

**Environmental Journalism 2019**

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**HEADWATERS TO THE PLAINS**

# **COLORADO**

**WHERE RIVERS, AND POLITICS, CHANGE DIRECTIONS**



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Hosted and Sponsored by Colorado State University

**Fort Collins, Colorado**

**October 9 – 13, 2019**





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FOR MARKET  
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The Alliance for Market Solutions (AMS) is an organization of conservative leaders addressing two of America's most pressing challenges: the need to reduce airborne carbon pollution and grow the economy.

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AMS proudly supports the  
Society of Environmental Journalists  
and its 29th Annual Conference.

## Environmental Journalism 2019

# HEADWATERS TO THE PLAINS

# COLORADO

WHERE RIVERS, AND POLITICS, CHANGE DIRECTIONS



Above image and cover courtesy of Krista Langlois

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**Fort Collins, Colorado**

**October 9 – 13, 2019**



## #SEJ2019 Sponsors

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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Welcome to Fort Collins and Colorado State University.

We are honored that the Society of Environmental Journalists chose our city and campus for your 29<sup>th</sup> annual conference.

It would have been difficult to find a more environmentally friendly location: CSU's colors may be green and gold, but we're very partial to platinum as well. Colorado State is the first university in the world to achieve a Platinum rating from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System – twice.

We've also been named a Platinum Bicycle Friendly Campus by the League of American Bicyclists, just one of five in the nation; Fort Collins is also a Platinum Bicycle Friendly Community, an even rarer distinction to have both in the same location. CSU is a major supporter of the city's MAX bus rapid transit system than can take you to Old Town to explore a craft brewery or two while you are here.

One more bit of platinum green: Two buildings on campus have earned LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council – the Pavilion at Laurel Village and the Powerhouse Energy Campus. By the way, the work done at the Powerhouse was a major reason Fort Collins is a featured Place of Invention at the Smithsonian Institution – and is on track to achieve its Climate Action Plan goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Aside from the accolades and regularly appearing on national lists of greenest schools, sustainability is just part of what we do at CSU. Every one of our eight colleges offer courses in sustainability, for a total nearing 1,000 this year. The Warner College of Natural Resources offers one of the most comprehensive natural resources and environmental sciences programs in the country, granting both bachelor's and graduate degrees in ecosystem science and sustainability among other majors.

The School of Global Environmental Sustainability, celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, is a national leader in interdisciplinary sustainability research and education. Where else can students earn a minor in sustainability – and have their choice of concentration?

Speaking of anniversaries, CSU is celebrating its sesquicentennial year in 2020, renewing its commitment to the land-grant mission of education, service, research and outreach by tackling some of the world's most pressing problems. From applying agricultural innovation to the urgent question of how to feed a global population soon to top 9 billion to exploring engineering solutions to climate change, CSU scientists and researchers are making a difference. Many will be presenting at the conference, and I hope you can spend some quality time with them.

At CSU, we pay attention to the less-than-glamorous side of sustainability as well. After you have enjoyed your awards luncheon, networking breakfast and hospitality receptions, the leftovers will join the waste stream that powers our campus composting operation, which provides not only hands-on learning experiences for students, but also nutrients for the landscaping on our beautiful campus.

Once again, welcome to CSU, and have an enjoyable, productive conference.

*Rick Miranda*

Rick Miranda  
Provost and Executive Vice President  
Colorado State University



Journalists: Get your hands on research!

Apply for a fellowship in the

# MBL Logan Science Journalism Program

At the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA

May 26 – June 5, 2020

*"This kind of research experience should be a requisite part of the career of any science journalist."*

– Erik Olsen, *The New York Times*

The acclaimed Logan Science Journalism Program provides professional journalists, writers, editors, and broadcast producers with a chance to step back from the 24-hour news cycle and immerse themselves in hands-on scientific research training.

## Choose between 2 tracks:

### Biomedical Hands-On Research Course

Learn the latest laboratory techniques and concepts essential to biomedical and biological research, including CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing

### Environmental Hands-On Research Course

Conduct field work with scientists investigating climate impacts and environmental change

Room, board, course fees, and travel are covered for accepted fellows. More than 200 leading health, environmental, and science journalists have benefited from this unique fellowship since 1986.

For more information: Visit [mbl.edu/sjp](http://mbl.edu/sjp) or contact Diana Kenney: [dkenney@mbl.edu](mailto:dkenney@mbl.edu); @MBLScience

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 24, 2020

## Environmental Journalism 2019

The 29th Annual Conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists officially begins Wednesday, October 9, at 5:30 p.m., with an opening reception followed by dinner and programs.

Before the official kick-off, three all-day workshops will be held, as well as an afternoon meet-and-greet with fun networking opportunities.

Please note: SEJ is committed to supporting a harassment-free environment at the conference.

Please read our anti-harassment policy:  
[www.sej.org/society-environmental-journalists-anti-harassment-policy](http://www.sej.org/society-environmental-journalists-anti-harassment-policy)

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at Colorado State University's Lory Student Center, 1101 Center Avenue Mall, Fort Collins, CO 80521, unless otherwise indicated.

## Wednesday, October 9, 2019

### Registration

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom Lobby, CSU's Lory Student Center

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Thursday tours, Saturday evening party at New Belgium Brewing or Sunday breakfast program at the Denver Botanic Gardens, there might still be room. Check with registration and sign up there.

### SEJ Information Table

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom Lobby, CSU's Lory Student Center

Sign up here for Friday beat dinners and Saturday mini-tours. Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

### Bookstore

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center

CSU's bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

## Workshop 1

Covering Indian Country, Public Lands and Environmental Justice in the West

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Room 386, CSU's Lory Student Center

Pre-registration and \$60 fee required. Breakfast and lunch included. SEJ members only.

8:00 a.m. Breakfast served

8:30 a.m. Introductions and set the stage for the day

**Emcee:**

Judy Fahys, InsideClimate News

9:00-10:30 a.m.

## Covering Indian Country and Tribal Affairs

Experienced reporters will share practical tips on how to cover Indigenous communities and produce culturally competent, high-impact work. From picking stories to maintaining relationships with communities, this panel will be ideal for newsrooms looking to cover tribal affairs effectively.

**Moderator:**

Nick Martin, Staff Writer, The New Republic

**Speakers:**

Alastair Bitsóí, Communications Director, Utah Diné Bikéyah

Kalen Goodluck, Journalist and Photographer

Anna Smith, Assistant Editor, *High Country News*

10:30-10:45 a.m. Coffee break

10:45 a.m.-Noon

## Hispanic Culture and Environmental Justice in the West

From early Spanish explorers, Mestizos and recent Latin American immigrants, the West has a long storied history of Hispanic and Latino culture. But, increasingly, racism and environmental injustices plague many communities. Panelists will discuss the intersection of social, cultural, economic and environmental justice issues in Hispanic communities and everything from farmworkers' environmental health concerns to Latino conservation efforts.

**Moderator:**

Yvette Cabrera, Independent Environmental Justice Reporter and 2019 McGraw Fellow

**Speakers:**

Armando Elenes, Secretary Treasurer, United Farm Workers



**Chela Garcia**, Director of Conservation Programs, Hispanic Access Foundation  
**Beatriz Soto**, Latino Outreach Coordinator, Defiende Nuestra Tierra - Wilderness Workshop

Noon-1:00 p.m.

### Lunch and Session:

#### Attracting and Supporting Indigenous Staff

Whether your newsroom is new to covering Indigenous communities or you have experienced reporters on staff with connections to tribal affairs, the choices your newsroom makes can lead to success or ruin. This panel will offer practical advice for attracting, supporting and retaining reporters with experience in Indian Country with the goal of building the best team to create the best work.

**Moderator:**

**Nick Martin**, Staff Writer, The New Republic

**Speakers:**

**Brian Calvert**, Editor-in-Chief, *High Country News*  
**Anna Smith**, Assistant Editor, *High Country News*

1:00-2:00 p.m.

#### Mining Public Records for Stories on Public Lands

News is about change, and there's been a whole lotta change in the management of U.S. public lands lately. The Trump administration is moving to open millions of acres to oil and gas development and recently put an outspoken critic of public lands in power at the Bureau of Land Management. This session will offer tips on how to dig out stories about what's happening and what's at stake.

**Moderator:**

**Tim Wheeler**, Managing Editor, Bay Journal and Chair, Freedom of Information Task Force, Society of Environmental Journalists

**Speakers:**

**Jimmy Tobias**, Independent Reporter  
**Tim Whitehouse**, Executive Director, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility  
**Laurel Williams**, US Public Lands and Rivers Conservation Program, The Pew Charitable Trusts

2:00-3:30 p.m.

#### Public Lands Reporting From the Extremes: How to Cover Holistically

This panel will talk with reporters and editors covering anti-government groups, anti-American Indian organizations and other extremists, which often

coalesce around conflicts over public land. Who is the public, and how does that echo through extreme views? Whose land is at the center of the debate, and whose land was it? We'll hear from local reporters and regional editors on how to cover public lands holistically from Bears Ears to Bundy to the Flathead Valley. The goal is to better prepare reporters who cover these conflicts, to seek the nuance and context to tell better stories whether they're freelance, local or national reporters.

**Moderator:**

**Anna Smith**, Assistant Editor, *High Country News*

**Speakers:**

**Brian Calvert**, Editor-in-Chief, *High Country News*  
**Kalen Goodluck**, Journalist and Photographer  
**Bill Morlin**, Freelance Journalist

### Workshop 2

#### Climate Reporting Master Class, Presented by Climate

##### Matters in the Newsroom

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Room 382, CSU's Lory Student Center

**Pre-registration and \$60 fee required. Breakfast and lunch included. SEJ members only.**

This full-day workshop will equip reporters in all media to tell local climate stories that matter to their audiences. We'll quickly review the basics of climate change and then do deep dives with top experts on climate and water issues and clean energy solutions. Journalists successfully tackling the challenge of local climate reporting will discuss their experiences. New localized climate reporting resources will be introduced and discussed and we will use them in hands-on practice.

**Moderator:**

**Susan Hassol**, Director of Climate Communication, Climate Matters in the Newsroom

**Speakers:**

**Scott Denning**, Climate Scientist and Professor of Atmospheric Science, Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering, Colorado State University  
**Chuck Kutscher**, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute, University of Colorado-Boulder, Fellow and Senior Research Associate  
**Ed Maibach**, Distinguished University Professor and Director, Center for Climate Change Communication, George Mason University, Climate Matters in the Newsroom  
**Lisa Palmer**, Freelance Journalist  
**Luke Runyon**, Reporter, Colorado River Basin, KUNC  
**Brad Udall**, Senior Scientist/Scholar, Colorado State University

**Bernadette Woods Placky**, Chief Meteorologist and Climate Matters Director, Climate Central, Climate Matters in the Newsroom

### Workshop 3

#### A Hostile Environment: Surviving Journalism

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Room 372-374, CSU's Lory Student Center

**Pre-registration and \$60 fee required. Breakfast and lunch included. SEJ members and journalists only.**

Staying safe while doing your job is no longer just for those reporters who work in war zones. In recent years, domestic reporters have been arrested, and sometimes injured, simply by doing their job – covering pipeline protests, police activities and even covering Trump rallies. And these aren't the only threats we now face. Even if you work at your desk, the risk of on-line harassment continues to grow. This workshop will offer you basic skills and tips on surviving harassment and staying safe, even under the worst of circumstances. We'll also discuss how efforts to foment distrust in the media are increasing the risks journalists face, and what we can do to rebuild trust.

