

Fog Over Mountains

Rocky Mountain National
Park

Photo by **Allie Kreitman**

Text Fog to 719-356-4452 to Vote
for this photo



This photo was taken in Rocky Mountain National Park as some late afternoon fog moved over the mountains. As climate change escalates, unusual, unpredictable, and severe weather is becoming increasingly common. High alpine climates are often severe and fast to change, and with climate change increasing the issue, the hardest to get hit will be the mountain towns and rural alpine villages.

Desert Plants

Great Sand Dunes
National Park

Photo by **Allie
Kreitman**



Text Desert Plants to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

This photo was taken at The Great Sand Dunes National Park. Many of these desert plants rely on water from mountain run off through small streams entering the sand dunes. As climate change rages on, we are seeing milder winters, and as a result water access to streams like this are drying up.

Cow in Reservoir

Smith Reservoir, Spanish Peaks

Photo by **Allie Kreitman**



Text Cow to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

This photo was taken in the Spanish Peaks area of Colorado at Smith Reservoir, public land used for cattle grazing, hunting, hiking, and camping. This photo not only shows the diversity that is using public lands, people, cattle, birds, and plants, but also allocation of vital resources such as water, which in this case is used primarily for wildlife.

Seedling at Abandoned Silver Mine

Leadville, Colorado

Photo by **Annabel
Driussi**

Text **Seedling** to 719-356-4452 to
Vote for this photo



87% of voters polled in Colorado support requiring mining companies to pay fees to mine on public lands. Currently, no such law exists. My photographs frame the future of the land through its ability to recover from damages already made, rather than focusing on changes that have not yet been put into effect. Mining sites like the one outside Leadville have disrupted the ecosystem and made irreparable damages to the natural landscape. In this photo, young coniferous plants struggle to reclaim land occupied by twisted metal refuse

Collection Pond

Leadville, Colorado

Photo by **Annabel Driussi**

**Text Collection Pond to
719-356-4452 to Vote for
this photo**



Concern over water pollution has risen in recent years, such that 85% of Colorado voters polled in 2020 rate this as a serious issue. In 2019, Governor Polis signed bill HB19-1113 (Protect Water Quality Adverse Mining Impacts), taking small steps to minimize mining companies' damage to water supplies. Fascinatingly, support for this bill was primarily framed as a public health concern over clean drinking water, and only secondarily upon the effects of mine tailings upon local wildlife. Legal efforts are being put into effect. But is current litigation enough to counter the effects of almost 200 years of mining history in the state?



Text Horseback Riders to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Horseback Riders

Great Sand Dunes National Park

Colorado

Photo by **Austin Halpern**

I'd been out riding all day at the Great Sand Dunes National Park. The weather went from sunshine to thunderstorms fast. But as the sun started to set, the clouds parted again, and these riders were silhouetted beautifully against the colorful backdrop. To me, this is a very peaceful image, but the dark clouds are a bit ominous. To me, this image symbolizes the importance of ranching and agriculture in turning the course of the climate crisis.



Spring Creek Fire

La Veta

Colorado

Photo by **Austin Halpern**

Text Spring Creek Fire to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

This image was taken in the fall of 2018, just a couple months after the devastating Spring Creek Fire outside of La Veta, Colorado. 2018 was one of the most destructive fire seasons in Colorado history. Five of the 20 largest wild fires in Colorado history were recorded in 2018 alone. While the fire damage is horrific, what strikes me about this image is the regrowth, the bit of green that symbolizes hope amidst the sea of blackness.

Sunrise

La Veta, Colorado

This image was taken in the fall of 2018, just a couple months after the devastating Spring Creek Fire outside of La Veta, Colorado. I woke up early one morning to catch the sunrise, and it amazed me the way that the light from the sun set the black trees ablaze, as if they were still on fire. To me, this photograph shows the dark path that we are headed towards, if we do not take stronger action to combat the effects of climate change.

Photo by **Austin Halpern**



Text Sunrise to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Rio Grande Bridge

Photo by **Ben Greenly**

New Mexico

Rising six hundred feet over the Rio Grande River, the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge stands as the tenth highest bridge in the United States. Looking off the bridge, one can see the forests below, with ancient 500-year-old juniper trees. Looking even further reveals the diverse collection of white tailed deer, bighorn sheep and prairie dogs making their home. On April 26th 2017, Donald Trump signed an executive order to review the legitimacy of national monuments such as the Rio Grande Gorge.



Text Rio Grande Bridge to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Earthship

Taos, New Mexico

Photo by **Ben Greenly**



Text Earthship to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

A palace from an otherworldly planet stands in Taos, New Mexico, sunlight shining off of its reflective body. Originally created by eco-friendly architect Michael Reynolds, Earthships are permanent residences, built from 100% recycled materials, with old tires forming the insulation for the walls, supported by adobe bricks and tin cans. These bizarre buildings are water, power and sewer self-sufficient, helping to save the earth in style.



