



Kelsea MacIlroy is an experienced social science researcher, facilitator, and project manager. She specializes in collaborative facilitation around natural resource use and planning, conservation, and issues of environmental justice. She specializes in developing comprehensive situation assessments. In her work, she aims to develop a deeper understanding of issues, barriers, and opportunities for collaboration in challenging, multi-party situations.

Kelsea has extensive research experience in agricultural water and conservation, particularly in Colorado and the Colorado River Basin, where she has developed a deep knowledge and understanding of legal, social, economic, and ecological considerations. Over the last 12+ years, she has interviewed hundreds of stakeholders and concerned communities, which have culminated in a variety of publications and presentations. Kelsea is a sought-after speaker, who has been asked to present at Colorado Water Congress, the Colorado Agricultural Commission, Colorado's Division of Water Resources, and the 2023 Colorado Drought Summit. Her publications include *Lessons Learned from Colorado Experiences with Interstate Compact Administration* (2021) with Hannah Holm and *Exploring Perceptions of a Voluntary Water Conservation Program on the Western Slope of Colorado* (2019).

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association Drought Contingency Plan Task Force, Colorado (2023-Current). As the lead facilitator, Kelsea organizes and facilitates a Task Force of Association members whose purpose is to develop a work plan to submit to the Bureau of Reclamation. The work plan focuses on landscape planning, identification of drought conditions and impacts, drought monitoring resources including GIS, developing conservation practices that mitigate drought impacts, and preserving sensitive areas to build a more resilient community. The Task Force is made up of a wide range of interests including farmers and ranchers, conservation groups, agency, local county, and municipal representatives.

Wolf Creek Reservoir EIS, Colorado | Bureau of Land Management (2023-Current).

The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District's applied for a right-of-way to use public lands managed by the BLM's White River Field Office (WRFO) in Colorado to construct and operate a new reservoir, known as Wolf Creek Reservoir. Kelsea is part of a team working on a situation assessment (SA) prior to the EIS, that reflects the wide range of potentially affected interests including conservation groups, tribes, and over 15 cooperating agencies. The SA also evaluates the prospects for collaboration and proposes an engagement plan for meaningful involvement of the diverse group of potentially affected interests.

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Resource Management Plan Revision, Oregon | Bureau of Land Management (2022-Current). Kelsea is part of a team facilitating and assisting the BLM to produce a comprehensive internal communication and stakeholder engagement strategy for the revision of the RMP of the National Monument. To inform the landscape planning outreach, Kelsea assisted in conducting a SA to gather baseline information from diverse interested parties. Findings from the SA are currently informing the creation of an outreach plan that articulates key stakeholders and Tribal representatives, how to keep them engaged throughout the process and maintain communication support to both key stakeholders and the broader public.

Education

B.A., History, Gordon College | 2005
M.Ed., Secondary Education, Adams State University | 2009
M.A., Sociology, Colorado State University | 2014
Ph.D., Sociology, Colorado State University | 2022

Professional Training

International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), Foundations in Public Participation Training

Professional Affiliations

International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Colorado Chapter

Selected Work History

Project Manager

The Langdon Group
Pueblo, CO | 2023-Present

Principal & Researcher

MacIlroy Research & Consulting, LLC |
2019-Current

Instructor

Dept. of Sociology, Colorado State University | 2016-Current

Graduate Research Assistant

Colorado Water Center, Colorado State University | 2014-2017

Instructor & Facilitator

Adams State Adventure Center, Adams State University | 2007-2010
La Vida Center for Outdoor Education, Gordon College | 2002-2005



Hult Reservoir and Dam Environmental Impact Study (EIS) | Bureau of Land Management | 2022-Current. As part of a team, Kelsea is helping to lead public involvement for an EIS evaluating alternatives to address safety issues of the aging Hult Dam. Kelsea assists in advising and developing project communications to keep the public informed on the EIS process, designs, and public input opportunities. She also works to address stakeholder issues and concerns that arise throughout the process.

Evaluating Conserved Consumptive Use in the Upper Colorado River | MacIlroy Research & Consulting | 2021-Current. As the lead social scientist, Kelsea works with a team of researchers to evaluate the possibility of creating conserved consumptive use in high altitude irrigated meadows. Kelsea's work seeks to identify why irrigators chose to participate in the research project or not and draw lessons for future research projects. By focusing on the opportunities that appeal to irrigators and the barriers and challenges they faced in their decision to participate, her work will inform future outreach in collaborative water conservation projects.

Graduate Research Assistant | Moving Forward in Agricultural Water Conservation in the Colorado River Basin | Colorado Water Center, Colorado State University (2014-2019). As the Graduate Research Assistant, Kelsea worked with a diverse team of experts in Western water to identify when and why irrigators and water managers engage in agricultural water conservation projects. Traveling throughout the Colorado River Basin, Kelsea examined six different partnerships between agricultural water users and municipal water providers, environmental NGOs, and federal agencies. Her work resulted in multiple presentations and publications, including:

Taylor, Peter Leigh, Kelsea MacIlroy, Reagan Waskom, Perry E. Cabot, MaryLou Smith, Adam Schempp, and Brad Udall. 2019. "Every ditch is different: Barriers and opportunities for collaboration for agricultural water conservation and security in the Colorado River Basin." *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, 74(3), pp.281-295.