**Emcee:**

**Dale Willman**, Freelance Newscaster, Program Director, NPR, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

8:00-8:30 a.m. Breakfast, Workshop Registration

8:30-9:00 a.m. Welcome, Introduction

9:00 a.m.-Noon

#### Reporting Safely

Journalist safety while covering a major crisis has always been important. But today safety concerns are sometimes present even in stories that in the past were considered safe. More and more, journalists are becoming targets. What can you do to be safer in your work? A freelance journalist who works with Columbia University and the Dart Center will discuss model risk assessment. Participants will be walked through how to respond to a number of different types of threats, and we'll discuss covering civil unrest and dealing with aggressive authorities, all while remaining safe.

**Speaker:**

**Judith Matloff**, Freelance Journalist, Author and Adjunct Faculty, Columbia Journalism School

Noon-12:40 p.m.

### Rebuilding Trust in the Media

Some of the threats and harassment that journalists face are driven by a deep mistrust and contempt for news media. But around the world, a free press is the foundation of democratic societies. To protect journalists — and our democracy — we need to understand the roots of this distrust. The Society of Professional Journalists launched The Casper Project to gain a deeper understanding of the reasons so many people distrust news organizations and their reporting. Join SPJ's Journalist on Call for a presentation and discussion on steps we can take to increase trust and make journalism — and democracy — safer for all.

**Speaker:**

**Rod Hicks**, Journalist on Call, Society of Professional Journalists

12:40-1:30 p.m.

### Safety in the Field

**Moderator:**

**Dale Willman**, Freelance Newscaster, Program Director, NPR, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

**Speakers:**

**Gloria Dickie**, Freelance Journalist  
**Emily Gertz**, Journalist, Entrepreneur and Member, SEJ Freedom of Information Task Force  
**Rod Hicks**, Journalist on Call, Society of Professional Journalists

1:30-3:30 p.m.

### Online Safety

In response to the growing threat that online hate and harassment pose to free expression, PEN America has developed a first-of-its-kind digital toolkit, the "Online Harassment Field Manual." The manual is based on extensive research and interviews with writers, journalists, technology experts, editors, newsrooms and advocacy groups. Join us for a training session filled with practical strategies and comprehensive resources to defend yourself against online harassment.

**Speaker:**

**Viktorya Vilks**, Manager of Special Projects for Free Expression Programs, PEN America



**SEJ Student Newsroom**  
**8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**  
**Room 376-378, CSU's Lory Student Center**

You're a student assigned to cover happenings at a big conference. Need a place to work? Equipment to get it done? A few editing ideas from seasoned veterans? Checkout the SEJ Student Newsroom. Located at the heart of the conference site, it's a space to work, learn and chill. Environmental journalists will stop by to offer advice and mentoring. The newsroom will be outfitted with Internet-connected desktop computers and field equipment for checkout (e.g., video/still cameras, pods, lights, mics, audio recorders, etc.). In addition, the special programming developed just for environmental journalism students will be available at the newsroom. **See the SEJ Student Newsroom on Wednesday (4:30 p.m.), Friday and Saturday for more information on these programs.**

**Facilitator:**  
**Joseph Champ**, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Media Communication, Colorado State University

**If you are interested in finding out more about how to participate at the SEJ Student Newsroom and related events, please contact Dr. Joe Champ at joseph.champ@colostate.edu.**

**Afternoon Meet and Greet**  
**3:30 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center**

Join up with old friends and meet new ones. Check out innovative virtual reality demos and browse the works of local artists. Come meet SEJ board and staff and share your ideas for SEJ's future. Beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvres sponsored by Environmental Defense Fund.

**SEJ Student Newsroom**  
**Fooling With Google Tooling**  
**4:30 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Room 376-378, CSU's Lory Student Center**

Teaching Fellow at the Google News Lab will demo cool new data collection and visualization tools. Mapping and Geo software allows you to make custom maps, do drone-like flyovers of an area with Google Earth Studio or even look at change over time with the historical time-lapse function.

**STUDENTS ONLY. Snacks and soft drinks provided. Must be registered for the conference to attend.**



Image courtesy of Bobby Magill

**OPENING RECEPTION AND DINNER**

**Welcome to Colorado!**  
**5:30 - 9:00 p.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center**

The bar opens early, so grab a drink and mingle. Chat with colleagues and network with sources. Browse the creations of Colorado artists and learn about groundbreaking research on environmental issues at a scientists' poster session. Elected officials, renowned scientists, Native American leaders and distinguished writers will share welcoming remarks and brief presentations to introduce you to Colorado and the conference. A state known for its towering mountains, rivers and a booming recreation economy, Colorado is a leader in renewable energy development and climate action. At the same time, the state has welcomed and benefited economically from an oil and gas boom, and it is now grappling with how to balance these seemingly conflicting ideals and goals.

Colorado is also home to pioneering national labs and research institutions. Tonight you'll learn how research by Colorado scientists spans the globe — from the Far North to the South Pole — in both geographic reach and impact.

**Emcees:**  
**Susan Moran**, Independent Print Journalist; Co-Host, "How On Earth" Science Show, KGNU Community Radio; and Co-Chair, SEJ's 29th Annual Conference  
**Joshua Zaffos**, Correspondent, *High Country News* and Co-Chair, SEJ's 29th Annual Conference

**Speakers:**  
**Joel Berger**, Professor and Barbara Cox Anthony University Chair in Wildlife Conservation, Department

of FWC Biology, Colorado State University, and Senior Scientist, Wildlife Conservation Society  
**Autumn Bernhardt**, Attorney and Instructor, Department of Anthropology and Geography, Colorado State University  
**Camille Dungy**, Professor, English Department, Colorado State University  
**Bobby Magill**, Reporter, Bloomberg Environment, and SEJ Board President  
**Rick Miranda**, Provost and Executive Vice President, Colorado State University  
**Diana Wall**, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Biology; Senior Research Scientist, Natural Resource Ecology Lab; and Director, School of Global Environmental Sustainability, Colorado State University

**Thursday, October 10, 2019**

**Registration**  
**5:00 - 9:30 a.m. and Noon - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom Lobby, CSU's Lory Student Center**

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Thursday tours, Saturday evening party at New Belgium Brewing or Sunday breakfast program at the Denver Botanic Gardens, there might still be room. **Check with registration and sign up there.**

**SEJ Information Table**  
**All Day**  
**Grand Ballroom Lobby, CSU's Lory Student Center**  
**Sign up here for Friday beat dinners and Saturday mini-tours.** Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

**TOURS IN THE FIELD**

Advance registration is required for all Thursday tours. Attendance on each tour is strictly limited, so registering early is important. All Thursday tours will return to the Lory Student Center at about 5:00 p.m. For those looking for some exercise, tours 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 are your best options. Other tours involve moderate exercise. Tours 2, 6 and 8 are best suited for those with limited mobility.

**IMPORTANT DEPARTURE INFORMATION: Please meet your tour leaders near the SEJ registration desk on the third floor of the Lory Student Center at the listed departure time to check-in for your**

**tour. Eat breakfast at your hotel before arrival or plan to purchase breakfast at the Lory Student Center food court, which opens at 7:00 a.m.; coffee and snacks will be provided for tours that depart before the food court opens. Each tour will leave the ballroom as a group to board buses at a nearby location. Do not be late.**



Image courtesy of Kevin Beatty

**Tour 1. Oil and Gas Clashes With Human Development and Public Lands**  
**(5:30 a.m. departure, \$45 fee, lunch included)**

Drilling rigs have become as much a part of the landscape of northern Colorado as the panoramic views of the Rockies. Residents in the far suburbs of Denver and Greeley live with one foot in the booming Colorado tech and tourism economy, and the other in an oil and gas industrial zone. On this tour, we'll start with a sunrise hike on the Pawnee National Grassland to see public lands forever changed by fossil fuel development. We'll also visit a fracking site and travel to a Denver suburb to see firsthand how residents live and work sometimes steps away from active wells. The day will end with a beer and the chance to talk with residents and scientists who can explain fracking's environmental and health costs. **Total drive time: 5 hours.**

**Tour Leaders:**  
**Bobby Magill**, Reporter, Bloomberg Environment, and SEJ Board President  
**Jason Plautz**, Reporter, Freelance Writer

**Speakers:**  
**Gabrielle Petron**, Research Scientist, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder  
**Jim Ramey**, Colorado State Director, The Wilderness Society  
**Kathleen Sgamma**, President, Western Energy Alliance  
**Christiaan van Woudenberg**, Board of Trustees, Erie, Colorado





**Tour 2. National Renewable Energy Lab:  
Treasure Trove of Story Ideas**  
(6:00 a.m. departure, \$45 fee, lunch included)

There may be no single location with as many story ideas than the renowned National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, where the planet's future just might be saved. The executive director and founder of the Energy Institute at Colorado State University will brief journalists on the bus about the differences between 100 percent renewable and carbon-free goals, and what challenges lie ahead. Journalists will hear from the NREL director on the transformation of the energy sector happening now. And you'll be amazed at demonstrations from scientists of jaw-dropping renewable energy technology. Will your windows or the paint on your house become energy collectors? They're working on it here. Corporations are embedded with the Lab to bring technology to market. We'll visit a net-zero office building, a smart appliance lab and a test wind farm. Bring your camera and an extra notepad. **Total drive time: 3 hours**

**Note: The National Renewable Energy Lab is providing lunch for this tour.**

**Tour Leaders:**

**Jeff Burnside**, Independent Journalist and SEJ Board Member

**Grace Hood**, Energy and Environment Reporter, Colorado Public Radio

**Speakers:**

**Derek Berry**, Senior Engineer, National Renewable Energy Lab, and Director of the Wind Turbine Technology Area, Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation

**Joseph Berry**, Senior Scientist, Perovskite and Hybrid Solar Cells Team Lead, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Nicholas Brunhart-Lupo**, Computational Scientist, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Bryon Donohoe**, Senior Scientist, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Matthew Futch**, Business Development Director and Energy Regulatory Expert, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Kenny Gruchalla**, Senior Scientist, Scientific

Visualization, Computational Science Center, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Andrew Hudgins**, User Program Integrator, Energy Systems Integration Facility, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Eric Karp**, Senior Chemical Engineer, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Martin Keller**, Director, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Daniel Laird**, Director, National Wind Technology Center, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Dave Moore**, Scientist and Director's Fellow, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Nicholas Rorrer**, Researcher III - Polymer Engineering and Biomaterials Development, National Renewable Energy Lab

**David Sickinger**, Researcher III-High Performance Computing, National Renewable Energy Lab

**David Simms**, Research Operations Director, National Wind Technology Center, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Robert Tenent**, Researcher V-Materials Science, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Paul Veers**, Chief Engineer, National Wind Technology Center, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Lance Wheeler**, Researcher III-Materials Science, National Renewable Energy Lab