Photo by **Bibi McCormack**

Text Winter Day to 719-356-4452 to Vote
for this photo

Great Sand Dunes National Park is nearly empty on this clear, but cold, early-winter day. With temperatures reaching single digits after the sunsets, few people hung around for the sun to dip beyond the horizon. National Parks serve not only as a resource for people to enjoy natural spaces, but also as a way to preserve the land for wildlife and their ecosystems. Over two-thirds of Western voters prefer we protect these sources of wildlife habitat over permitting mining and drilling on public lands, serving as further evidence for the need to fight for conservation rights

Clouds

Rocky Mountain National Park

Photo by **Bibi McCormack**

Clouds lift amongst the trees in Rocky Mountain National Park after a recent storm. Moments before, thunder, lightning, and rain sent park visitors to shelter. But now, people look up as the clouds rise through the valley and mountain tops slowly become visible again..



With almost 70% of Coloradans considering themselves a conservationist and a similar percentage believing water supplies are becoming less predictable, it is becoming increasingly clear that we need to address issues relating to climate change

Text Clouds to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Elk Herd



Text Elk Herd to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Rocky Mountain National Forest

Photo by **Bibi McCormack**

Elk historically flock into the valleys, as autumn hits, for the rut season. Surrounding the changing aspens, the entire valley bottom should be teeming with elk and male bugling should be in full force. However, in the Fall of 2019, the elk in Rocky Mountain National Park arrived late. Here, the only gathering in the meadow consisted of a male with a small harem of females. Elk populations are being threatened not only by land development, but also from a changing climate. Droughts are limiting food and water resources, decreasing elk populations in some areas, while milder winters are increasing populations in areas where elk overabundance is a concern. Addressing climate change will help the environment return to its natural equilibrium.

Sunset at Crater Lake

Maroon Bells

Colorado

Photo by **Brent Jacoby**



Text Sunset at Crater Lake to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

A spectacular summer sunset at Crater Lake, in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. As the moon rose and the last rays of sun peaked over the mountaintops, the light bounced down off the clouds onto the water - filling the whole valley with purple alpenglow. The next time I visited the lake, in the fall, it had gone completely dry. This process is a normal annual cycle that varies according to the prior year's snowpack. As the climate trends towards warmer summers and lighter snowpack, however, the shallow lake will dry up earlier each season until eventually there may not be a lake at all. Not only is this water source vital to the surrounding flora and fauna, but without it, we risk robbing future generations of magical moments of clarity like this.

Sparring Elk

Rocky Mountain National Park

Photo by **Brent Jacoby**



Two bull elk spar as the rut comes to a close and a November storm heralds the arrival of winter in Rocky Mountain National Park. Fortunately, these elk live on well-protected land, and Colorado elk populations are generally healthy and growing. Despite this, cattle ranching, resource exploitation, land development, and growing human populations pose considerable threats to the long-term health of elk in the Rocky Mountain West. Moreover, as the climate continues to shift more dramatically, ecosystems will transform and compound the challenges resulting from human-caused habitat loss. Some species will flourish, but others will face succession and possibly eventual extinction. If we all do our part, we can protect habitats and keystone species so future generations of elk may continue to roam our national parks in peace.

Biking

Snowmass, Colorado

Photo by **Brent Jacoby**

Snowmass ski resort sits in the White River National Forest on a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. Although best known for its skiing, the resort also hosts some of Colorado's premiere mountain bike and hiking trails. Here, Travis Engel rips down a lift-accessed downhill trail near the top of the mountain. Over the next couple decades, as snowpack declines and winters get shorter across the region, ski resorts will have to adapt to stay in business, and many will likely divert their focus towards summer activities like lift-served mountain biking. While longer summers may sound appealing to some, the extreme weather events and warming that accompany climate change will also place alpine ecosystems, and ultimately our prized recreation, in peril.



Text **Biking** to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Dog

Rocky
Mountain
National
Park

Photo by
**Cameron
Mongoven**



Text Dog to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

This photo is both fun while at the same time embodying many themes of the future of public lands. I took this photo at Rocky Mountain National Park while exploring this area with a family friend who just moved to Denver with her dog Swagrrr. The Denver Post reported that Denver's population has grown by 20% since 2010 according to 2018 census estimates. Public lands in the west and their inhabitants have been and continue to meet new friends each day. Yet, we must prioritize and protect these lands in a way that is sustainable as Colorado's population continues to increase.

Panorama

Baily Colorado

Photo by **Cameron Mongoven**



I took this photo the first time I ever came to Colorado. My dad and I drove into the mountains of Pike National Forest just south of Baily, CO and were remarked at how all of a sudden we were on a dirt road in the mountains. This photo was taken at camp site and I remember wondering how many people knew about this spot. While this beautiful view was easily accessible it, we must take into account the emissions that come from motorized vehicles on public lands.

Tree Branch

Red Rocks Open Space

Photo by
Cameron **Mongoven**



This photo shows the lasting moments of snow before it melts on a warm sunny morning. It recognizes the delicate yet complex balance our environment maintains in our own back yard. As our planet continues to warm, we will see this balance being disrupted more and more each year.

