



# George Melendez Wright RMNP Climate Change Intern and Fellow 2011

The George Melendez Wright Climate Change (GMWCC) Internship and Fellowship programs are designed to capture the energy and creativity of college and university undergraduate and graduate students and put them to work beside national park managers, scientists, and educators. Established in 2010, the programs are named after the early 20th century biologist whose contributions to increase the role of science in the National Park Service (NPS) is unparalleled. Interns and Fellows have the opportunity to choose from a large variety of parks and federal land to gain hands-on experience and to support new and innovative research.



**Becky Brice** is the 2011 GMWCC Intern at Rocky Mountain National Park. Becky studied Land Use, with an emphasis on geology, at Metropolitan State College in Denver. She will begin graduate work studying climate change and Earth physical processes at the University of Denver this fall. As a park ranger with Jefferson County Open Space, Becky earned several certifications including wildland fire S130/190 Red Card, National Association for Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide, American Red Cross First Responder, and National Outdoor Leadership School Leave No Trace Master Educator. Becky's home is in Golden, Colorado, where rock climbing, cycling, mountaineering, photography, fine art painting, and reading French literature are among her favorite pastimes.



**Kristen Kaczynski** is a PhD candidate in Ecology at Colorado State University, studying willow decline throughout Rocky Mountain National Park. Her dissertation research examines how elk and moose browsing, drought, decline of beaver populations, sapsuckers, [woodpeckers] and fungi all interact to negatively affect the stream side willow populations throughout the park. In spring she became a GMWCC fellow to examine climate change effects, such as drought and increased temperatures, on the timing of the willow decline. She became interested in studying plant ecology as an undergraduate after a summer internship at an Audubon center in her home state of Massachusetts. Before attending graduate school, Kristen worked in national parks in California and Washington.