Kelsea MacIlroy

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Kelsea is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at Colorado State University. As a sociologist, Kelsea examines how people's values, beliefs, and experiences shape their response to problems, particular when it comes to water. Her report, Exploring Perceptions of a Voluntary Agricultural Water Conservation Program on the Western Slope of Colorado, is based on interviews with farmers, ranchers, and water managers on the Western Slope in 2019. From 2014-2018 Kelsea was a Research Assistant with the Colorado Water Institute, working on their Moving Forward with Agricultural Water Conservation USDA grant. She traveled throughout the Colorado River Basin conducting interviews with a diversity of stakeholders to understand the barriers and opportunities that exist in agricultural water conservation. The result was the publication of Every Ditch is Different: Barriers and Opportunities for Collaboration for Agricultural Water Conservation in the Colorado River Basin. Prior to that she completed her Masters' Thesis in her former home of the San Luis Valley during the implementation of the first groundwater subdistrict looking at how people framed their willingness and objections to support and participate in the voluntary program. Kelsea has a master's degree in Secondary Education from Adams State University and a bachelor's degree in History from Gordon College in Wenham, MA.