Text Tree Branch to 719-356-4452 to
Vote for this photo

Climbing



Text Climbing to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Grant Tetons, Wyoming

Photo by Claire **Brandhorst**

This photo was taken while climbing, as a friend of mine ascended a route nearby. At first I was annoyed that the road disrupts the image, but I soon realized that these connections to civilization are both a part of the West these days and are essential to accessing many of the areas we love. Part of the beauty of nature in the modern world is our access to it. While there is certainly something to be said for getting into the backcountry with nobody else around for miles, it is crucial to appreciate and enjoy the parts of nature that are just out the back door (or off the road).

Skiing

Grant Tetons, Wyoming

Photo by
Claire Brandhorst

Text Skiing to 719-356-4452 to
Vote for this photo



This image was taken of a friend, Thomas Ney, in Grand Teton National Park in July. This western Wyoming mountain range is one of several in the United States that allows for traditionally winter sports to be enjoyed year-round. In the past few years, glaciers which have traditionally remained throughout the summer have been shrinking visibly, suggesting that, if climate trends continue as they are, this may have been one of the last summers that these routes are skiable year-round.

Photo by **Deming Haines**

Cloth

Pikes Peak

Colorado



Text Cloth to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

This is an in-camera photograph (not photoshopped) of a cloth thrown up in the air in front of Pikes Peak. Humans have control over what happens to beautiful landscapes and wildlife. We can use our power to destroy or be stewards of our earth. Our state of mind is in flux just like this cloth floating above Pikes Peak. Even though climate change seems unstoppable, humans can adapt just like the cloth can take a new form according to the breeze. This photograph to me symbolizes the decisions that humans are currently faced with. We can choose to be a solid mass and come crashing down upon the beauty we take for granted, or we can take a new form, one that listens to our surroundings, one that is encouraged to change, and one that coexists. For as long as I can remember, I have loved everything that nature has to offer, from the tiniest insects, to the largest mountains. I constantly find ways to interact with nature through my love of photography and abstraction. I believe that in order to spread awareness for nature, we must put our situation into perspective. I hope this photograph does just that: show the suspense, the uncertainty, and the beauty that lie before us. But above all, I hope it shows that we can change.

Buck Skin Pass

Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness

Colorado

Photo by **Elliott Williams**

Kinch bundles up in her puffy as the snow begins to fall and the sun begins to set. Moments like these are being taken away from us as The Trump Administration continues to roll back the protection of public lands. Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness, located within the Elk Mountains of Colorado and spanning the White River and Gunnison National Forests, is one of five areas in Colorado protected under the Wilderness Act of 1964.



Text Buckskin Pass to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Maroon Bells, Colorado

Trail Rider Pass

Photo by Elliott Williams



This is the view from the top of trail rider pass, one of the passes on the Four Pass Loop around Maroon Bells outside of Aspen, Colorado. This was taken at the end of our longest day, in which we completed three of the four passes, but the view was certainly worth it. This photo doesn't come close to doing the moment justice. Moments like these are being taken away from us as The Trump Administration continues to roll back the protection of public lands. Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness, located within the Elk Mountains of Colorado and spanning the White River and Gunnison National Forests, is one of five areas in Colorado protected under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Text Trail Rider Pass to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Chalk Cliffs