**Bryan Willson**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Executive Director, Energy Institute, Colorado State University



**Tour 3. Reclaiming the Toxic Legacy of War Through  
Wildlife Conservation**  
(6:30 a.m. departure, \$45 fee, lunch included)

Coloradans once looked on the weapons plants at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, which manufactured nerve gas, and the Rocky Flats nuclear bomb factory with pride. They were huge economic boons for the region during World War II and the Cold War. Decades of spills, fires and other environmental crimes changed all that, leaving a legacy of distrust and releases of radionuclides and other industrial by-products in their wake. Our day will begin with a bus tour of the Arsenal, with expert speakers discussing the massive cleanup effort that led to the opening of the site as refuge for bison, the endangered black-footed ferret and more than 300 other species of animals. We can't leave the Arsenal without a stop at the National Wildlife Property Repository, which houses 1.3 million items recovered from wildlife traffickers. After lunch, we'll drive over to Rocky Flats for an optional one-hour hike and an overview of the former nuclear weapons plant's history, the controversial remediation efforts that followed its closure and the public health concerns that remain (the EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have certified the whole refuge as safe for visitors). **Total drive time: 3 hours.**

**Tour Leaders:**

**Sonya Doctorian**, Video Producer/Photojournalist

**Paul Karolyi**, Editorial Director, House of Pod, Host/Producer, Changing Denver

**Speakers:**

**Len Ackland**, Independent Journalist; Author, "Making a Real Killing: Rocky Flats and the Nuclear West," Professor of Journalism (retired) and Founding Director, Center for Environmental Journalism, University of Colorado Boulder

**Louis Cheroutes**, Board Member, Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges

**Stephanie Malin**, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Colorado State University; Adjunct Associate Professor, Colorado School of Public Health; and Co-Founder and Co-Primary Investigator, Department of Sociology & Center for Environmental Justice, Colorado State University

**Murph Widdowfield**, Board Member, Rocky Flats Cold War History Museum



**Tour 4. The Grand Transect: From the High Plains to the  
Heights of Rocky Mountain National Park**  
(7:00 a.m. departure, \$45 fee, lunch included)

Colorado is best known for its majestic mountains, 59 of which exceed 14,000 feet. Yet nearly 40 percent of the state consists of high plains. This will allow us to make a grand environmental transect on our trip up to Rocky Mountain National Park. Within just a few hours, we'll pass through roughly the same number of ecological zones as a trip from Fort Collins to Alaska. We'll begin our transect at the foot of the mountains where we'll get an overview of the day ahead and discuss pressing Western water issues. Next, we'll plunge into the Big Thompson Canyon to learn about forest ecology and wildfire. Our transect will then take us into the gateway town of Estes Park and finally into the park itself. While there, we'll hear about impacts on park ecosystems from pollution, massive tourism, over-population of elk and other factors — all against a backdrop of climate change. **Total drive time: 4 hours.**

**Tour Leaders:**

**Sadie Babits**, Independent Editor, Journalist and Radio Producer

**Amanda Peacher**, Radio Reporter, Mountain West News Bureau, Boise State Public Radio

**Tom Yulsman**, Director, Center for Environmental Journalism, and Professor, Department of Journalism, College of Media, Communication and Information, University of Colorado Boulder

**Speakers:**

**Hanem Abouelezz**, Supervisory Landscape Ecologist, Rocky Mountain National Park

**Jill Baron**, Research Ecologist, Founder and Co-Director, John Wesley Powell Center for Analysis and Synthesis, U.S. Geological Survey and Senior Research Ecologist, Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, Colorado State University

**John Freemuth**, BoiseState/Andrus

**Doug Kenney**, Director, Western Water Policy Program, University of Colorado Law School



**Tom Veblen**, Distinguished Professor, Department of Geography, University of Colorado Boulder



Image courtesy of Pixabay

**Tour 5. Feeling the Heat:**  
**Western Wildfire Regimes in a Changing Environment**  
(7:30 a.m. departure, \$45 fee, lunch included)

The past year has seen the biggest, the deadliest and the costliest wildfires on record. These extremes stem from numerous factors, including a warmer climate, forest management trends and more people living in harm's way. Wildfire has gone from having something of a season, to plaguing the nation year-round, and none of these conditions are likely to change soon. Considering its broad and cascading impacts, it's likely environmental reporters will find more than one occasion to include wildfire in their work. This tour will travel through forests and burned areas above Fort Collins to provide a comprehensive look at fire in Colorado. Participants will learn about its history, wildland firefighting, climate change and fire weather, community resilience and human behavior in fire, fire management at the local and national level, and post-fire impacts such as debris flows and invasive species encroachment. We're going to get down and dirty in the Wildland-Urban Interface, so bring your backpacks, hiking boots and enough energy to complete an easy to mid-level hike. **Total drive time: 3.5 hours.**

- Tour Leaders:**  
**Jolie Breeden**, Lead Editor and Science Communicator, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder  
**Michael Kodas**, Author, Reporter and Photojournalist, Freelance
- Speakers:**  
**Mike Battaglia**, Research Forester, Rocky Mountain Research Station, U.S. Forest Service  
**Peter Brown**, Director and President, Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research  
**Carol Dollard**, Fire Chief, Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department  
**Gabe Donaldson**, Manager, Colorado Fire Program, The Nature Conservancy  
**Chela Garcia**, Director of Conservation Programs,

Hispanic Access Foundation  
**Russ Schumacher**, Colorado State Climatologist  
**Chris White**, Owner, Anchor Point Group  
**George Wuerthner**, Ecologist and Author/Editor, "Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy"



Image courtesy of Dennis Dimick

**Tour 6. Farming on the Great Plains**  
(8:00 a.m. departure, \$45 fee, lunch included)

The Colorado Front Range was once known as "The Great American Desert," but railroads and irrigation altered the landscape. Sugar beets, beef cattle and dairy products are three of the mainstays in northern Colorado farms as advancements in technology have drastically altered how each of them is produced. We'll start the day visiting a sugar beet farm at harvest and end at a family dairy operation that has grown to more than 1,500 cows. Over lunch in Greeley we'll hear from the workers who labor in these industries and see firsthand how communities of immigrants and refugees are reviving the surrounding rural economies. After lunch we'll visit the Five Rivers Cattle Co., considered the world's largest cattle-feeding company, which runs a 98,000-capacity operation just outside Kersey. Feedlots are often criticized for air and water quality problems from having so many livestock concentrated together. However, the cattle industry is increasingly focused on its environmental footprint and argues that improvements have led to a smaller environmental impact. **Total drive time: 4 hours.**

- Tour Leaders:**  
**Chris Clayton**, Ag Policy Editor, DTN/The Progressive Farmer  
**Esther Honig**, Reporter, KUNC
- Speakers:**  
**Collin Cannon**, Director of Advocacy and Development, Immigrant and Refugee Center of Northern Colorado  
**Armando Elenes**, United Farm Workers of America (UFW)  
**Paul Schlagel**, Owner, Schlagel Farms  
**Jon Slutsky**, Owner, La Luna Dairy

Image courtesy of Kevin Beaty



**Tour 7. The Past, Present and Future of Western Water**  
(8:30 a.m. departure, \$45 fee, lunch included)

Few issues in the West can both divide and unite communities like water rights. Conversations about who has access to the scarce resource and who doesn't can quickly grow tense and are fundamental to the region's future. This tour begins near the scenic Continental Divide, just outside Rocky Mountain National Park, with an overview of complex water laws and Colorado's sprawling infrastructure. We'll start at the eastern portal of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project. Built in the 1940s, the project pumps water for miles through tunnels dug deep in the mountains in an effort to plumb the arid state. Then, we'll head down the mountain to hike around the site of the proposed Chimney Hollow Reservoir, a pool planned to serve Colorado's thirsty Front Range cities. We'll wrap up downstream, talking about pressures on water supplies for both agriculture and municipalities in the face of ongoing drought and a changing climate. We'll also look to the solutions water managers, conservationists and farmers are considering to tackle these challenges. **Total drive time: 4 hours.**

- Tour Leaders:**  
**Eleanor Hasenbeck**, Reporter, *Steamboat Pilot & Today*  
**Luke Runyon**, Reporter, Colorado River Basin, KUNC
- Speakers:**  
**James Bishop**, Public Involvement Specialist, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
**Joe Donnelly**, Chimney Hollow Project Manager, Northern Water  
**Brian Jackson**, Senior Manager, Western Water, Environmental Defense Fund  
**Andy Schultheiss**, Executive Director, Colorado Water Trust  
**Jerd Smith**, Digital Content Editor, Water Education Colorado  
**Jeff Stahla**, Public Information Coordinator, Northern Water  
**Reagan Waskom**, Director, Colorado Water Center, Colorado State University  
**Mely Whiting**, General Counsel, Trout Unlimited

Image courtesy of Helen Richardson



**Tour 8. Environmental Justice in Globeville and Elyria-Swansea**  
(8:45 a.m. departure, \$45 fee, lunch included)

The communities of Globeville and Elyria-Swansea (GES) in northern Denver are located in the most polluted zip code in Colorado. Decades of environmental injustices in these communities have brought them to this unfortunate title. With several nearby industrial factories emitting toxic chemicals into the air, a busy interstate highway running directly through the neighborhoods — also the site of an ongoing and extremely controversial expansion, diesel trains traveling through the communities regularly and soil contamination from historical metal smelting, the GES is home to a confluence of pollution sources that have had untold health, economic and social impacts on its residents. This tour will provide an insight into the major challenges facing residents, as well as air quality and health studies underway designed to offset some of the impacts from these historic and ongoing environmental hazards. This will be a unique opportunity to learn about perhaps the most impacted and underserved community in Denver — during a time when the city as a whole is undergoing rapid growth and transformation. You'll come away with new ideas, concepts and understandings of reporting on environmental justice issues, as well as learn how these concerns relate through communities across the country. **Total drive time: 3 hours.**

- Tour Leaders:**  
**Tony Barboza**, Staff Writer, *Los Angeles Times*  
**Rachel Cernansky**, Freelance Journalist  
**Kati Weis**, Investigative Producer and Reporter, KCNC-TV CBS Denver
- Speakers:**  
**Candi CdeBaca**, Denver City Councilwoman, District 9  
**Lisa Cicutto**, Director, Community Outreach and Research; Professor, Director, Clinical Science Graduate Program, National Jewish Health and University of Colorado I Anschutz Medical Center  
**Marta Darby**, Associate Attorney, Earthjustice  
**Charles Norris**, Professional Geologist. Retired; pro bono technical advisor (hydrogeology) to Vasquez Boulevard and I-70 Superfund Site CAG  
**Michael Ogletree**, Air Quality Program Manager,



Denver Department of Public Health and Environment  
**Nina Roumell**, Development and Communications Officer, The GrowHaus  
**Sandra Ruiz-Parrilla**, Elyria-Swansea Activist and Parent  
**Stacia Sellers**, Central 70 Communication Manager, Colorado Department of Transportation  
**Michael Wenstrom**, Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Justice Program, Region 8, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Image courtesy of Kimberly Fraser

