The background of the entire page is a photograph of a vast canyon landscape. In the foreground, the silhouettes of three people are visible on the left, looking out over the canyon. The canyon walls are layered and reddish-brown, extending to the horizon under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

THE COLORADO COLLEGE
2012-13
STATE OF THE ROCKIES PROJECT:
WATER FRIENDLY FUTURES
FOR THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN
SUMMER FIELD WORK 2012

Rockies Field Work 2012

The State of the Rockies Project summer research team headed into the field for their research trip with the aim of better understanding the multitude of Colorado River water uses and values. Developing on the Project's successes from the previous year, this year's focus looks to the future and the implications of mounting pressures from agriculture, municipal and industrial uses, and diversions for energy on an already stressed river basin. A week in Canyonland's Cataract Canyon brought the researchers up close and personal with the river!



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Glenwood Springs and Parachute, CO: July 17th

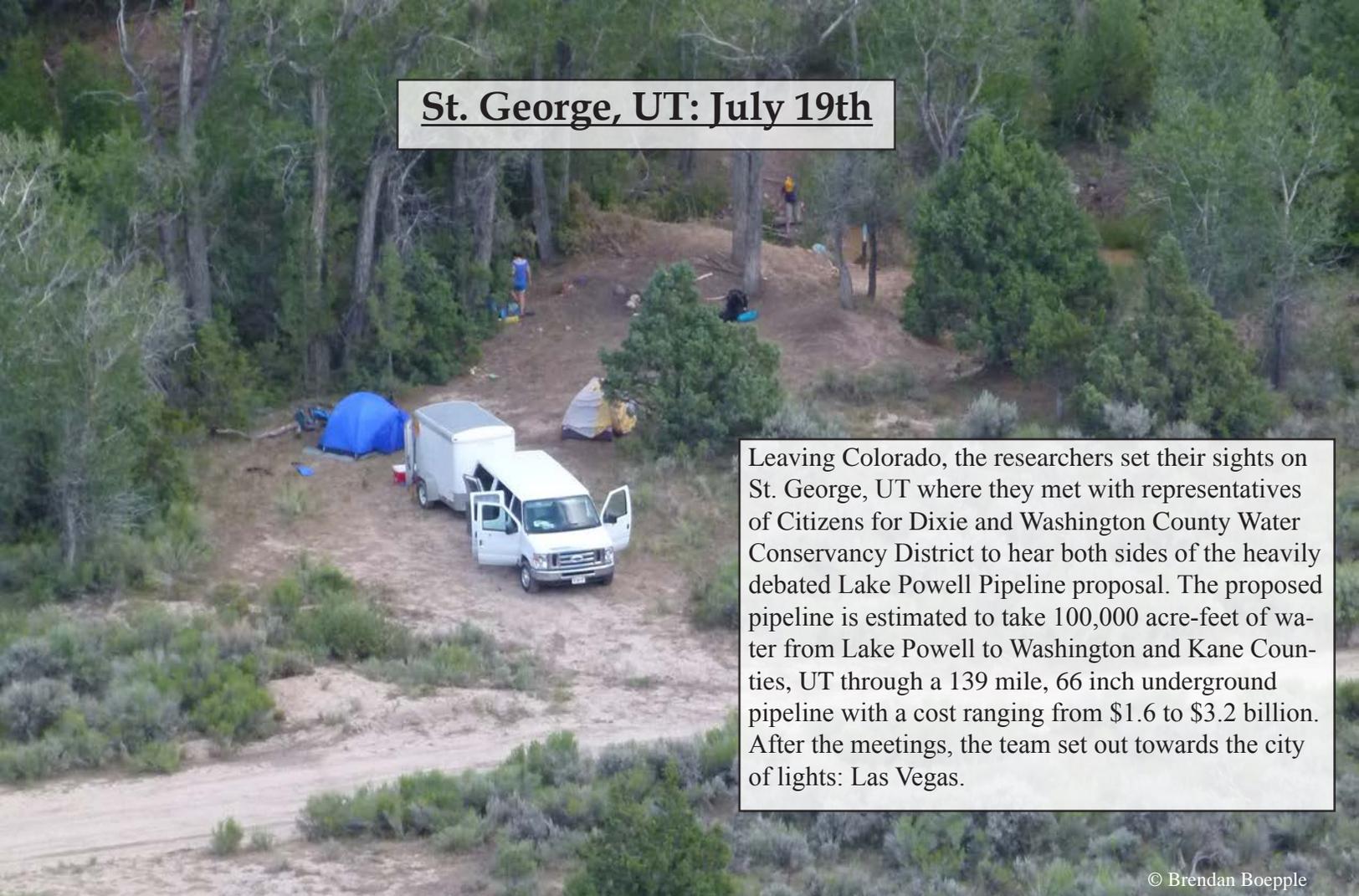
After spending the night in Vail, CO, the State of the Rockies team attended their first meeting with Chris Treese, the External Affairs Manager and a CC alumni, at the Colorado River Water Conservation District in Glenwood Springs to learn about water conservation for West slope counties. From there, the researchers traveled to Parachute to tour a hydraulic fracturing site with WPX Energy's Communications Specialist Sheree Walcher where they learned of the complexities and benefits of producing natural gas. The researchers spent the night outside of Grand Junction on top of the beautiful Grand Mesa.