Collegiate Peaks, Colorado

Photo by **Isobel Steenrod**



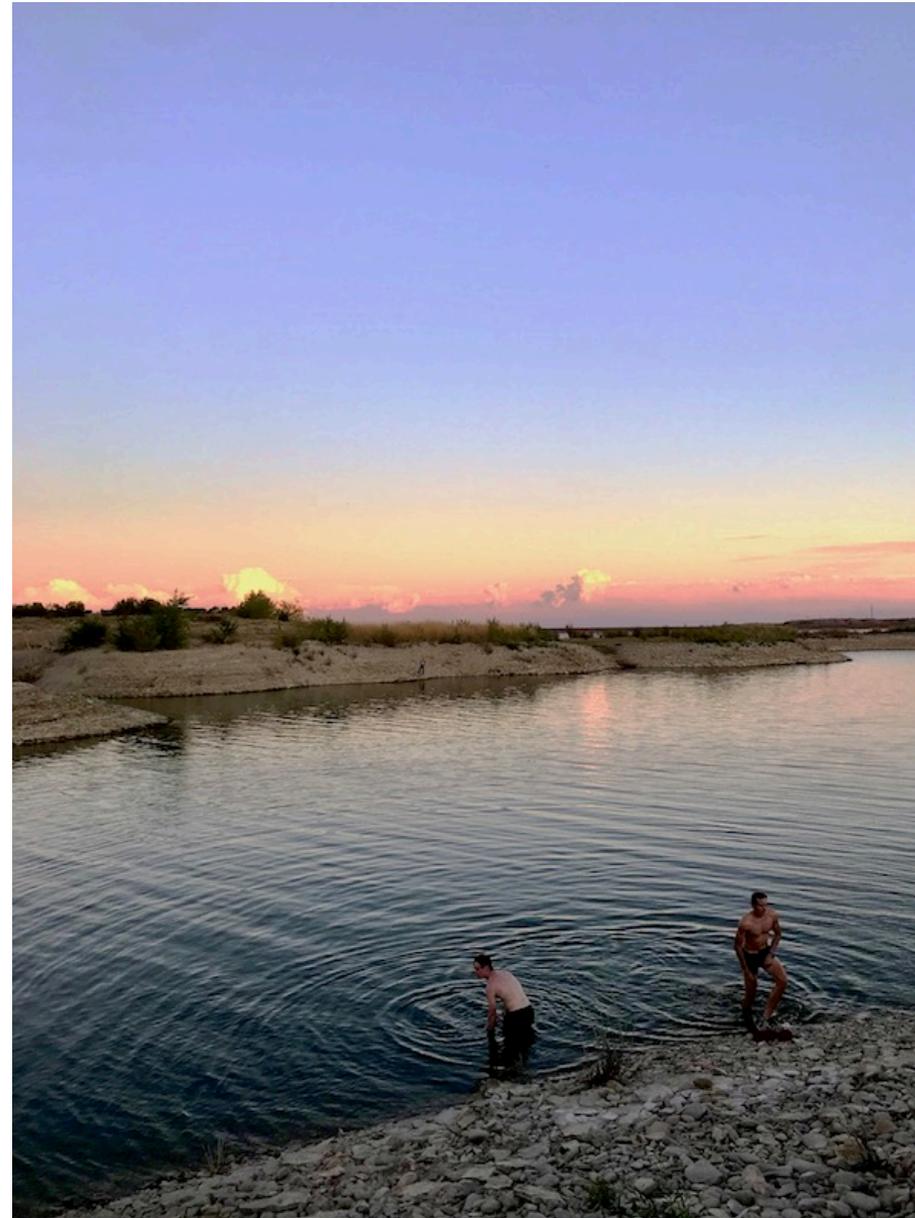
This photo was taken during a Geomorphology field trip to the chalk cliffs of Mt. Princeton. The cliffs shown are a result of geothermal activity which also produced the Mt. Princeton hot springs. An effect the geothermal activity has on the mountain is that this area is very prone to landslides. On the field trip we got to see recent landslides, and using GIS technology, see how humans have continued to live and build houses on this unstable ground.

Text Chalk Cliffs to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Swimming

Pueblo Reservoir, Colorado

Photo by **Isobel Steenrod**



This photo was taken at the Pueblo Reservoir in Lake Pueblo State Park. This reservoir supplies water for farming and industrial use, and also for flood control of the Arkansas river. The reservoir is also recreationally used for boating and fishing, and it is also a habitat for wildlife. This is a way a natural resource can be used both for recreation and also preserving wildlife habitats.

Text Swimming to 719-356-4452
to Vote for this photo

Looking West



Text Looking West to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

I-70 West, Colorado

Photo by **Jen Middleton**

This photo was taken during summer in Colorado, looking west at I-70 as cars weave through the expansive hills heading to and from the Rocky Mountains. Recreational activities in the mountains during summer, such as hiking, biking, and water sports, and in winter, including skiing and snowboarding, bring excessive travel, international tourism, and lots of CO2 emissions. Not only does excessive travel to the mountains and public lands harm the earth, but the human impact on these public lands will greatly affect the future environmental health of the Rocky Mountain West.

Off Trail

Arches National Park, Utah

Photo by **Jen Middleton**

Not only are overcrowding and global warming threatening the environmental safety of our public lands, but the number of people walking off trail greatly damages these ecosystems. When people walk off trail, they may leave trash, take souvenirs from the environment, cause erosion, or harm the vegetation. “Leave no trace” has become a very popular saying, yet the number of people who do not follow the practice is troubling. In public lands such as Arches National Park, photographed above, going off trail is far too common. This can damage animal species or plants growing in the ecosystem.



Text Off Trail to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo



Rare Moment

Arches National Monument, Utah

Photo by **Jen Middleton**

A lone hiker finds a rare moment of solitude in Arches National Park. Overcrowding of national parks and outdoor recreation areas brings threats to these public lands. Arches National Park, specifically, encounters upwards of 2 million visitors a year. That number is growing exponentially. National parks are falling victim to the effects of global warming and wear and tear from thousands of visitors a day. National parks were created to give visitors an unspoiled experience of natural beauty; however, severe overcrowding is damaging the parks and undermining the purpose of these lands.

Text **Rare Moment** to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Since Childhood

Great Sand Dunes National Park, Colorado

Photo by **Josie McCauley**

This photograph was taken at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. It's a place I've been visiting since I was a kid, and I've noticed the increase in traffic- an increase of more than 250,000 annual park visitors from 2008 to 2019. The dunes are expansive, the lack of resources is a serious problem" for national parks, forests, and other public lands, according to the State of the Rockies Project's 2020 Conservation in the West Poll. These public lands are well supported and well loved,



but this love and support must also be balanced with a respect for the areas we visit. I chose this photograph because it shows a moment of relative solitude in the dunes, something that can be difficult to find in today's

busy and bustling world. When we look at the future of public lands, I think these moments of solitude with the wilderness that can generate such a deep respect and appreciation for the outdoors are something we should try to protect- it is these moments, and even more importantly, the land they occur on and the wildlife that inhabit them, that will create the great conservationists of today and tomorrow.

