At the Cutting Edge: Current Planning and Land-Use Research and Outreach

3:00 p.m.—4:15 p.m.
Friday, April 22, 2005
Sturm College of Law

Moderator: James van Hemert, AICP
Executive Director
The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute
Denver, Colorado

Panelists: Walt Hecox
David Packard Professor of Economics
and Head of the Rockies Project
Colorado College
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Andy Laurenzi
Program Director, State Trust Lands
Sonoran Institute
Scottsdale, Arizona

Gene Bressler
Professor and Chair
College of Architecture and Planning, Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Colorado at Denver, Colorado
The 2005 Colorado College Rockies Project
A Presentation to and Discussion with
14th Annual Land Use Conference
Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute
At the Cutting Edge:
Research & Outreach Roundtable
Friday April 22, 2005

Colorado College State of the Rockies Project:
Annual Research, Report Cards & Conferences
An Outreach Activity of: Colorado College -- Vision 2010

Prof. Walt Hecox, Economics Department
F. Patrick Holmes, Rockies Program Coordinator
Bryan Hurlbutt, Rockies Project Researcher
Sustainable Development Workshop
Economics Department
Colorado College

TENNEYS NEW WEST AND THE CONTEMPORARY CC ROCKIES STUDY REGION

Images from The Colorado College State of the Rockies Conference May 3 & 4, 2004

Keynote Speech: "The Angry West Revisited"
Richard Lamm

• An Introduction from President Celeste
• Executive Summary
• Region at a Glance – Statistical Profile
• Challenge Essay -- Home and Hope in the Rockies by Ed Marston
• Rockies Perspectives – the Sonoran Institute by Ray Rasker
• Rockies Perspectives – the Center for the Rocky Mountain West by Daniel Kemmis
• Rockies Perspectives – the Mountain Studies Institute by Ellen R. Stein
• Rockies Perspectives – the Gunnison Headwaters Conference by George Silkey
• The Rocky Mountain Region – An Overview by Walter Hecox and F. Patrick Holmes
• The Rockies Divided – Three Sub-Regions that Make Sense by Walter Hecox and F. Patrick Holmes
• Grading the Rockies by F. Patrick Holmes and Walter Hecox
The Media and Citizens Weigh in With Spirited and Provocative Reactions

THE 2004 COLORADO COLLEGE STATE OF THE ROCKIES REPORT CARD AND CONFERENCE

AUGUST 2004

The report card graded el Paso county high in relation to the 280 others studied. We earned top 10 rankings for small-business activity, a well balanced employment picture, and in the category, “arts, culture and employment in the creative class.” We received an overall grade of A+ and the third-highest cumulative score in the survey.

We think, in general, the report presents a rather optimistic picture of the rocky mountain region in spite of the obvious and inevitable growing pains.

And we give Colorado college a grade of A for producing it. When we take points off for the college’s overreliance on pessimists to interpret the findings, however, this year’s effort earns a final grade of B.

May 11, 2004

The Gazette (of Colorado Springs)

Slow economy prompted F- Study's creator acknowledges word 'livability' is used a little bit loosely

Slow population growth and a resulting lack of growth in jobs, earnings and new business are behind the failing grade assigned to cascade county in a recent study, officials say.

Cascade county got nailed with an "f-minus" in terms of community "livability" in the "state of the Rockies report card," a report prepared by Colorado college. Only three other counties among the 61 "metropolitan" counties noted in the study received such poor marks.

Montana's two other urban counties fared somewhat better. Yellowstone county and billings landed a C, while Missoula garnered a d-plus.

Continued: Great Falls Tribune
May 17, 2004

Getting graded Column by George Sibley

A State of the Rockies Report Card? We aren't talking about the baseball team here; we're talking about the Rocky Mountains — all the way out to the edge of California. The report card is a county-by-county annual report on key regional challenges, including demographic growth and decay, natural resource extraction, tourism and recreation, cultural resources, environmental conditions, and a host of other indicators that define the Rocky Mountain region.

