



The Colorado College State of the Rockies Project **Research, Report, Engage!**

THE 2008 COLORADO COLLEGE STATE OF THE ROCKIES REPORT CARD

An Introduction from the President

On behalf of Colorado College, I am proud to introduce the *2008 State of the Rockies Report Card*. This is the fifth annual signature report on the magnificent and challenged eight-state region we call the Rockies.

The critical research topics for the *2008 Report Card* include immigration, affordable housing, renewable energy resources, river restoration and restoration economies, and wildlands.

Our 2007-2008 project again emphasizes contributions from undergraduate student research. Five Colorado College student researchers dedicated their summer to investigating the issues presented in this year's report. Their research included a two-week field trip through Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana to meet with and interview experts on the respective topics, examine how these issues emerge on the ground, and to participate in the Sopris Foundation's 2007 conference, "New Practices for Growing Communities of the Intermountain West," held in Missoula, Montana.

This year Colorado College also extended State of the Rockies outreach by holding a fall wilderness/wildlands speaker series that brought in five experts with varying perspectives on wilderness, from advocacy to ecology to environmental history, and by hosting various presentations of Rockies research, among other efforts.



The 2008 State of the Rockies Conference will be held at Colorado College April 6-8, 2008 and will feature:

- State of the Rockies kickoff festivities including: Regional film screenings, photo contest judging, and a local foods celebration
- Keynote address by former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton
- Community workshops focusing on practical, place-based applications of the topics featured in the 2008 Report Card, including: restoration of the Fountain Creek watershed in Colorado, participation in travel management planning on national forests, connecting CC to immigrant communities in southern Colorado, and exploring affordable housing in El Paso County, Colorado, and residential-scale approaches to renewable energy.

I invite you to delve into this rich report which – for those of us who care deeply about the Rockies – should serve to provoke, stimulate, and even disturb. I hope you will join us on campus for the conference in April.

Richard F. Celeste
President, Colorado College