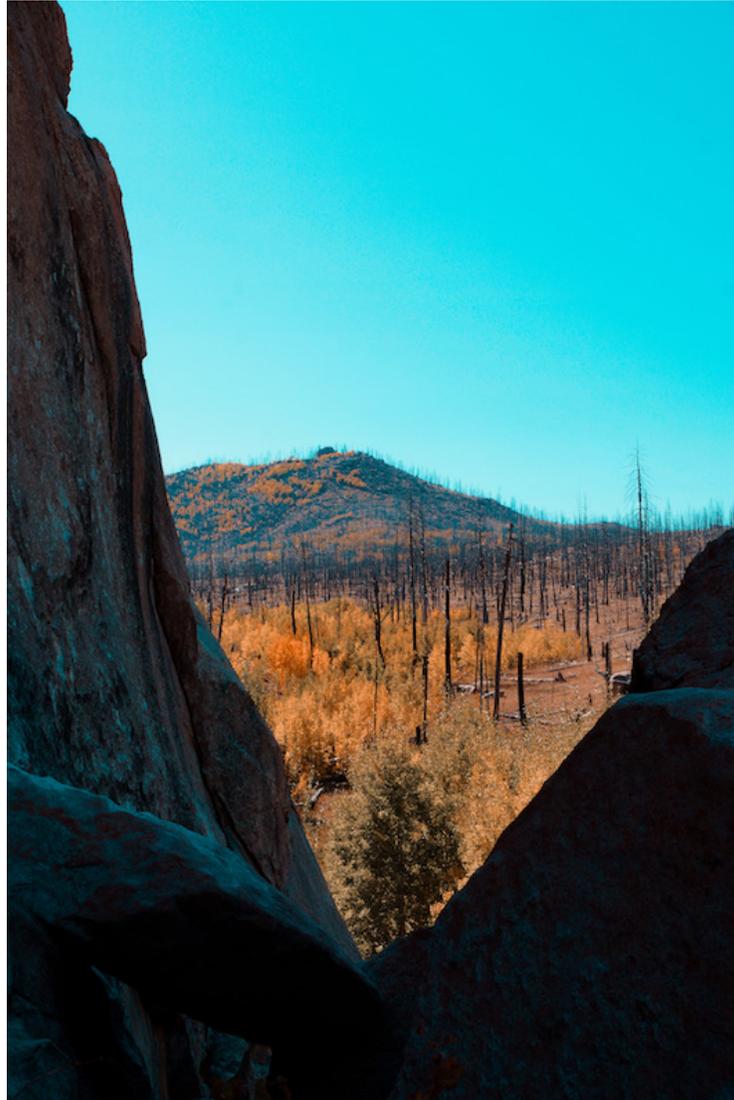
Text Since Childhood to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Burn Area

West Creek, Colorado

Photo by **Karuna Abe**

**Text Burn Area to 719-356-4452 to
Vote for this photo**



Do your part in protecting public lands so we can preserve and continue to enjoy the extraordinary natural splendor of the west (not just for us but the many generations to come after us!) Do what you can, whether its through: trail maintenance, donations, political activism, leaving no trace, the many ways you can help out your local public lands are endless!

Rock Face



Text Rock Face to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

West Creek

Colorado

Photo by **Karuna Abe**

As stated by the outdoor topic report (2019) 7 in 10 westerners identify as an outdoor enthusiast. Outdoor enthusiasm is wonderful, but having a sense of environmental and social stewardship amidst one's own desire for personal adventure and "epicing" is so important! These photos were taken in West Creek, Colorado in the climbing area known as the South Platte (offering everything from horrifyingly run-out lines to thuggy boulders and sport routes-on pristine granite).

Sun

West Creek

Colorado

Photo by **Karuna Abe**



As many climbers know, many climbing areas are BLM land, privately owned, or indigenous territories (which, at times, have been negatively impacted by climber access). With the help of community stewardship through organizations such as: the access fund, American alpine association and the local favorite Pikes Peak Climbers Alliance (South platte alliance), organizations are creating ways to facilitate honest and mutually beneficial relationships between climbing communities, the environment and the communities that allow us continued access to climbing areas. As BLM lands are threatened, organizations such as the access fund & PPCA allow for community members to engage in education, stewardship and campaigns that support continued access to climbing areas (not to mention offering RESTOP or wag bags to pack your waste OUT with you, at no cost to you!)

Text Sun to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Red Rock Canyon

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Photo by **Melissa Manuel**



This photo I think it is grounding, reminding us how small we are in comparison to the world as a whole.

Text Red Rock Canyon to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Gothic

Gothic, Colorado

Photo by **Nicholas Hoch**

This photo, taken in early March of 2020, of the single road into and out of Gothic, Colorado looks towards Crested Butte Ski Area. Gothic Colorado is a small town with a year-round population of four, including the famous "snow guardian" Billy Barr. Snow data taken by Billy Barr over the last fifty years shows significant declines in peak snow depth and duration of snow cover in Gothic Colorado due to increased temperatures and dust-on-snow events. Increased use of the Crested Butte Ski Area along with the loss of topsoil in southwestern-desert areas will lead to the degradation of the natural beauty of areas like Gothic.