This is the ambitious undertaking of Colorado College economics professor Walt Hecox and his protégé F. Patrick Holmes. Participants in Headwaters conferences at Western State College here in Central Colorado will be familiar with Dr. Hecox, who has made a number of presentations on the regional economy over the years.

Colorado Central Magazine, June 04 continued…
Editorial Cartoon

Jackson Hole News and Guide
June 2, 2004

FOCUS OF FUTURE STATE OF THE ROCKIES REPORT CARDS AND CONFERENCES

COLORADO COLLEGE ANNUAL STATE OF THE ROCKIES REPORT CARD AND CONFERENCE

Student-Faculty Collaborative Research: A Key Component of The Rockies Project

How Students are Involved

Undergraduate interns…
• Serve as junior colleagues
• Apply their knowledge
• Work in partnership with professors and experts from around the Rockies region
• Contribute to the Report Card’s publication
• Deliver results of their research and scholarship at the annual Rockies conferences

'04-05 Student-Faculty Collaborative Research:
Impact of Snowmobile Ban on the Economy of Gateway Town West Yellowstone

Funded by the Seven Springs Foundation and the CC Slade Sustainable Development Workshop

Bryan Hur butt

'04-05 Student-Faculty Collaborative Research:
The Value of Alpine Mountain Terrain for Regional Economic Development:
The Case of Silverton, CO & The Surrounding 14-county San Juan Mountain Region

Funded by the Seven Springs Foundation and the CC Slade Sustainable Development Workshop

Patrick Holmes

'04-05 Student-Faculty Collaborative Research:
The Birth of a New National Park: The transition of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument to a new National Park with expanded boundaries created along ecologically sound lines

Funded by the Seven Springs Foundation and the CC Slade Sustainable Development Workshop

Christine Renner
**Unveiling of The 2005 Colorado College State of the Rockies Report Card**

**Report Card Editors**
- Prof. Walt Hecox
  - Project Director
  - Faculty Economics Department
- F. Patrick Holmes
  - Program Coordinator
- Bryan Hurlbutt
  - Project Researcher

**Tuesday, April 5, 2005**

**Content of the 2005 Report Card**

**Overview and Perspective**

- *Connecting with Our Backyard* - An introduction from President Richard F. Celeste
- *Colorado College and the Rocky Mountains* - Editors' Preface and Executive Summary

**Responding to the 2004 Rockies Challenges**

- Reflections on Inland Colony Status and Regional Sovereignty by Matthew Lee-Ashley
- Rockies Baseline: Vital Signs for a Region in Transition
- 2005 State of the Rockies Challenge Essay
- Native American Tribes Regaining Sovereignty - Success Cases

**Western Lore**
- Heroes like Billy the Kid & 'Buffalo Bill' Cody
- A Land of self reliant, rugged mavericks doing things their own way

**Rockies Reality**
- A land resembling an inland colony used by and dependent on the US
- A people not trusted with sovereignty

- 46% of land in the Rockies is owned by the federal government

**A Theme Permeating Throughout the Report Card**

- National Parks Under Stress
- Rockies Energy Futures
- The Toxic Rockies
- Native American Tribes Regaining Sovereignty - Success Cases
- Civic Engagement and Capacity

**Rockies Baseline:**

*Vital Signs for a Region in Transition*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing, 2003</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Rockies Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 Owner-occupied</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 Rent-occupied</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 Rental-occupied</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size 2003</th>
<th>Average Owner-occupied</th>
<th>Average Rent-occupied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003 Median</td>
<td>$184,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>2003 Median</th>
<th>Median % Change from 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003 Median</td>
<td>$184,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Costs</th>
<th>2003 Median</th>
<th>Median % Change from 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003 Median</td>
<td>$1,050</td>
<td>2%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>2003 Median</th>
<th>Median % Change from 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003 Median</td>
<td>$617</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading the Rockies:

