



Additional Acknowledgements

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Photo contributions for this report are mostly from Colorado College students, faculty, and staff. Other photos are credited to the photographer, were acquired as public domain, or are from a contract with Shutterstock.com.



David Carlson is a student intern for the 2008/09 State of the Rockies Project. He is a junior Economics major at Colorado College and has been active in student government, local politics and policy research throughout his time at CC. David enjoys snowboarding, skiing, hiking and trail running and being outside in Colorado in his free time. He hopes to work for a service organization after college such as AmeriCorps or Teach for America.



Porter Friedman is a student researcher for the 2008/09 State of the Rockies Project. From Port Royal, South Carolina, he is currently a junior at Colorado College and planning on graduating in May of 2009. During his sophomore year he wrote a self-designed major: Influences of the Natural World on the Development of Societies, focusing on the interplay between societies and their natural surroundings. His major goes hand in hand with the ideals of the State of the Rockies Project and will provide valuable background to his research. Porter has a passion for ecology, botany, and geology and hopes to pursue a career in sustainable development consulting after graduating.



Julia Head is a student researcher for the 2008/09 State of the Rockies Project. From Marlborough, Massachusetts, she will graduate in May 2009 with a double major in biology and studio art. Julia grew up in Massachusetts, but has fallen in love with the Rockies region since moving west for college. Outside of the academic realm, Julia's favorite ways to enjoy the Rockies are bicycling, backpacking and skiing. As a researcher for the State of the Rockies Project, she is engaging her interest in wildlife biology.



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*.

Chris Jackson is a contributor to the *2009 State of the Rockies Report Card*. Chris served as program coordinator for the Rockies Project from 2006 through 2008, and was co-editor of the 2007 and 2008 *Report Cards*. He graduated cum laude from Colorado College in May 2006 with a B.A. degree in International Political Economics. Chris currently resides in Ouray, Colorado, and enjoys recreating in the San Juan Mountains.



Phillip M. Kannan is distinguished lecturer and legal scholar-in-residence at Colorado College. His education includes a B.S. (1961) and M.A. (1963) in Mathematics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. Carolina; and a J.D. degree (1974) from the University of Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville, Tennessee. He has practiced law for over 30 years as the general counsel for nonprofit and public corporations and has published many articles in the fields of administrative and environmental law. Since 1997 he has taught a variety of courses at Colorado College in the Environmental Science and Southwest Studies programs and the master of Arts in Teaching Program, focusing on environmental policy nationally, internationally, and in the Southwest.



Elizabeth Kolbe is the 2008/09 Program Coordinator for the State of the Rockies Project, and co-editor of the *2009 Report Card*. When working as a student researcher for the 2007/08 State of the Rockies Project, she wrote a report on Renewable Energy in the Rockies. In May 2008, she graduated cum laude from Colorado College with a B.A. degree in Environmental Science. Her senior thesis focused on the environmental, political, and economic climate and energy efficiency of ethanol production in Iowa, her home state. Liz is also a volunteer assistant coach for the Colorado College women's basketball team.



John MacKinnon is a guest contributor to the *2009 State of the Rockies Report Card*. He graduated from Colorado College in August 2006 with a B.A. in economics, and was a researcher for the 2007/08 State of the Rockies Project. During his time at CC, John focused primarily on macroeconomic issues, and wrote a thesis concerning the potential monetary and social effects of Medicare Part D. After college, John took steps to integrate his lifelong passion for the outdoors into his career, and was elected to the board of directors of the watershed conservation group, Animas Riverkeeper. In the fall of 2008, he began law school at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon.



Matthew K. Reuer serves as the technical liaison for the State of the Rockies Project, overseeing tasks including data assimilation, GIS analysis, and logistics management; in addition he co-edited the 2007, 2008, and 2009 *Report Cards*. He received his doctorate degree from MIT in 2002 and was a Harry Hess postdoctoral research fellow at Princeton University from 2002 to 2004, focusing on global carbon cycle research. Matt's scientific interests in this region include the environmental chemistry of western rivers and watersheds and global change impacts on alpine biogeochemical cycles. He is also highly interested in western development issues and the creation of innovative energy policies in the Rocky Mountain West.



Sarah Turner is a student researcher for the 2008/09 State of the Rockies Project. From Wayne, Pennsylvania, she is currently an Environmental Science major at Colorado College, with particular interest in international environmental issues. Having spent a semester in Madagascar in Fall 2007, where she studied ecology and conservation and their intersection with society and culture, she is excited to study the interplay of the environment and society here in the Rocky Mountain Region. Her interests include hiking and backpacking.



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 4x5 large format view camera allows him to capture images with amazing clarity and depth.



Alex Weiss is a student researcher for the 2008/09 State of the Rockies Project. From Rockville, Maryland, he took a year off after high school and worked on an organic farm and winery outside of Corvallis, Oregon. There, he developed an interest in agriculture, food and plant ecosystems. During summer 2007 Alex worked as an intern on the CC farm, where he helped to establish a sustainable agriculture system for Colorado College. During the fall of 2007 Alex traveled to China and studied language, culture and the medicinal plants of the Bai people. As a Biology major, Alex studies botany and ecology at Colorado College and after graduation hopes to go into research in plant ecology of marsh ecosystems.



Scott Wozencraft is a student researcher for the 2008/09 State of the Rockies Project. A native of Arlington Heights, Illinois, Scott's interest in environmental issues was cultivated during a National Outdoor Leadership School Semester in the Rockies. He will graduate in May 2009 with a degree in Environmental Science. His particular academic interests lie in wildlife management and land use/development in the Rocky Mountain Region. Extracurricular interests include sports, backpacking, climbing and canoeing.



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



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