NORMAN, OKLA. (August 9, 2010) – The Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West will present a lecture by Mark Klett, Regents’ Professor, School of Art, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, Arizona State University. He will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2010, in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 555 Elm Avenue, in the OU Arts District.

The lecture is part of the Merkel Family Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series and will be followed by a reception in the Sandy Bell Gallery of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. The lecture and reception are free and open to the public; seating is limited.

In his illustrated lecture, “Re-exploring the West, Recent Photographic Projects,” Klett will discuss the intersection of cultures, landscapes and time found within his photographs. Klett, who has a geology background and is well known for his images of sites originally photographed by the U.S. Geological Survey in the 1860s-70s, has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Buhl Foundation, and the Japan/US Friendship Commission. He is the author of 13 books, has work in more than 80 museums, and has exhibited his photography -- nationally and internationally -- for more than 30 years.

His lecture coincides with Wanderlust: Travel and American Photography, an exhibition that opened in June at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. The exhibition, which includes works by noted photographers such as Berenice Abbott and Dennis Stock, examines the role American highways and interstates have played in the migratory desires of the American people.

Founded in 1998, the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West is the first such university-based program in the nation. The center is dedicated to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge in the field of American art history as it relates to the western United States. Through its resource holdings, national symposia, lecture series, course offerings and outreach programs, the Russell
Center actively engages students and the public in developing a better understanding of, and appreciation for, 19th- and 20th-century Euro-American and Native American artistic traditions. Special focus is given to the art of Charles M. Russell and his contemporaries. For more information on the Russell Center, visit http://art.ou.edu/russellcenter/. For accommodations on the basis of disability, call 325-5939.

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**Editors:** please find attached an accompanying photograph with the following credit information:

Mark Klett and Byron Wolfe, 2008. *Rock formations on the road to Lee's Ferry, AZ.*

Left Inset: William Bell, 1872. *Plateau North of the Colorado River near the Paria.* (Courtesy National Archives)

Right Inset: William Bell, 1872. *Headlands North of the Colorado River.* (Courtesy National Archives)