“National Parks under Stress”

A Contradictory Mandate
- “To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

A Heated Political Issue
- Gleam: Administration Claims
  - The parks are receiving better care than ever
  - $5 billion will be devoted to maintenance backlog (2000)
- Doom: Counter Claims
  - Administration uses creative accounting
  - Only $662 million in new money
  - Current visitor experiences are bad
  - Parks will not be left unimpaired

National Parks, NPS Regions, & the Rockies Region

Grading the Rockies
By F. Patrick Holmes

Grading the Rockies:

“Rockies Energy Futures”

Removing the Barriers:
The Bush-Cheney Energy Plan

Acres Made Available to Drilling by the Bush Administration

Equivalent to the land area of Croatia

CIA World Fact Book

Grading the Rockies:

“The Toxic Rockies”

Final Rankings

Grading the Rockies:

“Rockies Sprawl Index”

By F. Patrick Holmes
Genesis

During the 2004 State of the Rockies Conference, Charles Wilkinson spoke eloquently about “Endurance and Sovereignty Among the Indian Nations of the Rocky Mountain West.”

Intrigued by the stories Charles related, the State of the Rockies Project took on the subject in detail this year and explored a series of case studies that illuminate the successes that are occurring among Native Americans in regaining their sovereignty.
Grading the Rockies:
“Native American Tribes Regaining Sovereignty: Success Cases”

By F. Patrick Holmes

Grading the Rockies:
“Creative Occupation Patterns”

What makes for a “creative” place:
- the combination of the built and natural environments, a proper setting for creative lives
- diverse people, interacting and providing cues that anyone can plug into and make a life in that community
- the vibrancy of street life, cafe cultures, arts, music, and people engaging in outdoor activities – altogether a lot of active, exciting, creative endeavors.

Grading the Rockies:
“Creative Occupation Patterns”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metropolitan Statistical Area City/Region Name</th>
<th>Total Workers</th>
<th>Creative Class</th>
<th>In-House Sales</th>
<th>Gay Bar</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Creative Sales</th>
<th>Working Poor</th>
<th>Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denver MSA</td>
<td>6,465</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>39,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>2,702</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
<td>38,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Collins</td>
<td>1,550</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>37,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs MSA</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>37,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>38,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Park County</td>
<td>1,405</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>37,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Park County</td>
<td>1,355</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
<td>53.9%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>37,565</td>
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</table>
Grading the Rockies:

"Creative Occupation Patterns"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creative Occupation Patterns</th>
<th>Bohemian Index</th>
<th>Innovation Index</th>
<th>Talent Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job Growth Rate 1970-2000</td>
<td>0.383</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Growth Rate 1970-2000</td>
<td>0.111</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Growth in Average Earnings Per Job 1970-2000</td>
<td>0.245</td>
<td>0.203</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected Land Index</td>
<td>0.335</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA Rural Amenities Index</td>
<td>0.306</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obscurative Mega-Feedback</td>
<td>0.636</td>
<td>0.556</td>
<td>0.834</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading the Rockies:

"Civic Engagement and Capacity"

2005 Rockies Final Overall GPA

Do Cowboys bowl alone?

The Importance of Civic Capital in the West

How we measured Civic Capital

• Divide Civic Capital in 2
  – Civic Capacity
  – The capacity of people and communities to deal with social issues
  – Civic Engagement
  – How involved people are in the life of their community

• Capacity = Engagement
  – Having capacity
  – Using capacity

• Comparing Counties with similar populations
  – Metropolitan >50,000 urban residents
  – Micropolitan = non-metro counties with an urban population > 2,500
  – Rural = non-metro counties with an aggregate urban population < 2,500

Comparing the Counties

Types of Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Counties</th>
<th>U.S. Census Definition</th>
<th>Rockies Compared Complete Civic Data</th>
<th>Rockies Compared Missing Civic Data</th>
<th>Total Number of Counties in the Rockies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
<td>non-metro counties with an urban population &gt;50,000</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micropolitan</td>
<td>non-metro counties with an urban population &gt;25,000</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>non-metro counties with an aggregate urban population &lt;2,500</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading the Rockies:

"Civic Engagement and Capacity"

2005 Rockies Final Overall GPA

Charitable Giving

• By determining how much people contribute to charity, we seek to identify some of their community values. We assume that the amount given to charity expresses how individuals view themselves as a part of a larger community, and what that community expects of its members.