#### Tour 9. Wildlife Restoration on the Prairies:

##### Ferreting Out a Solution

(9:00 a.m. departure, \$45 fee, lunch included)

In 1981, a small population of black-footed ferrets, which scientists had believed were extinct, was discovered on a Wyoming ranch. Biologists captured 24 of the secretive mammals and brought them into captivity, reasoning that captive breeding was the species' only hope of survival. Today, hundreds of black-footed ferrets, a keystone species, call the Great Plains home — all descendants of that Wyoming population. On this field trip, we'll visit the Soapstone Prairie, a site where ferrets have been successfully re-introduced into the wild and where bison — another iconic plains species — have seen a resurgence of their own. A genetically pure herd of "Yellowstone" bison, also created through captive breeding, was released at Soapstone in 2015. We'll tour the bison enclosure and hear from experts about the challenges — disease, genetics, habitat — that scientists faced in their efforts to restore both species. In the afternoon, half of the group will stay at Soapstone for a hike, which will feature an 11,000-year-old archaeological site and plenty of opportunities to spot pronghorn antelope. The other half will tour the nearby Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center, which is run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and houses two-thirds of the world's captive black-footed ferrets. The ferret center tour is capped at 24. Sign up online for the center or the hike. **Total drive time: 2 hours.**

##### Tour Leaders:

**Katie Langin**, Associate Editor, *Science Magazine*  
**Hillary Rosner**, Freelance Journalist

##### Speakers:

**Jennifer Barfield**, Special Assistant Professor, Animal Reproduction, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University  
**Dean Biggins**, Research Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey  
**Kimberly Fraser**, Outreach Specialist, National Black Footed Ferret Conservation Center, Region 6, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
**Jason LaBelle**, Associate Professor of Archeology, and Director, Center for Mountain and Plains Archaeology, Department of Anthropology and Geography, Colorado State University  
**Sarah Reed**, Director of Applied Conservation Science, Americas Program, Wildlife Conservation Society and Faculty Affiliate, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, Colorado State University  
**Kate Wilkins**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Ecology, Colorado State University



Image courtesy of CSU

#### Tour 10. The Seed and Semen Bank

(1:00 p.m. departure, no fee, no lunch)

**This tour is free. We'll gather near the SEJ registration desk at the Lory Student Center before 1:00 p.m. and walk over to the Lab. Space is limited so register early!**

#### Protecting Our Food From Climatic and Other Catastrophes: Inside North America's Biggest Repository of Seeds and Animal Germplasm

The converging forces of climate change and corporate consolidation are presenting unprecedented threats to the Earth's ability to grow food. We'll take an exclusive tour through a facility at the front lines of ensuring our ability to respond to these pressures — the USDA's National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation, on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Here, just minutes from the SEJ conference hub in the Lory Student Center, is the oldest and largest repository of plant and animal DNA — aka, more than a million seed samples, and the germplasm and semen of beef and dairy cattle, chickens, turkeys and other commercial animals. This material is considered

critical to enabling the food system to respond as conditions shift dramatically in this country and around the world.

We'll take an exclusive tour of the facility guided by top scientists working with plant and animal genetics as the institution tries to address the accelerating pace of environmental change.

The tour will take roughly 2 1/2-3 hours, with stops at the the Lab responsible for tracking and storing germplasm for our nation's beef, pork, chicken, turkey and other commercial animal industries; the lab where seed varieties are analyzed for their genetic composition and potential to address ongoing climatic, disease and pest pressures; and a tour through the cold vault containing more than a million samples of seeds and animal germplasm. Each will be introduced by the scientists overseeing different aspects of the work. Afterward, all scientists involved will be available for a more formal Q and A (questions are also welcome during the tour). **Total tour time: 4 hours.**

Among those we will encounter on the tour include: **Dr. Christina Walters**, a plant physiologist and supervisor at the facility; **Dr. Gayle Volk**, an expert on seed preservation; **Dr. Colin Khoury**, an expert on genetic centers of origin; **Dr. Harvey Blackburn**, an animal geneticist; and **Dr. Cliff Richards**, a population geneticist.

**Note: This is a highly secure government facility; registration includes required email and phone contact information. At the lab, security requires a photo ID and signature upon check in. No purses, backpacks or heavy coats are permitted in the building.**

##### Tour Leader:

**Mark Schapiro**, Author, "Seeds of Resistance: The Fight to Save Our Food Supply," and Lecturer, Graduate School of Journalism, University of California Berkeley

#### Bookstore

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center**

CSU's bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference. Stop by for book signings from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

#### Independent Hospitality Receptions and Exhibits

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center**

Now a popular SEJ tradition, this is the conference's best networking opportunity. After spending the day in the field, meet with hosts of multiple receptions. They'll have experts on hand as well as displays, materials and, of course, great food and drink. Mingle with our exhibitors and build your source list.

#### Open Screen

8:30 - 10:00 p.m.

**Longs Peak Room, CSU's Lory Student Center**

Calling all photo and video journalists! The SEJ open screen is a show-and-tell for our visual crafts. Come hang out with us after you peruse our exhibit hall and partake of the independent receptions. It's an opportunity to discuss the craft, joys and challenges of covering environmental topics through a lens. We'll draw names from a hat to decide the order. Presentations are limited to ten minutes to ensure everyone has a chance to share. It will be informal and fun! **To sign up, contact Kevin Beaty at [kevinjbeaty@gmail.com](mailto:kevinjbeaty@gmail.com)**

##### Emcee:

**Kevin Beaty**, Multimedia Reporter, *Denverite* and SEJ Conference Associate



# Friday, October 11, 2019

## Registration

**7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom Lobby, CSU's Lory Student Center**  
 Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Saturday evening party at New Belgium Brewing or Sunday breakfast program at the Denver Botanic Gardens, there might still be room. **Check with registration and sign up there.**

## SEJ Information Table

**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom Lobby, CSU's Lory Student Center**  
**Sign up here for Friday beat dinners and Saturday mini-tours.** Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

## Exhibits

**7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center**  
 Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2019 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, journalism fellowships, see some great displays and add to your source list.

## Bookstore

**8:00 a.m. - Noon**  
**Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center**  
 CSU's bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

## Breakfast

**7:00 - 8:45 a.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center**  
 Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:00 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom. Grab your food and grab a table or mingle with exhibitors or bring your breakfast to Room 322 if you're attending the speed mentoring session.

## Breakfast Program

**Speed Mentoring**  
**7:30 - 8:45 a.m.**  
**Room 322, CSU's Lory Student Center**  
 Want to improve your writing? Land a plum assignment? Find a new job? Preview SEJ's year-long Mentoring Program in one hot hour. Questions

about any aspect of journalism are fair game at this "progressive breakfast," where newcomers to the beat can pick the brains of experienced SEJers. Participants will meet one-on-one with mentors representing print, broadcast and online media. They will rotate to get a taste of all genres and maximize the early morning expertise. If you've not preregistered, it's still open at [sej.org](http://sej.org) on the online agenda, though walk-ins might also be accommodated.

### Facilitators:

**Jane Braxton Little**, Independent Journalist and Co-Coordinator of SEJ's Mentor Program  
**Dawn Stover**, Independent Journalist and Co-Coordinator of SEJ's Mentor Program

## SEJ Student Newsroom

**8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**  
**Room 376-378, CSU's Lory Student Center**  
 See description on [Wednesday, page 8](#)

### Facilitator:

**Joseph Champ**, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Media Communication, Colorado State University

Image courtesy of Krista Langlois



# OPENING PLENARY

## Public Lands at a Crossroads

and Q&A With DOI Secretary Bernhardt

**9:00 - 10:45 a.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center**

The U.S. has a long and storied history of land conservation, which has created a network of public lands now managed in different ways. Since Europeans arrived, these lands have been fought over between those looking to preserve them and those hoping to open them up to development. These public lands now face threats from climate change, including drought and wildfire, along with budget and staff cuts. Recreational impacts, along with drilling and mining, are on the rise. Tribal officials are demanding a greater voice in federal decision-making, and Trump administration officials are scaling back regulations. What does the future hold for America's public lands?

Prior to the plenary, we'll hear from Interior Secretary **David Bernhardt** about the state of our public lands, in a Q and A with **Juliet Eilperin**, senior national affairs correspondent for *The Washington Post*. He will also take questions from journalists in the audience.

### Moderator:

**Juliet Eilperin**, Senior National Affairs Correspondent, *The Washington Post*

### Speakers:

**Whit Fosburgh**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
**John Freemuth**, BoiseState/Andrus  
**Dina Gilio-Whitaker**, Consultant, Environmental Justice Education and Policy Planning, DGW Consulting; and Lecturer, American Indian Studies, California State University San Marcos

**Shea Loper**, Director of Government Relations, Encana Corporation

## Beverage Break

**10:45 - 11:15 a.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center**  
 Sponsored by Earthjustice.

## Concurrent Sessions 1

**11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**



Image courtesy of Pixabay

**THE CRAFT 1: Telling Environmental Stories in Sound**  
**Room 382, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

**AMBI EXPLOSION**  
 We're in a podcasting boom. It seems like everybody with a mic and a laptop is making a show.  
**AMBI SHOES CRUNCHING ON SNOW**  
 But how do you stand out in this burgeoning space? How do you think about the environment as audio? And what might this add to your reporting?  
**AMBI BIRDS CHIRPING**  
 Whether you're a print reporter looking to explore something new or a seasoned audio professional, this workshop will help you harness the power of this unique medium to engage your audience in new ways.

**FADE BIRDS**

### Presenters:

**Amy Martin**, Founder and Executive Producer, Threshold  
**Nick Mott**, Producer, Threshold



## CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Image courtesy of Pixabay



**THE CRAFT 2: Storyteller to Mediator —  
A New Path for Solutions-Focused Journalists?**  
Room 386, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center

At a variety of institutions aiming to foster progress on tough issues, a shift is underway from telling a convincing story to shaping a better conversation. Should media follow suit? The idea: Rather than report on a meeting, hold the meeting — and another, and another, fostering trust and crosstalk and generating stories. This brainstorming Craft Session features practitioners from the “Your Voice Ohio” newsroom and “Rural Climate Dialogues” project, along with the U.S. Geological Survey’s John Wesley Powell Center — where scientists are led through mediations aimed at breaking deadlocks on research frontiers. The discussion will include insights from the Solutions Journalism Network and be led by Andy Revkin, who’s building a new initiative on communication and sustainability at Columbia University’s Earth Institute.

**Moderator:**  
**Andrew Revkin**, Founding Director, Initiative on Communication and Sustainability, The Earth Institute, Columbia University

**Speakers:**  
**Jill Baron**, Research Ecologist, Founder and Co-director, John Wesley Powell Center for Analysis and Synthesis, U.S. Geological Survey and Senior Research Ecologist, Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, Colorado State University  
**Samantha McCann**, Vice President of Journalist Practice Change, Solutions Journalism Network  
**Camille Morse Nicholson**, Program Manager, Rural Climate Dialogues, Jefferson Center  
**Andrew Rockway**, Jefferson Center / Your Voice Ohio



Image courtesy of Mark Christal

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:  
Covering Indian Country and Tribal Affairs**  
Room 302 (Longs Peak), 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center

Experienced reporters will share practical tips on how to cover Indigenous communities and produce culturally competent, high-impact work. From picking stories to maintaining relationships with communities, this panel will be ideal for newsrooms looking to cover tribal affairs effectively.

