

## AWARD-WINNING PUBLICATION BRINGS TOGETHER PARK AND PARTNERS

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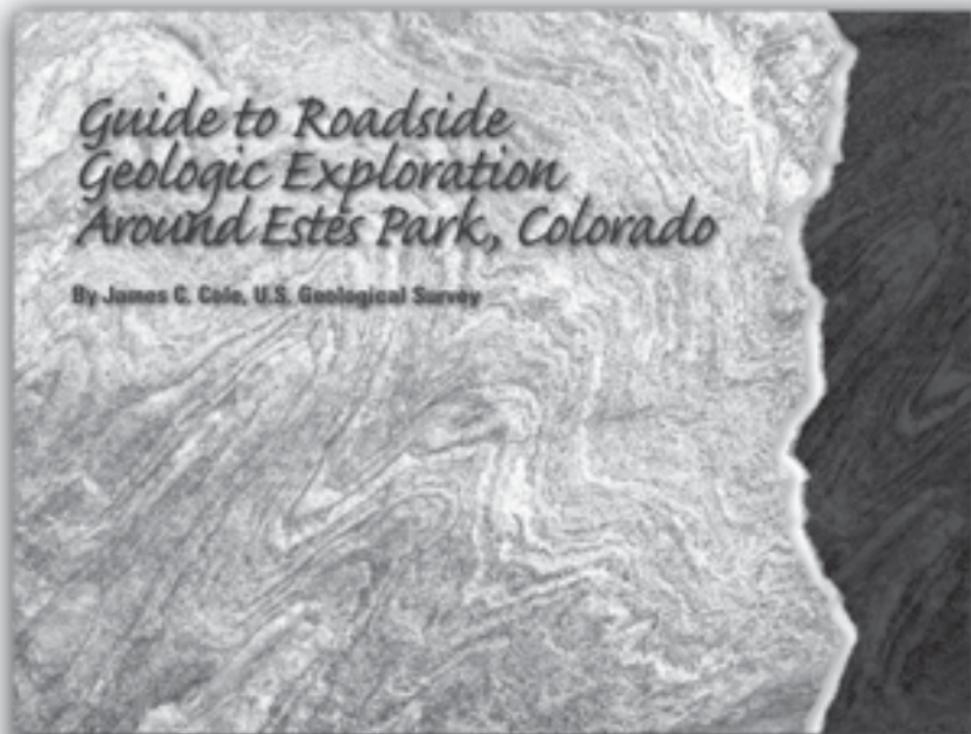
The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Park Service (NPS), Association of Earth Science Editors (AESE), and Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA) celebrated an award-winning partnership in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, on 28 September 2005. The partners had received a First Place National Association of Government Communicators Blue Pencil Award for the colorful publication, *Guide to Roadside Geologic Exploration Around Estes Park, Colorado* (see photos). Jim Cole, USGS research geologist, is the author of the book, which the U.S. Geological Survey produced and the Association of Earth Science Editors published. Vision Graphics, Inc., printed the popular roadside guide.

In addition to providing an illustrated guide for a one-day general geology field trip during the AESE annual meeting, the publication serves as a general-interest publication that enhances public awareness of local geology. The 22-page book presents a series of six self-guided roadside explorations of earth science topics: mountain uplift, landscape-scale erosion and weathering, folded and metamorphosed basement rocks, flash flooding in mountain valleys, engineering and politics of large water diversion projects, and glaciation and climate change.

The superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park, Vaughn Baker, and the chief of interpretation, Larry

Frederick, participated in the AESE field trip and are enthusiastic about the book and the geologic lessons it discusses. The NPS Geologic Resources Division, a supporter of the publication, purchased 1,000 copies for internal distribution and resale at park visitor centers and other RMNA sales outlets. The guidebook has spurred discussion about additional possibilities for enhanced geologic education between the author and the Rocky Mountain Nature Association (a nonprofit “friends” group for the park). In addition, the author is working with park staff to increase opportunities for geologic interpretation.

Winning publications of NAGC Blue Pencil Awards exemplify the high standards of individual professionalism and public service in government communicators, like Jim Cole, and promote exchange of ideas with the public. The 20 award categories for publications honor the best writing, editing, and graphic design produced by government communicators or for government agencies. The awards serve the purpose of the National Association of Government Communicators by developing among government leaders, partners, and the public awareness and understanding of the function of professional communicators in fulfilling the public's right and need to be informed about governmental activities at every level. In the case of *Guide to Roadside Geologic Exploration Around Estes Park, Colorado*, the public's enjoyment of natural resources in national parks is also enhanced.



ASSOCIATION OF EARTH SCIENCE EDITORS



**Jim Cole (right), USGS research geologist and author of *Guide to Roadside Geologic Exploration Around Estes Park, Colorado*, received a first place NAGC Blue Pencil Award in the category of softcover book. Dave Shaver (left), chief of the NPS Geologic Resources Division, and Larry Frederick (center), chief of interpretation at Rocky Mountain National Park, help to celebrate the award-winning collaboration among the U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, Association of Earth Science Editors, and Rocky Mountain Nature Association.** NPS/KATIE KELLERLYNN