Text Gothic to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo



Sign

Maroon Bells, Colorado

Photo by **Nicholas Hoch**

This photo, taken in early March of 2020, looks out onto a snow-covered valley capped by the Maroon Bells Mountains. The sign reads: "Schofield Townsite 7 miles / Narrow Rough Road / 4x4 Recommended" but all that can be seen in the way of human impact is a single ski track packed into the snow, leading off into the distance. This photo reveals one of the few remaining wild areas, only just beginning to be touched by humans. Snow data taken by researchers in the adjoining town of Gothic, Colorado shows that, due to increasing temperatures and dust-on-snow events, the scene in this picture may one day reveal a landscape void of snow and marred by the road leading to Schofield.

Text Sign to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Brazilian Bats

San Luis Valley, Colorado

Photo by **Nick Penzel**

Thousands of Brazilian free-tail bats pour out over the San Luis Valley in search of a meal. Every summer, this large bachelor colony returns to the abandoned coal mine that they call home in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. However, bat populations through the U.S. have been decimated by white nose syndrome. While the disease was initially confined to the northeastern U.S., it has spread throughout the country at an alarming rate. While colonies like this one remain unaffected, it may only be a matter of time before these great foraging columns disappear.



Text the **Bats** to 719-356-4452 to Vote or this photo

Footprints

Great Sand Dunes
National Park,
Colorado



Photo by
Nick Penzel

Text Footprints to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

In Great Sand Dunes National Park the wind begins to fill my footprints within minutes. The Sand Dunes are special among national parks as they allow visitors to go anywhere they wish in the dunes without being confined to trails. This allows an experience where people can interact intimately with the landscape in a way that is unique for such a protected area. The park is also home to an endemic tiger beetle and is an International Dark Sky Park. However, recent developments and water projects in the area threaten the integrity of the ecosystem.

Sunset

Sangre de Cristos

Colorado

Photo by **Nick Penzel**

Sunset over the San Luis Valley. Over the last few decades, numerous attempts to pump groundwater out of the upper basin of the valley for urban use on the Front Range have been proposed. These attempts, largely protested by locals for their agricultural and environmentally disastrous impacts, have failed. A new project proposal by Renewable Water Resources represents the latest iteration of groundwater export projects in the valley. As the Front Range continues to grow, the unquenchable thirst of arid cities will further threaten beautiful places like this.



Text the Sunset to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Zion National Park

Utah

Photo by **Noah Hirshorn**



Text Zion to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Zion National Park in southwestern Utah is one of the national parks most plagued by overcrowding. Taken on a rainy day in March 2019, fog inhibits the view of a valley that is often the site of heavy traffic and tourists attempting to visit the colossal rock walls. While the designation of a national park ensures that the land will be preserved, the ramifications of increased tourism may very well threaten some of the most beautiful landscapes in the country. While visiting national parks, it is crucial for visitors to abide by leave no trace principles in order to ensure future generations can experience the same wonders.

Cliff Side

Estes, Park

Photo by
Olivia Fortner



Macgregor Ave in
Estes Park, CO facing
Rocky Mountain
National Park.
Estes Park is a very
small town with an
already large and
rising resident and
tourist population.

Text Cliff Side to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Devils Tower

Wyoming

Photo by **Olivia Fortner**

Devils Tower, WY (it may not be in the rocky mountain range, but it has a lot of importance for outdoor recreation)
Devils Tower National Monument is not only a world class climbing destination, but it is on the land of the Crow Native American peoples' reservation. Since the founding of this national site, there has been debate over the ethics of climbing such a prominent landmark to the Crow people. As outdoor recreationists here at Colorado College, we need to be as responsible as possible when accessing important and sacred sites. Keep them clean, be respectful of rules, and donate when possible!



Text Devil's Tower to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

MacGregor Ave.

Estes Park, Colorado

Photo by **Olivia Fortner**



Several ranches line Macgregor Ave as climbers and hikers make their way to Lumpy Ridge, a series of cliffs and buttresses just of Estes Park. With the increased accessibility of Lumpy Ridge from this paved road, the rock climbing area is more likely to see more wear-and-tear, more litter, and more crowds; we need to protect our natural areas so more people can enjoy their beauties for longer and the natural areas around Estes Park are great places to start.

Coat Hook

Arches National Park

Utah

Photo by **Olivia Petipas**



This image was taken at Canyonlands National Park, near the popular Mesa Arch. In my time at Canyonlands, the park was swarming with tourists, eager to make the most of their visit. This enthusiasm often resulted in complete disrespect to the natural surroundings. This tourist turned a bush into a coat hook so that they could get the perfect picture of the arch, without the burden of carrying their belongings. This attitude seemed overwhelmingly common throughout the various parks in Utah—that many people wanted to enjoy the natural beauty of the parks, but put very little effort into respecting them. I think that this sentiment comes from a culture of disregard that is perpetuated by the Trump administration.