**Moderator:**  
**Jodi Rave Spotted Bear**, Founder and Executive Director, Indigenous Media Freedom Alliance  
**Speakers:**  
**Alastair Bitsóí**, Communications Director, Utah Diné Bikéyah  
**Kalen Goodluck**, Journalist and Photographer  
**Anna Smith**, Assistant Editor, *High Country News*

# Introducing the co-op's new magazine

AVAILABLE AT REI STORES AND SELECT NEWSSTANDS NATIONWIDE.

The co-op's new quarterly magazine, *Uncommon Path*, chronicles the experiences, events and ideas that shape the relationship between people and life outside.

REI is a proud sponsor of the Society of Environmental Journalists and we invite journalists to contribute to our work.

Please contact us at [REI.com/stories](http://REI.com/stories) and explore our online content at [REI.com/journal](http://REI.com/journal).





CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Image courtesy of Pixabay



ENERGY AND CLIMATE:

**Roadblocks to Renewables: Obstacles on the Road to a (Really) Low-Carbon Future**

**Room 300, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

What are the real-world impediments that stand in the way of accelerating the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy systems? As many low-carbon energy sources have become cost-competitive or even cheaper than traditional fossil fuels, especially for electricity production, other roadblocks stand in the way of catapulting energy production towards a truly renewable and sustainable future. Do the problems stem from technology limitations? Political intransigence? Poor planning? Failures of imagination? Bad bets by hedge funds? All of the above?

**Moderator:**

**Daniel Glick**, Co-Founder, The Story Group

**Speakers:**

**Jonathan Adelman**, Area Vice President, Strategic Resource and Business Planning, Xcel Energy

**Anne Hoskins**, Chief Policy Officer, Sunrun

**Richard Martin**, Senior Editor for Energy, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Image courtesy of Dennis Dimick



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:

**Beyond Conventional vs. Organic: Can Conventional and Organic Agriculture Find Common Ground?**

**Room 304-306, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

Conventional and organic farming are often pitted against each other, with loopholes in livestock regulations hobbling organic dairy farmers and heavy reliance on drift-prone pesticides threatening organic farmers' certification along with the pollinators that sustain their crops. But conventional farmers and researchers are increasingly embracing sustainable practices. This panel will look at the intersection of organic and conventional agriculture, how practices that have been at the core of organic agriculture (building soil carbon, rotating crops to reduce chemical inputs, grazing for grassland health) can be incorporated into conventional agriculture.

**Moderator:**

**Liza Gross**, Author, "The Science Writers' Investigative Reporting Handbook," and Reporter, Food & Environment Reporting Network

**Speakers:**

**Dave Carter**, Executive Director, National Bison Association, and former Member, National Organic Standards Board

**Sam Fromartz**, Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Food & Environment Reporting Network, and Author, "Organic Inc.: Natural Foods and How They Grew"

**Jessica Shade**, Director, Science Programs, The Organic Center

CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Image courtesy of Krista Langlois



WATER AND SNOW:

**Covering Outdoor Recreation**

**Room 308-310, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

Colorado is an epicenter of outdoor culture. Running, hiking, biking, camping, skiing, fishing. You've got it all. But there are already concerns here — and around the world — about overtourism, overuse and equitable access to outdoor opportunities in what has traditionally been a very white space. And, whether it's melting snow or extreme heats, climate change is set to further shift how we recreate. From athlete and diversity voices, to the impacts of the climate crisis, this panel will explore how we, as journalists, can best cover such an evolving industry.

**Moderator:**

**Tik Root**, Freelance Journalist

**Speakers:**

**Jude Bayham**, Assistant Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics, College of Agricultural Sciences, Colorado State University

**Lindsay Bourgoine**, Director, Policy and Advocacy, Protect Our Winters

**Brian Calvert**, Editor-in-Chief, *High Country News*  
**Tinelle "Tin" Louis**, Co-Founder, Black Girls Hike Global

Image courtesy of Pixabay



LAND AND CONSERVATION:

**What Will It Take To End Extinction?**

**Room 312, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

Can international environmental conservation grow to include the private sector and fields like economics, engineering, design, behavioral decision-making and anthropology? The answer depends on who is in the room. Some say the field of conservation is ready for a disruption. It was based on saving species through parks and preserves. Many of the underlying drivers of extinction are from humans, and species in protected areas and beyond are declining at alarming rates. Between 1970 and 2012, populations of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles dropped by 58 percent. Current rates of species extinction are 100 to 1000 times higher than before humans had a prominent role in extinction. How can synthetic biology, understanding and sustaining biodiversity in urban systems, bringing the wild back into farmlands and protecting migration corridors save species from collapse? This wide-ranging discussion will address the latest advances in international conservation, from Agriculture to Zoology, while providing examples from research and the field.

**Moderator:**

**Lisa Palmer**, Freelance Journalist

**Speakers:**

**Alex Dehgan**, Chief Executive Officer, Conservation X Labs, and Author, "The Snow Leopard Project: And Other Adventures in Warzone Conservation"

**Liba Pejchar**, Associate Professor and Conservation Scientist, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, Colorado State University  
3rd Speaker TBA



CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED  
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Image courtesy of Andrea Germano



**NATION AND GLOBE: Future of the EPA**  
**Room 322, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**  
Fewer employees. Regulatory rollbacks. Funding cuts. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been weakened even as it faces enormous challenges posed by climate change, emerging pollution sources and other threats. We take a look at what it would take to rebuild the agency to meet those challenges as well as how the agency might look and function in the decades to come.

**Moderator:**  
**Tammy Webber**, Reporter, The Associated Press  
**Speakers:**  
**Kerrigan Clough**, Environmental Consultant, and former Deputy Administrator, Region 8, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
**Judith Enck**, Visiting Professor, Bennington College, Founder of Beyond Plastics and former EPA Regional Administrator  
**Ruth Greenspan Bell**, Public Policy Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and formerly of Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
**David Uhlmann**, Jeffrey F. Liss Professor from Practice and Director, Environmental Law and Policy Program, The University of Michigan Law School



Image courtesy of Robert Murray

**LUNCHEON PLENARY**  
**Elections 2020:**  
**Environment and Climate on the Campaign Trail**  
**12:30 - 2:15 p.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center**

The 2020 election will offer a stark choice and contrast on U.S. environmental and energy policy. Through his first term, President Trump has withdrawn our country from the Paris Climate Agreement, accelerated oil and gas drilling offshore and on public lands, tried to revive coal mining and power production, and slammed wind and solar energy as unreliable. Meanwhile, Democratic Party presidential candidates are competing to be the environmental contender in 2020. That includes more than a half-dozen who have already expressed support for the Green New Deal, the massive reform initiative that calls for a "10-year national mobilization" to transition the country to a 100-percent renewable-energy, zero-emissions economy. This plenary will bring together politicians and campaign advisors to discuss the Green New Deal and what national environmental policy will look like beyond 2020, under either a Republican or Democratic president.

**Opening Remarks:**  
**Jared Polis**, Governor of Colorado  
**Moderator:**  
**Lisa Friedman**, Reporter, Climate Desk, *The New York Times*  
**Speakers:**  
**Guido Girgenti**, Founding Board Member and Communications Advisor, Sunrise Movement  
**Joseph Pinion**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer,

Pinion Enterprises Inc., and Chairman, A Better Us Inc.  
**Heather Zichal**, Executive Director, Blue Prosperity Coalition, and former Senior Climate Advisor for President Obama  
Additional speakers TBA

**Concurrent Sessions 2**  
**2:15 - 3:30 p.m.**

Image courtesy of Pixabay



**THE CRAFT 1: Seeing Environmentally**  
**Room 382, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**  
This session will focus on the process behind creating visual journalism on environmental issues. Panelists will show and discuss projects that illustrate where ideas come from, research and planning strategies, and approaches to visualization. The goal is to offer insight to improve quality and depth of visual environmental journalism. Three visual professionals in magazine and newspaper journalism and filmmaking will participate, with moderation by a veteran visual environmental journalist. Plenty of time will be set aside for discussion and questions.  
**Moderator:**  
**Dennis Dimick**, Co-Founder, Eyes On Earth, and former Environment Editor, *National Geographic*  
**Speakers:**  
**Peter Essick**, Photographer and Author  
**Morgan Heim**, Senior Fellow, International League of Conservation Photographers  
**Helen Richardson**, Photojournalist, *The Denver Post*



Image courtesy of Chase Gunter

**THE CRAFT 2: Freedom of Information in an Era of Decreasing Transparency**  
**Room 386, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**  
With government agencies increasingly prohibiting their staff from talking to reporters, how can the press find out what the public needs and has a right to know? In this session, we'll talk about the uses and abuses of the Freedom of Information Act and share tips on how to work around recalcitrant PIOs. We'll also hear about a new initiative of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press to provide legal help to local or regional news organizations and journalists to pursue enterprise and investigative journalism.  
**Moderator:**  
**Tim Wheeler**, Associate Editor and Senior Writer, (Chesapeake) *Bay Journal*, and Chair, Freedom of Information Task Force, Society of Environmental Journalists  
**Speakers:**  
**Adam Marshall**, Knight Foundation Litigation Attorney, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press  
**Jimmy Tobias**, Independent Reporter, *The Nation*, *The Guardian*, *Pacific Standard*  
**Tim Whitehouse**, Executive Director, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility





#### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

**True West, True Stories: Why a Rainbow of Voices Is Missing From Our Public Lands Coverage and How Redirecting Our Attention Will Mean Smarter Stories**  
**Room 302 (Longs Peak), 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

People of diverse genders, sexual orientations and races have long called the West home — Indigenous people longer than anyone. But media coverage continues to view the landscape through a lens focused on white settlers and the hyper-masculine — think cowboys and roughnecks. Panelists will explore how misogyny, patriarchy, heteronormativity and racism mean so many voices are still neglected because of structural forces in our society. The panel offers ideas about how environmental journalists can make their stories on public lands more relevant and more authentic by being more inclusive.

#### Moderator:

**Judy Fahys**, News Reporter, InsideClimate News

#### Speakers:

**Michael Estrada**, Founder, Photojournalist, BEEN Media

**Bobby Magill**, Reporter, Bloomberg Environment, and SEJ Board President

**Jodi Rave Spotted Bear**, Founder and Executive Director, Indigenous Media Freedom Alliance

**Anna Smith**, Assistant Editor, *High Country News*



**ENERGY AND CLIMATE: Can States, Cities and Companies Fill the Leadership Void on Climate Change?**  
**Room 300, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

As the Trump administration continues to dismantle strides made to fight the climate crisis, some states, cities and even corporations are not waiting for federal leadership anymore. We've assembled a panel of experts representing top national success stories who will speak directly to the accelerating efforts from the "bottom up" climate fight. This is a topic that can be applied to any news market for journalists attending this panel. Don't miss it.