Montrose and Grand Junction, CO: July 18th

While in Montrose, the research team met with USDA's Jerry Allen to learn about new, efficient irrigation technologies that are being implemented throughout the Colorado River Basin, including sprinkler and drip irrigation. The researchers also learned about the Natural Resource Conservation Service's incentive programs to popularize these technologies. The group later met with Wayne Guccini in Grand Junction to learn more about NRCS's programs for salinity control and soil conservation.

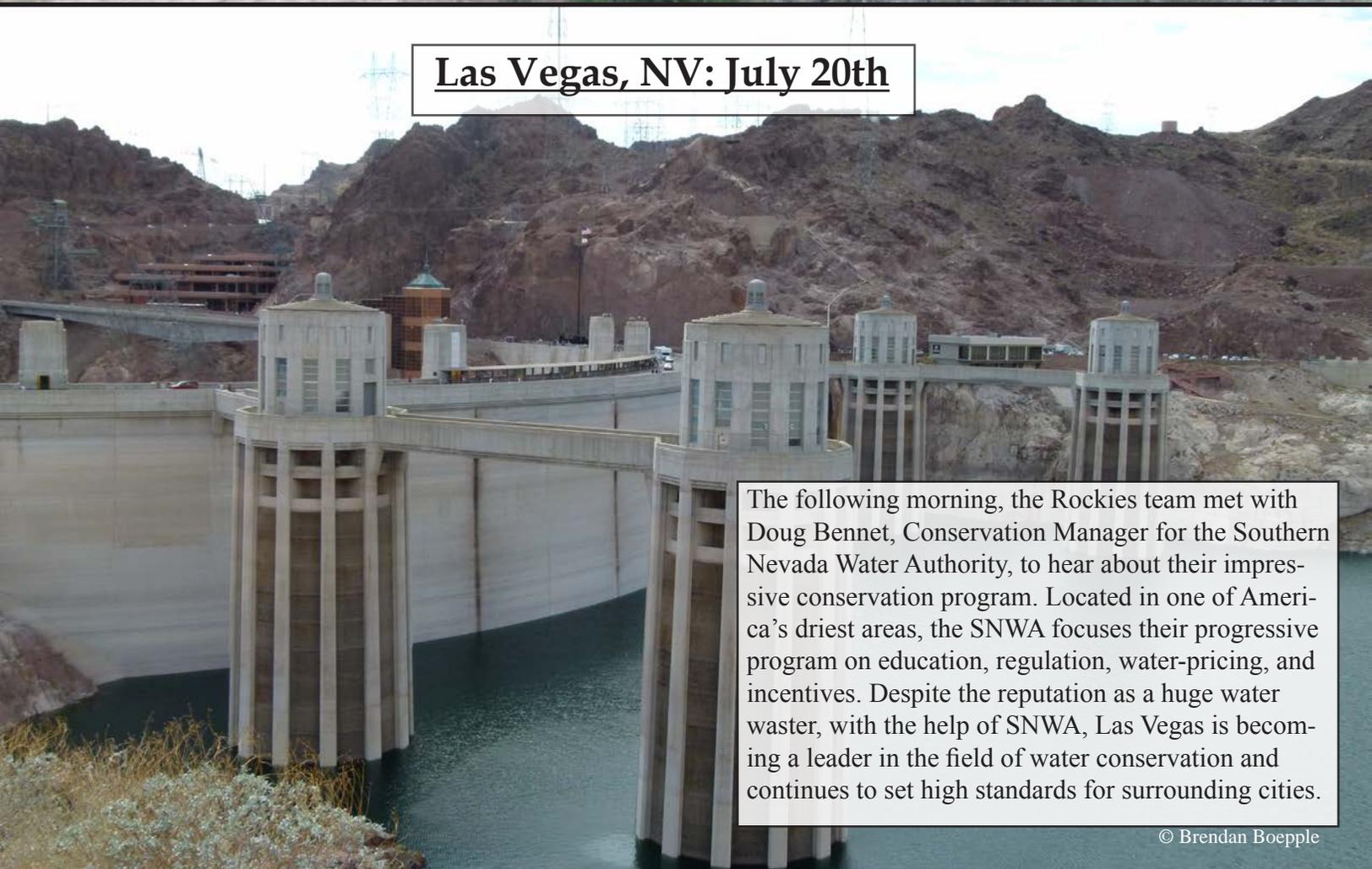


An aerial photograph showing a campsite in a wooded area. A white van with its doors open is parked on a dirt path. There are several tents, including a blue one and a yellow one. A few people are visible in the background. The surrounding area is filled with trees and shrubs.

