. in Resource Policy and Management from the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and a B.S. in Natural Resources from Cornell University. Suzanne spent most of her summers growing up in the Crystal River Valley, where she developed a profound love of wilderness. When she is not busy advocating for public lands protection, she can often be found playing ultimate frisbee, a sport she competed in for over a decade on a nationally ranked women’s team from the Denver/Boulder area with her twin sister Elise.

### **Sloan Shoemaker | Executive Director, Aspen Wilderness Workshop**



A WW staffer since 1997, Sloan served for six years as the organization’s conservation director before his promotion to executive director. He continues to play a hands-on role in much of WW’s conservation work, and is the organization’s main liaison to the White River Wilderness Coalition, Southern Rockies Conservation Alliance, High Country Forest Collaborative and other alliances. He also is WW’s main spokesman to the media, elected officials and government agencies. As ED, he oversees all other aspects of the organization, including finances, fundraising, facilities, personnel and contracts. He and his wife Beth have two girls, Stella and Sadie, and live in a strawbale house outside of Carbondale, Colorado.

## Additional Forest Health Lectures

\*Check back at later date for further information

# **Private Solutions: Ownership, Philosophy, Management**

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