#### Moderator:

**Jeff Burnside**, Independent Journalist

#### Speakers:

**Maia Bellon**, Director, Department of Ecology, State of Washington

**Lindsay Ex**, Climate Program Manager, City of Fort Collins

**David Rossini**, Vice President, Public Interest Network

# What do you call 700+ environmental journalists in a room?

## One giant army of voices to advance the climate fight!



EDF is driving a new wave of environmental innovation that empowers people to take action like never before — but we need your help. Together, we can:

- Move America to a 100% Clean economy while protecting communities and the environment from pollution.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions with innovative solutions involving AI, sensors and a new, cutting-edge satellite.
- Build resilient land and water systems across the U.S. to allow people and nature to thrive in a changing climate.

**Visit Booth T4** to enjoy two fantastic VR experiences, meet our experts and learn more about how Environmental Defense Fund is driving smart, pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environmental challenges.



**EDF.org**



CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 2:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Image courtesy of David Layde



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: Can Green Be Clean? The Environmental Impacts of Legal Cannabis**  
**Room 304-306, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

As the first state to legalize cannabis, Colorado has learned a *lot* about cannabis’ environmental impacts — on water and lands, its electricity use and carbon emissions, and the consequences of waste and pollution. Today, the state is leading the way to make cannabis production more sustainable, from cultivation to disposal. Hear from an industry-leading small business owner, the lead environmental cannabis consultant at the state level and a cannabis journalist about the evolution and future of cannabis’ environmental impacts in Colorado and beyond.

- Moderator:**  
**Kelsey Simpkins**, Freelance Journalist and Digital and Engagement Editor, Future Earth (Colorado)
- Speakers:**  
**Amy Andrie**, Founder/Owner, L’Eagle Services | L’eela CBD BodyCare  
**Bruce Barcott**, Senior Editor, Leafly, and Author, “Weed the People: The Future of Legal Marijuana in America”  
**Kaitlin Urso**, Environmental Consultant, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Image courtesy of David Morgan



**WATER AND SNOW: Water Rights, Water Justice?**  
**Room 308-310, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

Access to clean water is a human right. And yet, access to clean water — not to mention water rights and sustainable sources of water for farming and small communities — is oftentimes limited for some communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities. Even in the western United States, where water rights are based on prior appropriation — first in time, first in line — and tribes have the oldest water rights, legal mechanisms and financial restraints keep them from accessing the water they own.

- Moderator:**  
**Laura Paskus**, Correspondent and Producer, New Mexico PBS
- Speakers:**  
**Autumn Bernhardt**, Attorney and Instructor, Department of Anthropology and Geography, Colorado State University  
**Eric Perramond**, KECK Director, Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies, and Professor, Environmental Science and Southwest Studies, Colorado College  
**Naveena Sadasivam**, Staff Writer, Grist

CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 2:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Image courtesy of Pixabay



**LAND AND CONSERVATION: Who Let the Bugs (Die) Out?**  
**Room 312, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

The world is experiencing an “insect apocalypse” — at least according to some researchers. Recent studies have shown large declines in insect biomass in places such as Germany and Puerto Rico. Other investigators say there isn’t enough data yet to declare an Armageddon. Regardless, everyone agrees more data is needed — scientists have identified 1 million bugs but there could be 30 times that on Earth — so conservationists can prioritize what to protect. During this session, we’ll talk about both the importance of insects to life around the globe as well as some of the threats that six-legged creatures face from human interference and what can be done about it.

- Moderator:**  
**Nancy Averett**, Independent Journalist
- Speakers:**  
**Deane Bowers**, Professor, Museum Curator of Entomology, and Department Chair of Ecology and Environmental Biology, University of Colorado Boulder  
**Chris Funk**, Professor, Department of Biology, and Director, Global Biodiversity Center, School of Global Environmental Sustainability, Colorado State University  
**Robbie Hart**, Assistant Curator, William L. Brown Center, Missouri Botanical Garden  
**Jessica Rykken**, Entomologist, Denali National Park and Preserve

Image courtesy of Pixabay



**NATION AND GLOBE: Air Pollution and Health: Covering an Invisible Killer**  
**Room 322, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

Despite decades of improvement, air pollution still cuts short more than 100,000 American lives every year — more than guns, more than car accidents, more than the flu. We’ll look at the impact and causes of this often under-covered menace, talking science, health and policy. Panelists will explore how dirty air intersects with racial disparities, economic inequality and climate change. You’ll hear how residents of Colorado’s most polluted neighborhood experience the effects of their dirty air, what’s really in the wildfire smoke that regularly engulfs western cities and how regulatory rollbacks may further affect air quality and public health.

- Moderator:**  
**Beth Gardiner**, Journalist and Author, “Choked: Life and Breath in the Age of Air Pollution”
- Speakers:**  
**Emily Fischer**, Assistant Professor, Department of Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University  
**Vickie Patton**, General Counsel, Environmental Defense Fund  
**Sandra Ruiz-Parrilla**, Activist, Globeville Elyria-Swansea Coalition, Denver

**Membership Meeting, Volunteer Sign-Up and Networking Happy Hour**  
**3:45 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom, CSU’s Lory Student Center**

All are invited to join the SEJ Board of Directors for the Annual Membership Meeting, which will include annual election for open board seats and brief reports from the board and staff. After the polls close, we’ll break into small roundtables for a networking happy hour, with lively discussions of hot topics and future plans for SEJ. Grab a drink at the cash bar and share your thoughts with SEJ volunteers and staff — and learn how you can volunteer to help lead SEJ into its next 30 years. **Non-members are welcome.**



Beat Dinners 201  
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Consult Whova app and the web agenda for details and to sign up online. Check with the SEJ Information Table for assistance and open slots.

The Fort Collins food and drink scene includes a remarkable mix of locally sourced favorites and world-renowned breweries. We'll have a mix of private rooms and smaller gatherings to choose from.

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Registration  
7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom Lobby, CSU's Lory Student Center

Pick up your badge and conference materials here. If you didn't sign up for the Saturday evening party at New Belgium Brewing or Sunday breakfast program at the Denver Botanic Gardens, there might still be room. Check with registration and sign up there.

SEJ Information Table  
8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom Lobby, CSU's Lory Student Center

Sign up here for Saturday mini-tours. Read up on Board candidates, find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services.

Exhibits  
7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2019 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, journalism fellowships, see some great displays and add to your source list.

Bookstore  
11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center

CSU's bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

Breakfast  
7:00 - 8:45 a.m.  
Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center

Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:00 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom. Grab your food and grab a table or mingle with exhibitors or bring it to Room 322 if you're attending the public lands reporting pitch slam.

Breakfast Breakout Session  
Pitch Slam and FEJ Proposal Coaching: U.S. Public Lands  
7:30 - 8:45 a.m.  
Room 322, CSU's Lory Student Center

SEJ's Fund for Environmental Journalism will award grants up to \$5,000 in January 2020 for story projects covering U.S. public lands. Share your ideas with our panel of judges, and get feedback and tips to strengthen your proposal for FEJ Winter Competition.

Deadline for the story grant proposals is November 15. Note: This session will not be recorded. Story grants made possible by The Wilderness Society and other foundation and individual donors to FEJ.

SEJ Student Newsroom  
8:00 am - 3:30 pm  
Room 376-378, CSU's Lory Student Center

See description on Wednesday, page 8

Facilitator:  
Joseph Champ, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Media Communication, Colorado State University

Student Newsroom Session  
The Importance of Narrative in Environmental (or Any!) Journalism  
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
Room 376-378, CSU's Lory Student Center

Storytelling is in our DNA. Since the beginning of time, human beings have been energized by narratives that affect us on deep intellectual and emotional levels. In this informative, thought-provoking seminar, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, published novelist and special assistant professor in CSU's Department of Journalism and Media Communication will serve as a guide to unlocking the mysteries of persuasive and engaging narrative storytelling. It is the story that prompts us to pay closer attention and care about the data itself — the very ambition of all good environmental reporting and writing.

Speaker:  
David Freed, Special Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Media Communication, Colorado State University

STUDENTS ONLY. Snacks and soft drinks provided. Must be registered for the conference to attend. If you are interested in finding out more about how to participate at the SEJ Student Newsroom and related events, please contact Dr. Joe Champ, Department of Journalism and Media Communication, Colorado State University at joseph.champ@colostate.edu.

Concurrent Sessions 3  
9:00 - 10:15 a.m.



Image courtesy of Mahya News

THE CRAFT 1: Reinventing the News Business:  
The Promises and Perils of News Startups  
Room 382, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center

Since 2014, layoffs and shut-downs across cable TV, newspapers large and small, and even digital news darlings like VICE, BuzzFeed and HuffPost, have put nearly 10,000 people out of salaried news jobs. It's clear that the business of news desperately needs re-invention, and the entrepreneurs on this panel are in the vanguard of figuring out how. Join us for this up-to-the-minute discussion on the ups and downs of starting up new news ventures (for- and non-profit), finding funding, generating revenues, managing the unexpected editorial challenges that new business models often create and more.

Moderator:  
Emily Gertz, Journalist and Entrepreneur  
Speakers:  
Lyndsey Gilpin, Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Southerly  
Tina Griego, Managing Editor, Colorado Independent  
Robert McClure, Co-Founder and Executive Director, InvestigateWest



Image courtesy of Pixabay



**THE CRAFT 2: Disaster Coverage Beyond Parachuting**  
**Room 386, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

The past few years have seen increasingly devastating natural disasters, from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico to Camp Fire in California. But as the events pile up, and the news cycle moves on, it may be challenging to find creative and meaningful ways to cover the lasting impact of disasters. This panel discussion will focus on how to tell compelling stories long after the fires and floods have gone, how to document the lasting physical and mental impacts, and creative ways to investigate response and relief efforts.

- Moderator:**  
**Kyla Mandel**, Editor, Climate Team, ThinkProgress
- Speakers:**  
**Jolie Breeden**, Lead Editor and Science Communicator, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder  
**Ana Campoy**, Nieman Fellow, Harvard University  
**Mark Schleifstein**, Environment Reporter, *The Times-Picayune* / *The New Orleans Advocate*

Image courtesy of Pixabay



**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:**  
**Invisible Pollution, Invisible People: Covering Controversial Hormone-Mimicking Chemicals**  
**Room 302 (Longs Peak), 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

Scientists keep warning us, common chemicals we're all exposed to — in food, cosmetics, hygiene products, furniture — are altering our hormones and spurring diseases. Much like visible pollution, exposures are disproportionately harming vulnerable communities. So why do US regulators say there's nothing to worry about? Get a primer on this terrifying class of chemicals and the scientific controversy around them. Go home prepared to report on this grand experiment taking place on all of our hormones and health.

- Moderator:**  
**Brian Bienkowski**, Senior Editor, Environmental Health News
- Speakers:**  
**Patricia Hunt**, Meyer Distinguished Professor, School of Molecular Biosciences, Washington State University  
**Tamarra James-Todd**, Mark and Catherine Winkler Assistant Professor of Environmental & Reproductive Perinatal Epidemiology, Departments of Environmental Health and Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
**Lynne Peebles**, Freelance Science Journalist  
**Johanna Rochester**, Lead Technical Analyst, ICF International Inc.