St. George, UT: July 19th

Leaving Colorado, the researchers set their sights on St. George, UT where they met with representatives of Citizens for Dixie and Washington County Water Conservancy District to hear both sides of the heavily debated Lake Powell Pipeline proposal. The proposed pipeline is estimated to take 100,000 acre-feet of water from Lake Powell to Washington and Kane Counties, UT through a 139 mile, 66 inch underground pipeline with a cost ranging from \$1.6 to \$3.2 billion. After the meetings, the team set out towards the city of lights: Las Vegas.

© Brendan Boepple

A photograph of the Hoover Dam in Las Vegas, NV. The dam is a large concrete structure with several towers. The water level is high, and the surrounding area is rocky and hilly. Power lines are visible in the background.

Las Vegas, NV: July 20th

The following morning, the Rockies team met with Doug Bennet, Conservation Manager for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, to hear about their impressive conservation program. Located in one of America's driest areas, the SNWA focuses their progressive program on education, regulation, water-pricing, and incentives. Despite the reputation as a huge water waster, with the help of SNWA, Las Vegas is becoming a leader in the field of water conservation and continues to set high standards for surrounding cities.

© Brendan Boepple

Boulder City, NV and Page, AZ: July 21st

With an early start out of Las Vegas, the researchers began their long trip to Page, AZ to see the acclaimed Glen Canyon Dam. But first, the team made a stop in Boulder City, NV to tour the Nevada Solar One Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Plant, the third largest CSP plant in the world.

© Brendan Boepple

After arriving in Page, the team toured the dam and witnessed the inland sea of Lake Powell. The team spent the night in the heavily populated Wahweap Campground on Lake Powell, providing a stark contrast to the isolated camping they had experienced previously.

