

# EARTH

DECEMBER 2009

vol. 54 ■ no.12

[www.earthmagazine.org](http://www.earthmagazine.org)

## FEATURES

**T**raditionally, EARTH wraps up the year with a summary of the events, studies and findings that shaped the last year. But instead of solely looking back, this year we focus more on the future. As Yogi Berra said, "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." But we asked a few of our contributors to gaze into their crystal balls and comment on what we might see in their fields in the coming years. **32**

### MINERALS MANAGEMENT: ECONOMY, LACK OF CONSTRUCTION AND CARS CHANGED THE COMMODITIES SCENE IN 2009

Erin Wayman

p. 44



### NATURAL HAZARDS: REDUCING SOCIETY'S RISKS

Mary Lou Zoback

p. 48



### ENERGY: OIL AND GAS AROUND THE WORLD

Rasoul Sorkhabi

p. 33

### ENERGY: A FOOL'S LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Michael E. Webber

p. 36



### KEEPING WATCH ON A CHANGING PLANET: NASA EARTH SCIENCE MISSIONS IN 2010

Kathryn Hansen

p. 54



### TOMORROW'S AGRICULTURE: ONE THING IS CERTAIN: THE FUTURE WILL HAVE A DIFFERENT FACE THAN THE PAST

George A. Seielstad

p. 40



### POLICY: A TALE OF TWO YEARS

Corina Cerovski-Darriau

p. 57



ON THE COVER: Crystal ball Earth illustration by Nate Burgess, AGI.