Image courtesy of Pixabay

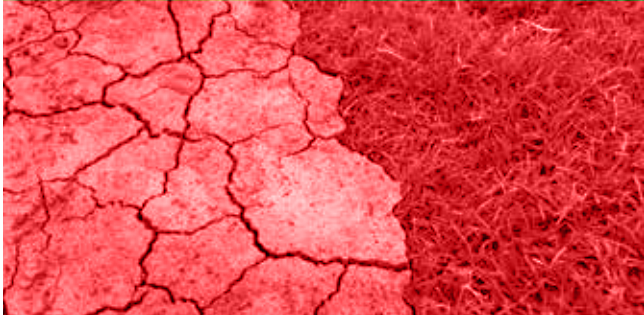


**ENERGY AND CLIMATE: Coal in Transition: What the Industry's Decline Means for Coal Communities**  
**Room 300, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

President Trump ran on a pledge to revive the coal industry, but the decline has only accelerated. 2018 was one of the biggest years for coal plant retirements in U.S. history. Three major mining firms are in bankruptcy. In Wyoming and West Virginia, hundreds of workers were left suddenly without jobs when their company filed for bankruptcy protection. Panelists will explore the reason for the industry's decline and what it means for coal communities. How much longer can coal continue to underpin the economy in places like western Colorado, Wyoming and West Virginia? Can renewable jobs replace coal jobs? What role can states and the federal government play in aiding the transition?

- Moderator:**  
**Ben Storrow**, Reporter, E&E News
- Speakers:**  
**Joe Aldina**, Director, Global Coal Market Research, S&P Global Platts  
**Robert Godby**, Associate Professor, College of Business Department of Economics and Finance, and Director, Energy Economics & Public Policies Center, University of Wyoming  
**Erin Overturf**, Deputy Director, Clean Energy Program, Western Resource Advocates  
**Suzanne Tegen**, Assistant Director, Center for New Energy Economy, Colorado State University

Image courtesy of Pixabay



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:**  
**Soils and Earth and Greenhouse Gases**  
**Room 304-306, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

Scientists, activists and even politicians are increasingly calling attention to the connection of soils and greenhouse gas sequestration and emissions. Undisturbed soils are typically richest in carbon, underscoring the importance of conservation. Moreover, specialists point out that increasing the health of soils, including with amendments like biochar and managing crops for sequestering carbon, could play a significant role in local, national and even global mitigation schemes. At the same time, scientists are greatly concerned that warming temperatures in the northern biome would cause methane and carbon release from permafrost and peatlands, significantly compounding ghg emissions. We will discuss the latest science, policy and opportunities that focus on the connections of soils, conservation and ghg sequestration and emissions.

- Moderator:**  
**Rich Blaustein**, Freelance Science, Environmental and Legal Journalist
- Speakers:**  
**John Field**, Research Scientist, Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, Colorado State University  
**Keith Paustian**, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, and Senior Research Scientist, Natural Resource Ecology Lab, Colorado State University  
**Kevin Schaefer**, Research Scientist III and Lead Scientist for NSIDC Science Team, National Snow and Ice Data Center  
**Diana Wall**, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Biology; Senior Research Scientist, Natural Resource Ecology Lab; and Director, School of Global Environmental Sustainability, Colorado State University





Image courtesy of Pixabay

**WATER AND SNOW:**  
**Western Water: The Push for More Storage in Headwaters**  
**Room 308-310, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

Colorado’s population growth and development boom, combined with increased variability in water flows linked to climate change, is driving new efforts to build reservoirs and increase water storage. This is happening as competition increases for water across the Colorado River Basin in the West — the over-allocated supply for 40 million people. Panelists will explore key questions around the environmental impact of diverting water and storing it behind dams. Can relatively free-flowing rivers survive? How are westerners in Colorado responding to climate change impacts on water flows? What are the implications beyond the river headwaters state of Colorado? How far can we go with water conservation inside cities? Will agriculture survive?

**Moderator:**  
**Bruce Finley**, Staff Writer, *The Denver Post*

**Speakers:**  
**John Fielder**, Landscape Photographer, Conservationist and Rivers Advocate  
**Matt Rice**, Director, Colorado River Basin Program, American Rivers  
**Brad Udall**, Senior Scientist/Scholar, Colorado State University  
**Reagan Waskom**, Director, Colorado Water Center, Colorado State University  
**Brad Wind**, General Manager, Northern Water

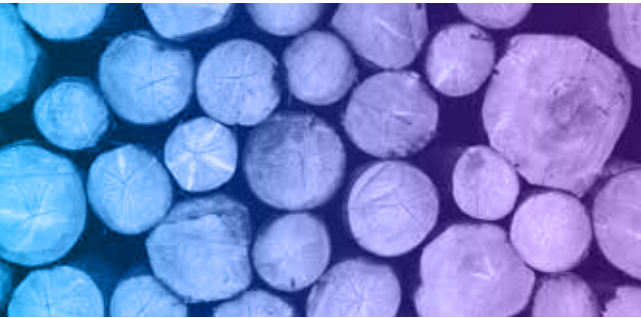


Image courtesy of Pixabay

**LAND AND CONSERVATION:**  
**The Wildfire Crisis: Can We Log (or Graze, Thin, Burn, Zone or Rake) Our Way Out of This?**  
**Room 312, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

After each fire season in which the destruction and death tolls of catastrophic wildfires increase, news media hear of various simple fixes to reduce the combustibility of increasingly flammable forests and wildlands. Most of those easy solutions prove ineffective at slowing the increasing size and destructiveness of wildfires and some of them, when inappropriately implemented, have actually increased the damage done by wildland fires or had other, unintended negative consequences. What techniques work to reduce the losses of life and property to wildfires? Which ones are overrated or misused? What is effective at minimizing the impacts of wildfires on our health, climate and natural resources?

**Moderator:**  
**Michael Kodas**, Freelance Reporter, Photojournalist, Educator and Author, “Megafire: The Race to Extinguish a Deadly Epidemic of Flame” and “High Crimes: The Fate of Everest in an Age of Greed”

**Speakers:**  
**Tony Cheng**, Professor, Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship, and Director, Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, Colorado State University  
**Chela Garcia**, Director of Conservation Programs, Hispanic Access Foundation  
**Rod Moraga**, Fire Behavior Analyst, Prescribed Burning Trainer and Chief Executive Officer, Anchor Point Group LLC  
**George Wuerthner**, Ecologist and Author/Editor, “Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy”



Image courtesy of Pixabay

**NATION AND GLOBE:**  
**Market-Based Mechanisms: The Good, the Bad and the Details**  
**Room 322, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

Can the market save the environment? Whether we’re talking about climate, water or food, the debate over market-based incentives versus government regulation rages on — and the only thing we all can agree on is that the devil is in the details. Join speakers on both sides of this debate and hear about the latest research on this tricky topic.

**Moderator:**  
**Gloria Gonzalez**, Managing Editor, Energy and Environment, Industry Dive

**Speakers:**  
**Craig Ebert**, President, Climate Action Reserve  
**Scott Edwards**, Legal Director, Food & Water Watch  
**Toby Janson-Smith**, Chief Innovation Officer, Verra  
**Maggie Monast**, Senior Manager, Economic Incentives – Agricultural Sustainability, Environmental Defense Fund

**Beverage Break**  
**10:15 am - 10:45 am**  
**Grand Ballroom, CSU’s Lory Student Center**  
Sponsored by the University of California, Riverside.

**Concurrent Sessions 4**  
**10:45 a.m. - Noon**



Image courtesy of Pixabay

**THE CRAFT 1: Following the Money in Environmental Reporting**  
**Room 382, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

The Green New Deal. The decline of coal. The shale revolution. The biggest environmental stories of our time are essentially tales of economic disruption. Reporters covering these monumental shifts should understand the financial forces that are driving such changes, as well as their cost to consumers. This session will offer tools for approaching environmental stories through a financial and economic lens.

**Moderator:**  
**Catherine Traywick**, Editor, Oil Trading Americas, Bloomberg News

**Speakers:**  
**Kiah Collier**, Reporter and Associate Editor, The Texas Tribune  
**Ivan Penn**, Energy Correspondent, *The New York Times*  
**Naveena Sadasivam**, Staff Writer, Grist



CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 10:45 a.m. - Noon

Image courtesy of Dave Malan



**THE CRAFT 2: Beyond False Balance: Social Scientists and Environmental Journalists Tackle the Manipulation of Environmental Stories**

**Room 386, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

The environmental beat is inherently complex, often uncertain and it can be manipulated. We have tools to address these challenges: for example, social science can help predict how audiences respond to information and stories, and journalism itself can expose disinformation campaigns. And we've already worked hard to remove false balance from our reporting. This session brings journalists and social scientists together to ask: what more can journalists do to understand these forces and protect both the integrity and impact of their work?

**Moderator:**

**Thomas Hayden**, Professor of the Practice, Environmental Communication Program, Stanford University

**Speakers:**

**Adina Abeles**, Environmental Communication Researcher, Department of Communication and Goldman Graduate Fellow, Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University  
**Emily Atkin**, Writer and Founder, HEATED  
**Patrick Chandler**, Environmental Communication Researcher, University of Colorado, Boulder  
**Perla Trevizo**, Environmental Affairs Reporter, *Houston Chronicle*

Image courtesy of Pixabay



**ENERGY AND CLIMATE:**

**Plastics and Climate Change: What's Around the Corner**  
**Room 300, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

With oceans choking in plastic waste and new research finding that humans are ingesting tens of thousands of pieces of micro plastics over their lifetimes, there are new concerns mounting about the role of plastics in climate change. We look at what the latest studies are finding and discuss potential solutions to a problem that industry experts say will get worse before it gets any better.

**Moderator:**

**Jim Bruggers**, Reporter, Southeast, National Environment Reporting Network, InsideClimate News

**Speakers:**

**Steve Alexander**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Association of Plastic Recyclers — The Voice of Plastic Recyclers  
**Eugene Chen**, John K. Stille Endowed Chair and Millennial Professor of Polymer Science & Sustainability, Department of Chemistry, Colorado State University  
**Judith Enck**, Visiting Professor, Bennington College, Founder of Beyond Plastics and former EPA Regional Administrator

CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED 10:45 a.m. - Noon

Image courtesy of Pixabay



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:**

**Agriculture: Climate Change Culprit, Victim and Solution**  
**Room 304-306, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

Farmers are on the frontline of climate change, at the mercy of worsening extreme weather. Farms also contribute to the problem as greenhouse gas emitters. And they could help solve it — through practices that could store billions of tons of carbon in the soil. Controlling greenhouse gas emissions requires an all-out effort across industries, yet the American farm hasn't been deployed into action. Why? This panel explores current problems, including policy failures and agri-business strategies, as well as potential solutions.