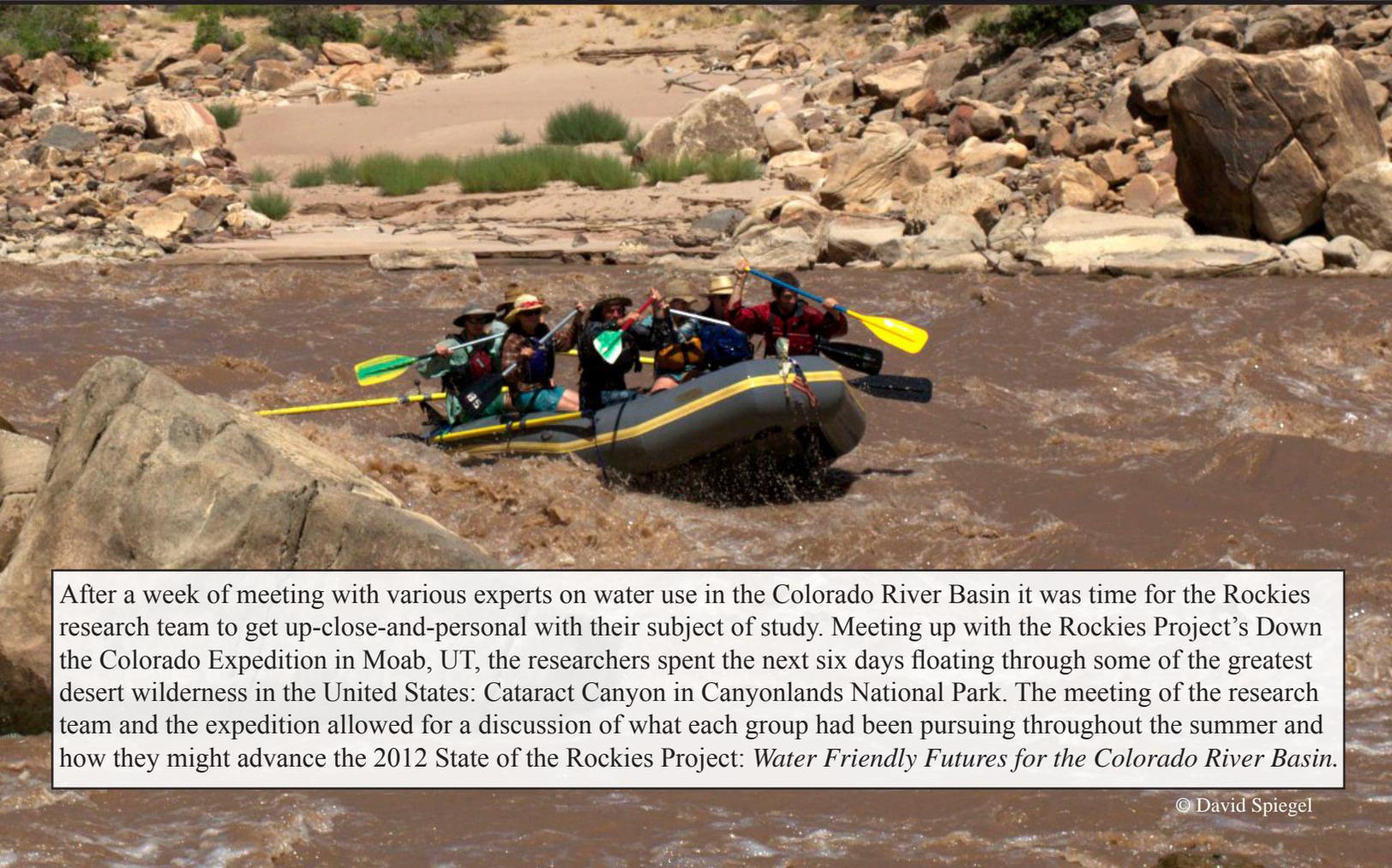


© Brendan Boepple

Cataract Canyon, Canyonlands National Park: July 22nd-27th



© David Spiegel



After a week of meeting with various experts on water use in the Colorado River Basin it was time for the Rockies research team to get up-close-and-personal with their subject of study. Meeting up with the Rockies Project's Down the Colorado Expedition in Moab, UT, the researchers spent the next six days floating through some of the greatest desert wilderness in the United States: Cataract Canyon in Canyonlands National Park. The meeting of the research team and the expedition allowed for a discussion of what each group had been pursuing throughout the summer and how they might advance the 2012 State of the Rockies Project: *Water Friendly Futures for the Colorado River Basin*.

© David Spiegel

Colorado College State of the Rockies Project

Students Researching, Reporting, and Engaging:

The Colorado College *State of the Rockies Report Card*, published annually since 2004, is the culmination of research and writing by a team of Colorado College student researchers. Each year a new team of students studies critical issues affecting the Rockies region of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Colorado College, a liberal arts college of national distinction, is indelibly linked to the Rockies. Through its Block Plan, students take one course at a time, and explore the Rockies and Southwest as classes embark in extended field study. Their sense of “place” runs deep, as they ford streams and explore acequias to study the cultural, environmental, and economic issues of water; as they camp in the Rocky Mountains to understand its geology; as they visit the West’s oil fields to learn about energy concerns and hike through forests to experience the biology of pest-ridden trees and changing owl populations. CC encourages a spirit of intellectual adventure, critical thinking, and hands-on learning, where education and life intertwine.

The Colorado College State of the Rockies Project dovetails perfectly with that philosophy, providing research opportunities for CC students and a means for the college to “give back” to the region in a meaningful way. The *Report Card* fosters a sense of citizenship for Colorado College graduates and the broader regional community.



Research

During summer field work, the student researchers pack into a van and cover thousands of miles of the Rocky Mountain West as they study the landscape, interview stakeholders, and challenge assumptions. Back on campus, they mine data, crunch numbers, and analyze information.



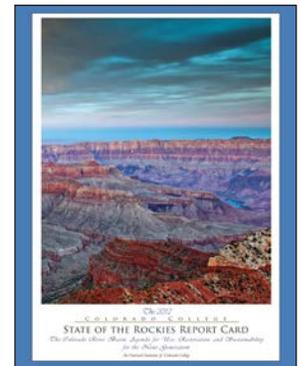
Report

Working collaboratively with faculty, the student researchers write their reports, create charts and graphics, and work with editors to fine-tune each *Report Card* section. Their reports are subjected to external review before final publication.



Engage

Through a companion lecture series on campus, the naming of a Champion of the Rockies, and the annual State of the Rockies Conference, citizens and experts meet to discuss the future of our region.



Each *Report Card* has great impact: Media coverage of *Report Cards* has reached millions of readers, and the 2006 report section on climate change was included in a brief presented to the U.S. Supreme Court. Government leaders, scientists, ranchers, environmentalists, sociologists, journalists, and concerned citizens refer to the Colorado College *State of the Rockies Report Card* to understand the most pressing issues affecting the growing Rockies region.

www.stateoftherockies.com