Text Coat Hook to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Delicate Arch

Arches National Park

Utah

Photo by **Olivia Petipas**



Text Delicate Arch to 719-356-4452
to Vote for this photo

I took this image at Delicate Arch at Arches National Park in Moab, Utah. In the last few years, Moab's popularity has boomed due to social media. At the Delicate Arch, it seems as though there is a constant line of people waiting to have their picture taken. To me, it feels like social media has begun to commodify the experience of the national park as empty, unique and untouched by humanity—as we often seek to portray in photography. In reality, the park is full of people, often taking a toll on our public lands. With the reality of climate change, landscapes like Arches are fleeting. Donald Trump's disregard for public lands and denial of global warming will not help either.

Natural Inhabitants

Arches National Park

Utah

Photo by **Olivia Petipas**



At Arches National Park it is easier to see fellow tourists than the natural inhabitants. I captured this bird flying through the double arch while visitors climb the rocks below. How are wildlife displaced by tourism in a place so frequented by tourists? How will their habitats change with impending global warming? It seems as though eventually both animals and humans will not have access to spaces like this.

Text Natural Inhabitants to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Mohawk Lakes



Breckenridge, Colorado

Photo by **Olivia Rask**

This is how some of Colorado's stunning Rocky Mountains look from just outside (and above) Breckenridge, Colorado, at Mohawk Lakes. What this photo does not display, however, is the abandoned mine shafts and miner's homes from the 1800s' gold rush that are scattered across the mountainside behind. 70 percent of Western voters agreed that private companies should not profit from using public lands when it limits public enjoyment of the area, similar to how they once did during that gold rush. Those structures provide a much-needed reminder of Colorado's history, specifically one of the devastation that mining did (and still does) to mountainous areas.

Text Mohawk Lakes to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Over 63% of Utah is federally owned and protected, and this photo highlights just one element of that 63% - the Green River in Canyonlands National Park. I grew up camping and exploring spaces like these in Utah, and recent actions from our federal government make me wonder if future generations will be able to the same. Just this February, the administration finalized plans to allow energy drilling and mining on almost a million acres of once protected Utah land. At this same moment, 67% of Westerners polled indicated a desire for their member of Congress to protect public lands from having this exact scenario. Actions like these beg the question: what are we going to do to protect federally protected areas from being contracted to oil and gas companies?

**Text Green River to 719-356-4452
to Vote for this photo**

Green River

Utah

Photo by **Olivia Rask**



Hole in Sandstone

Lake Powell

Arizona

Photo by **Olivia Rask**



I took this photo at Lake Powell, a reservoir that encompasses part of Arizona and Utah's Glen Canyon National Recreation area. A combination of exploration, climbing, swimming, and unfortunately, the overuse of natural resources allowed me to take this photo. My family and I stumbled upon a hole in Lake Powell's sandstone shoreline that, only because the water level was 40 feet below average, we swam in. The overuse of water resources in the West is a grave concern for many. We must rethink our efforts to conserve water, both for the sake of Western residents today and for future generations that deserve to grow up with natural spaces like this one.

Text Hole in Sandstone to 719-356-4452 to
Vote for this photo

Paddle Boarding

North Catamount Reservoir

Photo by **Patricia Pi**

I took my friend Cecelia Mweka paddle boarding for the first at the North Catamount Reservoir on Pikes Peak during the Summer of 2019. It was the cleanest, closest body of water to Colorado College I could find that permitted water recreation and provided stunning views of the mountain. The water accumulates from snow melt every year and provides precious water resources for Colorado Springs and the surrounding municipalities. This recreational area is closely managed by the City of Colorado Springs through cooperation with the U. S. Forest Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Efforts to take care and maintain the area through collaboration between the government and individual users are essential. As people follow the rules and regulations set in place to protect this area, people can continue to recreate outside and create lasting memories of the first time they tried something new.



Text Paddle Boarding to 719-356-4452 to Vote or this photo

**Eleven Mile
State Park**

Colorado

Photo by **Riley Starling**



**Text Eleven Mile State Park
to 719-356-4452 to Vote for
this photo**

Eleven Mile State Park offers a striking portrait of Springtime in the Rockies. The vivid flora complements the periwinkle hues of the beloved mountains and cheerfully clear sky. If adequate attention is not paid to abating climate change, Colorado risks losing its signature vibrant scenery. The pristine waters, currently home to an array of marine wildlife, are a testament to the positive impact environmental control and conservation can have in the preservation of natural resources.

Sangre de Cristos

Colorado

Photo by **Riley Starling**



Text Sangre de Cristos to
719-356-4452 to Vote for
this photo

This breathtaking vista of the Sangre de Cristo range reminds its audience of the exhilarating solitude found in the Rocky Mountains. In the words of esteemed mountaineer John Muir, "everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." To engage in drilling and mining in the majestic Rocky Mountains would deprive us of the opportunity to escape into Colorado's awe-inspiring backcountry.

Springtime in the Rockies

Eleven Mile State Park

Photo by **Patricia Pi**



Text Springtime to 719-356-4452
to Vote for this photo

This enchanting image of ice fishers under a dazzling Colorado sunset was captured at Eleven Mile State Park. The photograph is composed of ephemeral elements: an evolving rainbow sky, ice bound to melt by Spring's end, and anglers leaving their ice-fishing holes for another day. The scene is not only picturesque, but reminds viewers of the transience of nature, and why preservation of public lands is fundamental to the continuation of these experiences.

