

Photo contributors for this report are mostly from Colorado College students, faculty and staff; other photos, are credited to the photographer or acquired as public domain.



Acknowledgements and Contributors

Special thanks to:

Steve Weaver for his annual contribution of the cover photo and for judging submissions in the student Rockies photo contest



Brendan Boepple is a student researcher for the 2010/2011 State of the Rockies Project. Originally from Wilton, Connecticut, Brendan is a Political Science major and an Environmental Issues minor. While growing up Brendan developed a love for the outdoors and the environment as his family traveled to many National Parks and he later worked with environmental organizations like Trout Unlimited and his local conservation land trust. He spent the fall semester of 2009 studying International Relations in Geneva, Switzerland and hopes to pursue a career in foreign policy after he graduates in May of 2011. His interests include skiing and fly-fishing, two activities that drew him to the Rocky Mountain region.



Russell Clarke is the 2010/2011 program coordinator for the State of the Rockies Project. Last year he researched agricultural production in the Rockies as a student researcher for the 2009/10 State of the Rockies Project. A native of West Simsbury, Connecticut, Russell graduated in May 2010 with a major in Economics and a minor in Environmental Issues. His senior thesis focused on the effect of severance taxes in the state of Colorado. Russell is very interested in energy issues and hopes to eventually work in a related field.



Jeremiah Cox is a 2010/2011 student researcher from New York City and will graduate in 2011 with a degree in Environmental Science. As a native Manhattanite, his interest in environmental conservation and sustainable infrastructure began during his daily forty-five minute commute by subway to and from school. He came to Colorado College to experience something different. His hobbies include photography and he maintains a personal website, SubwayNut.com, of his work.

Emil Dimantchev is a project researcher for the 2010/2011 State of the Rockies Project. He worked as a student researcher for the Rockies Project in the summer of 2009, writing reports on the economic state of agriculture in the Rockies and federal agricultural subsidies. He is from Bulgaria and will graduate in 2011 with a major in mathematical economics and a minor in environmental issues. His academic interest lies in environmental economics and policy. His extracurricular activities, such as the Colorado College Environmental Action Group and the Colorado College Sustainability Council, nurture his passion for environmental stewardship. In his leisure time, he likes to hike, mountaineer, bike, swim and explore new places.



Matthew C. Gottfried is the GIS Technical Director at Colorado College and the 2010 technical liaison for the State of the Rockies Project, overseeing tasks including data assimilation, GIS analysis, and logistics management. He received his B.S. (1999) in Field Biology and Environmental Studies from Ohio Northern University and his M.A. (2005) in Geography and Planning from University of Toledo where his focus was on land use planning and GIS. Matt's regional research focus includes studying the biogeography of critical species, land use planning, and conservation management practices of local natural resources.



Walter E. Hecox is professor of economics and environmental science, director of the Slade sustainable Development Workshop, and project director for the State of the Rockies Project at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Walt received his B.A. degree from Colorado College in 1964 and an M.A. (1967) and Ph.D. (1970) from Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. He teaches courses in ecological economics and sustainable development. He has conducted research and taken leave to work for the World Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Energy, and Colorado Department of Natural Resources. He is author of Charting the Colorado Plateau: an Economic and Demographic Exploration (The Grand Canyon Trust, 1996), co-author of Beyond the Boundaries: the Human and Natural Communities of the Greater Grand Canyon (Grand Canyon Trust, 1997), and co-editor of the Colorado College *State of the Rockies Report Cards*.



Anna Johnson is student researcher for the 2010/2011 State of the Rockies project. From Evanston, Illinois, Anna will graduate in 2011 with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Environmental Issues. Anna's interest in the environment can be traced to the summers she spent going to camp in northern Ontario, where she both grew to love the outdoors and witnessed the devastating effects of logging. In her spare time, she enjoys frolicking outside, playing music, and rollerblading.



Zoe Osterman is a student researcher for the 2010/11 State of the Rockies Project. She will graduate in 2011 with an Environmental Policy major and Spanish minor. Born in Villanova, Pennsylvania, she attended high school at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut. Having spent the past two years interning in Carbondale, Colorado, she looks forward to learning more about the interplay of policies, economy, and the environment in the Rockies region. Zoe is also the captain of the Colorado College club ice hockey team and extracurricular activities include snowboarding, exploring the Rockies' mountains, and traveling.



Rebecca Spira is a student researcher for the 2010/2011 State of the Rockies Project and native of Oak Park, Illinois. Becca will graduate in May 2011 with a major in Philosophy, and strong interests in legal and political thought. She is eager to explore the relationships between societies and their environment from the perspectives of eco-psychology and conservation psychology with connection to influences and impacts of infrastructural change. She is looking forward to engaging with the people and environment of the Rockies throughout the summer, and enjoys writing, yoga, running and hiking in beautiful places.



Stephen G. Weaver is an award-winning photographer with over 30 years experience making images of the natural world and serves as technical director for the Colorado College geology department. Educated as a geologist, Steve combines his scientific knowledge with his photographic abilities to produce stunning images that illustrate the structure and composition of the earth and its natural systems. As an undergraduate geology student, he first visited the Rocky Mountains where he fell in love with the mountain environment and the grand landscapes of the West. Steve currently photographs throughout North America with a major emphasis on mountain and desert environments. His use of a 3x5 large format view camera allows him to capture images with amazing clarity and depth.



Greg Zimmerman graduated from Colorado College in 2006 with a B.A. degree in Environmental Science, and was a student researcher for the 2005/2006 State of the Rockies Project. Since Colorado College, Greg has worked with the Colorado Watershed Assembly and was a guest contributor to the 2010 Report Card. In the fall of 2010 Greg is entering a Master of Environmental Management program at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.





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

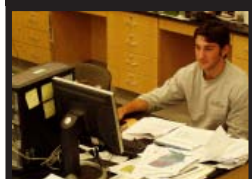
During summer field work, the student researchers pack into a van and cover thousands of miles of the Rocky Mountain West as they study the landscape, interview stakeholders, and challenge assumptions. Back on campus, they mine data, crunch numbers, and analyze information.

Report

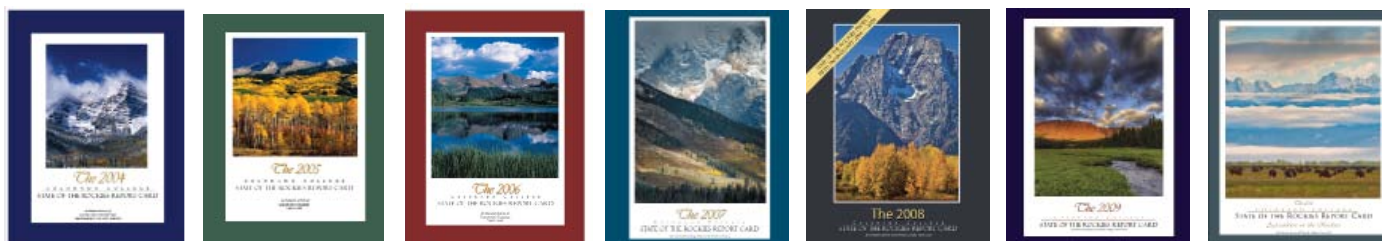
Working collaboratively with faculty, the student researchers write their reports, create charts and graphics, and work with editors to fine-tune each *Report Card* section. Their reports are subjected to external review before final publication.

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.



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www.stateoftherockies.com

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