**Moderator:**

**Georgina Gustin**, Reporter, InsideClimate News

**Speakers:**

**Ben Lilliston**, Director of Rural Strategies and Climate Change, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
**Keith Paustian**, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, and Senior Research Scientist, Natural Resource Ecology Lab, Colorado State University  
**Ernie Shea**, President, Solutions from the Land

Image courtesy of Pixabay



**WATER AND SNOW:**

**Water in the West: Challenges and Solutions**  
**Room 308-310, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center**

The Colorado River and its tributaries are the lifeblood for 40 million people and a \$1.4 trillion economy, but the region's water supply faces unprecedented threats from climate change and population growth. Around the globe, other river basins confront similar challenges. How can we better manage our precious water resources to meet the needs of people and the environment? How can journalists help inform the public and policymakers about water issues?

**Moderator:**

**Mitch Tobin**, Director, The Water Desk, Center for Environmental Journalism, University of Colorado Boulder

**Speakers:**

**Heather Hansman**, Freelance Writer, Editor, Raft Guide and Author, "Downriver: Into the Future of Water in the West"  
**Jim Lochhead**, Chief Executive Officer/Manager, Denver Water  
**Brad Udall**, Senior Scientist/Scholar, Colorado State University  
**Daryl Vigil**, Interim Executive Director, Ten Tribes Partnership and Water Administrator, Jicarilla Apache Nation





Image courtesy of Pixabay

LAND AND CONSERVATION:

Leaky Mines: A Toxic Time Bomb

Room 312, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center

In August 2015, three million gallons of contaminated mining wastewater broke through a flimsy retaining wall at the Gold King Mine outside Silverton, Colorado, while EPA subcontractors were trying to bolster it. The heavy-metals-laden water cascaded into a creek feeding the Animus River, turning it lurid orange, and from there gushed into the San Juan, which flows through several states and Native American nations, including the Navajo Nation. This is just one of thousands of abandoned mines in the Western United States leaking contaminated water, many of them Superfund sites. This panel will use the Gold King Mine spill to illustrate the scope of the problem and give tips on how to mine Superfund documents and archives for crucial environmental stories.

Moderator:

Theresa Braine, Independent Journalist

Speakers:

Suzette Brewer, Freelance Journalist

Matthew Brown, Correspondent, The Associated Press (Billings, Montana)

Dan Elliott, Correspondent, The Associated Press (Denver, Colorado)



Image courtesy of Pixabay

NATION AND GLOBE:

Why Don't Journalists Talk About Human Population?

Room 322, 3rd Floor, Lory Student Center

Why do so many journalists struggle to write about the "population problem"? The data shows that having one fewer children in developed countries is the best way to reduce carbon emissions via personal choice, and yet many stories fail to mention reproduction as an issue to be tackled at all, choosing instead to focus on vegan diets and flying less. In this panel, we'll discuss the challenges facing reporters in writing about this controversial issue, digging into the origins of Malthusian theory, the childfree movement, and reproductive rights and family planning.

Moderator:

Gloria Dickie, Freelance Journalist

Speakers:

Roger-Mark De Souza, President and Chief Executive Officer, Sister Cities International

Richard Grossman, Columnist, "Population Matters," The Durango (CO) Herald and OB-GYN (retired)

Wudan Yan, Freelance Journalist



Environmental Journalism Awards Luncheon

Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom, CSU's Lory Student Center

We work hard throughout the year to not only get the stories, but to get them right. And, for what? Awards, of course! Now it's time to shift the spotlight on ourselves for a moment while we honor the best environmental reporting of 2018 at SEJ's Annual Awards for Reporting on the Environment, including the first Ray Reece "Excellence in Environmental Journalism" Student Award and the second annual \$10,000 Nina Mason Pulliam Award for the best of the best. We'll kick off the celebration with an eye-opening look at the best environmental photography from the past year.

Emcees:

Jeff Burnside, Independent Journalist, and SEJ Board Member

Gloria Dickie, Freelance Journalist

Pulliam Presenter:

Gene D'Adamo, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust

Speakers:

Anna Clark, Author of *The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy*

Lindsay Fendt, Freelance Journalist

Maurice Tamman, Reporter and Editor, Thomson Reuters

Mini-Tour Bonanza

2:15 - 5:30 p.m .

Sign up on-site at the SEJ Information Table beginning Wednesday afternoon for SEJ's popular mini-tours. Consult your mini-tour flyer in your conference packet or the web agenda for details. Additional flyers are available at the Information Table.

Departure: Immediately following the lunch program, meet up with your tour leaders holding up signs near the SEJ registration desk to walk together as a group to load on the correct buses at the Transit Center or to walk to pick up bikes or to depart on the campus walking tour.



Image courtesy of New Belgium Brewing

Dinner and Dance Party at New Belgium

5:30 - 10:00 p.m.

New Belgium Brewing, 500 Linden St., Fort Collins, CO  
Pre-registration and \$35 fee required. Take the Max or stay on your mini-tour bus to New Belgium. Buses will be available to bring people back to hotels following the party or you can walk or take the Max downtown.

Beers, bicycles and a bent toward sustainability! New Belgium Brewing is a Fort Collins landmark, a craft-beer-drinkers' mecca and an industry trailblazer when it comes to environmental design and community philanthropy. Throngs of people visit the brewery annually for a tour and tastes of Fat Tire and the dozens of other New Belgium taproom beers.

There will be four 25-limit tours of the brewery: two at 6:00 p.m. and two at 7:30 p.m. Meet in the brewery's All Staff Room; tours take off from there promptly at the above times.

And, yes, there will be beer! The first two drinks will be free, and we'll have wine on hand for non-beer drinkers, but bring cash for additional beer or wine.

Starting at 7:00 we'll have lip-smacking-good local meals and morsels, and then at 8:00 SEJ takes over the taproom for music by Choice City Seven to get you dancing.



# Sunday, October 13, 2019

**Departure:** One bus will stage at each conference hotel – Hilton Fort Collins, Fort Collins Marriott and the Candlewood Suites – **beginning about 7:30 a.m. for departure promptly at 8:00 a.m.** Attendees not staying at one of these hotels who have preregistered for the Sunday program can board at any one of these hotels.

These buses will then become the airport buses that depart the Gardens at noon for arrival at Denver International Airport no later than 1:00 p.m.

## Bookstore

**8:45 - 11:00 a.m.**  
**Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York Street, Denver, CO 80206**

The Auraria Higher Education Center bookstore will be on site. Purchase the speakers’ books and get them autographed after the session.

## Breakfast, Books and Botany

**9:00 a.m. - Noon**  
**Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York Street, Denver, CO 80206**

**Pre-registration and \$35 fee required, includes full breakfast and airport transportation with arrival at DEN no later than 1:00 p.m.**

Join us for a full breakfast and a discussion with Western authors at the Denver Botanic Gardens, a 24-acre urban oasis with nearly 50 curated gardens, a tropical conservatory, education programs and art exhibitions. The Gardens’ horticulturalists and scientists work on local and global research projects related to plant and water conservation, climate change and biodiversity. Following the breakfast program, attendees can explore the Gardens and learn about various scientific research projects.

**9:00 a.m. Breakfast**

## 9:30-11:00 a.m. Blood, Sweat and Books (Okay, Probably Some Tears Too)

The Rocky Mountains provide the perfect backdrop for a discussion by authors who bring a sense of adventure and exploration to their books on critical environmental topics. Whether reporting on Western water issues from a pack raft, researching conservation at the Earth’s poles, exploring the world’s hotspots of air pollution, dumpster diving for aluminum cans or even jumping into fiction, these authors value seeing things for themselves.

## Moderator:

**Michael Kodas**, Freelance Reporter, Photojournalist, Educator and Author, “Megafire: The Race to Extinguish a Deadly Epidemic of Flame” and “High Crimes: The Fate of Everest in an Age of Greed”

## Speakers:

**Joel Berger**, Professor and Barbara Cox Anthony University Chair in Wildlife Conservation, Department of FWC Biology, Colorado State University; Senior Scientist, Wildlife Conservation Society; and Author, “Extreme Conservation: Life at the Edges of the World” and “The Better to Eat You With: Fear in the Animal World”

**Beth Gardiner**, Journalist and Author, “Choked: Life and Breath in the Age of Air Pollution”

**Heather Hansman**, Freelance Writer, Editor, Raft Guide and Author, “Downriver: Into the Future of Water in the West”

**Laura Pritchett**, Author, “The Blue Hour” and “Stars Go Blue” and several other books



Image courtesy of Nathan Skreslet

**11:00 a.m.-Noon**

## Garden Tours

Following the authors’ program, two Denver Botanic Gardens horticulturalists will lead tours and discussions about the institution’s longtime global research projects and the unique Steppe Garden. There will be two tours capped at 20 people each, so act fast and sign up on-site upon arrival at the Garden. Otherwise, the Gardens will be open to exploration until buses leave promptly at noon for the airport and hotels.

**Noon:** Conference ends and shuttles take attendees back to Fort Collins or to the airport, with airport arrival no later than 1:00 p.m.



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**Joyce McConnell**  
President, Colorado State University

**Rick Miranda**  
Provost and Executive Vice President, Colorado State University

### Colorado State University faculty and staff:

**Diana Wall**, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Biology; Senior Research Scientist, Natural Resource Ecology Lab; and Director, School of Global Environmental Sustainability

**Dennis Ojima**, professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Sustainability, scientist in the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, CSU Faculty Liaison

**Pam Jackson**, Interim Vice President for External Relations

**Mary Guiden**, Science Writer and Senior Public Relations Specialist

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**Joseph Champ**, Professor, Department of Journalism and Media Communication

**Kathy DuQuoin**, Executive Assistant, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President

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**Jessica Veal**, Event Planning Coordinator

**Dani-Lin Hunter**, Graduate Assistant, Graduate Degree Program in Ecology

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### SEJ 2019 Conference Team

**Co-Chairs:**  
**Susan Moran**, Independent Print Journalist; Producer and Host of KGNU's Science Show, "How On Earth"

**Joshua Zaffos**, Correspondent, *High Country News*, and Program Lead, Communications for Conservation, Colorado State University

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**Meagan Jeanette**, Program and Marketing

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**Adam Glenn**, Editor, SEJournal Online

**Cindy MacDonald**, SEJ.org Content Manager, Programs Associate

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Conference Support:

**Kevin Beaty, Robin Smith, Dale Willman**

### Thank You to SEJ Volunteers

SEJ could not have produced this conference without the dozens of members who generously donated their time and energy to organize sessions, moderate panels, lead tours, recruit sponsors and support multimedia.

Special thanks to **Tristan Ahtone, Jeff Burnside, Judy Fahys, Robert Fanger, Michael Kodas, Rebecca Landsberry, Kate Sheppard, Anna Smith, Tom Yulsman.**

SEJ is especially grateful to **Justin Kenney**, without whom this conference would never have come to be.

### SEJ 2019 Awards Committee

**Emilia Askari**, Independent Journalist; **Katy Daigle**, *Science News Magazine*; and **Parimal Rohit**, *The Log Newspaper*.

SEJ is grateful for the selfless efforts of the 29 individuals who screened and judged the 2019 Awards for Reporting on the Environment and the Nina Mason Pulliam Award for Outstanding Environmental Reporting. [bit.ly/SEJ2019Judges](https://bit.ly/SEJ2019Judges)

### SEJ 2019 Board of Directors

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## The Society of Environmental Journalists



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