Community Health

• Low blood pressure and a lack of diabetes does not mean that you are a meaningful contributor to civic life, but we assume that a community that values social interaction and the support of the common good will not be found in front of the television for eight hours a day.

Education Attainment

• Communities that value education and make it a priority to see their young people graduate from high school and attend college are communities that place great stock in the future.

Library Usage

• Seen by Andrew Carnegie as the great equalizer, the library is an asset that each community has at its disposal to gain knowledge, understanding and perspective of the world around them.
GRADING THE ROCKIES:
“CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY”
2005 ROCKIES FINAL OVERALL GPA

Newspaper Concentration
- In the age of media consolidation, we assume that the existence of a locally published newspaper contributes to a sense of identity and shared priorities that are important for a civically engaged community.

Political Contributions
- It is very apparent that more affluent counties are giving more to political parties and candidates, but we have chosen to retain this indicator to show which counties declared their position and voted with more than a vote.

Religious Involvement
- We see religious involvement as a key identifier of civic capital. It provides a weekly venue not only for private worship but also for social exchange, discussion, and action. Ranging from food drives to political lobbying, religion is a powerful social catalyst.

Voter Participation
- The fact that almost a majority of our country chooses not to participate in elections is the most frequently cited example of our increasing social apathy and decay. By comparing the voter aged population turnout in the last three presidential elections, we measure those counties that have bucked the national trend and have remained committed to election participation.

THE COLORADO COLLEGE
ROCKIES PROJECT

GRADING THE ROCKIES:
“CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY”
2005 ROCKIES FINAL OVERALL GPA

Social Capital Correlations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Capital Correlations</th>
<th>Metropolitan</th>
<th>Metropolitan</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Attainment</td>
<td>0.747</td>
<td>0.554</td>
<td>0.596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita Income</td>
<td>0.415</td>
<td>0.520</td>
<td>0.296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced Income Distribution</td>
<td>0.617</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>-0.363</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Capital Correlations</th>
<th>Metropolitan</th>
<th>Metropolitan</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Horses</td>
<td>-0.527</td>
<td>-0.386</td>
<td>-0.363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work and Live in the Same County</td>
<td>0.543</td>
<td>0.382</td>
<td>0.310</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Capital Correlations</th>
<th>Metropolitan</th>
<th>Metropolitan</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity x Engagement</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.724</td>
<td>0.672</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE COLORADO COLLEGE
ROCKIES PROJECT

IN CLOSING...
THE Colorado College Sits At the Foot of Pikes Peak
Proud of its Unique Location and Perspectives:

To the East

To the West
Notes from the Audience

At the Cutting Edge: Current Planning and Land-Use Research and Outreach

Some of the comments and questions and discussion

1. Impact of illegal immigration on socio-economic and demographic community profiles. An explosive issue that no one is addressing. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Center for Public Policy Research have done studies.
2. Air quality at the state level, particularly with respect to impacts on national parks. A land use and transportation planning issue.
3. CDOT’s protected property inventory. Dave Theobold at CSU researching and inventorying this information.
4. Full costs of sprawl at alternative densities. Publication “Cost of Sprawl Revisited” explores this topic.
5. Visualization software: do the economic analyses produce a façade, or are they real? Uses of these tools are still limited to professional and technical experts. No evidence that citizens are using these tools.
6. Better understanding of trade-offs between open space and more dense development.