Fishing in Colorado Rivers

The effect of Colorado's worsening water supply on the recreation industry.

Photo by **Roo Smith**



Text Fishing to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Warming Winters

Colorado



Photo by
Roo Smith

Climate change and how warming winters diminish snowpack in the alpine environments.

Bald Mountain

Colorado

Photo by **Ryan Freedman**

This is the view from Bald Mountain in Summit county, and I chose it because I want to share the beautiful places that are at stake in the coming years if public lands aren't protected. Ecosystems like the tundra on Bald Mountain are fragile, and the regulation of public lands is helping to keep places like that safe. Additionally, the vista below is a patchwork of public and private land that is in flux as towns and ski resorts like Breckenridge expand.



Text **Bald Mountain** to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Ion Exchange



Photo by **Sam Sanson**

Widefield, Colorado

We're past the point where an appreciation of beautiful lands is enough to represent the importance of conservation. We need to stop polluting and start protecting our world because if we don't, people, animals, and plants will suffer. This picture shows part of Widefield Water and Sanitation's Ion Exchange Treatment Facility which removes toxic PFAS chemicals. For my senior thesis project, I made podcast about PFAS contamination in the Fountain Valley, which is just South of campus. These toxic manmade chemicals were released into the environment and now pollute natural spaces from Fountain Valley Colorado to Michigan to Europe to Africa to Antarctica to... you name it. They are also present in nearly every person's blood in the world. Which isn't great considering certain PFAS chemicals are linked to severe health problems like kidney cancer and thyroid disease. These chemicals are a great example of why we need to stop polluting the environment, because in the end, we are going to be the ones who suffer because of our pollution.

Text [Ion Exchange](#) to 719-356-4452 to Vote or this photo

Nature and Machine

Colorado Springs

Colorado

Photo by **Sam Sanson**

A stark contrast of nature and machine reminds us of the fact that we are polluting the very environment we depend upon and love.



Text Nature and Machine to 719-356-4452 to Vote or this photo

Utah

Photo by **Story Wolf-Tinsman**

I originally titled this photograph 'Mars' when I printed it; both for the warm colors but also to recognize the significance of our planet, the treatment of it, and the tendency of the government to remove our beautiful places in need of protection for the purpose of economic growth. This beautiful place is on our earth, the sun is going down on a dry landscape of Utah, it is our duty as conservationists to protect this public land.

Mars



Text the Mars to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo



Text Storm to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Storm

Great Sand Dunes National Park

Colorado

Photo by **Story Wolf-Tinsman**

Here a storm in Great Sand Dunes National Park hovers over the powerful mountains of sand. Climate change is altering the storm patterns all over the world. The Parks Service states that if carbon emissions do not drop by 40-70% then the Great Sand Dunes average temperature will rise by 10 degrees. Engaging the government and reducing carbon emissions preserves captivating and empowering places like our National Parks.

On the Precipice

Harsh agricultural practices and deforestation have degraded critical soils, and a marked shift towards protecting resources is essential for the future of public lands. Deliberate policy changes are crucial to a sustainable future for open spaces. Humanity at large has undervalued ecosystems in stabilizing landscapes against erosion and sequestering millions of tons of carbon dioxide annually. Ironically, we instead take pride in techniques—genetic modification and fertilizers, among others—which have harmful, unexpected, and long-lasting effects. Even state and national park lands are curated: chemical agents or new species are introduced to contain pest outbreaks, including mountain pine beetles. We perpetuate a narrative of science in competition with nature, with significant hubris that one day (soon) science will triumph; adroitly solving problems of hyper-consumption, resource exploitation, and runaway emissions. Ultimately, the choice is to humble ourselves in the face of nature's innovative symbioses, and protect them, or imitate a similar sophistication in one generation. We will likely never replicate nor improve upon the diversity of living things. But we can conserve, protect, and provide for that which remains.

Grand Canyon National Park

Photo by Tyler Walker



Text On the Precipice to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Colorado

Elk Mountains

Ascension



Text Ascension to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Photo by **Whitton Feer**

David Goettler, Sammy Podhurst, and Herve Bermasse climb to the saddle of Leahy peak in the Elk Mountains. This land is protected in the Maroon Bells Snowmass Wilderness, preserving it for human powered travel and ecosystem integrity.



Text Big Horn Sheep to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

Big Horn Sheep

Pyramid Peak, Colorado

Photo by **Whitton Feer**

A Bighorn sheep pauses before bounding off the West face of Highlands Ridge against the backdrop of Pyramid peak. Both the foreground and background of this photo is situated in the Maroon Bells Snowmass Wilderness area.

**Cold
Light**

Great Sand
Dunes
National
Park

Colorado

Photo by
**Whitton
Feer**



The sun sets behind the San Juan Mountains, casting cold light on the dunes of Great Sand Dunes National Park.

Text Cold Light to 719-356-4452 to Vote for this photo

