

Michael W. Childers, PhD

University of Northern Iowa History
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History, 2010, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

Dissertation: "Fire on the Mountain: Growth and Conflict in Colorado Ski Country"

Supervised by Andy Kirk, David Wrobel, David Tanenhaus, David Hassenzahl, and the late Hal K. Rothman

M.A. in History, 1997, Colorado State University

B.A. in History, 1995, Western State College

EMPLOYMENT

2013-Present Visiting Lecturer, University of Northern Iowa

2011-2013 Visiting Lecturer, Northern Arizona University

2008-2011 Instructor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

PUBLICATIONS

Books in Print

Colorado Powder Keg: Ski Resorts and the Environmental Movement, Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. October 2012. Winner of the International Ski History Association 2013 Ullr Award for single outstanding contribution to the historical record in book form and Western Writers of America Spur Award 2013 Finalist for Best Western Nonfiction Contemporary book. Supported by the 2010 Grey Towers Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship (U.S. Forest Service), and the 2008 Charles Redd Center Summer Graduate Student Award (Brigham Young University).

Book Chapters in Print

"A Gateway into the Mountains: Denver and the Rise of a Recreation Empire," in *Denver Inside and Out (Colorado History*, vol. 16). Denver: History Colorado, The Colorado Historical Society. 2012. Colorado Book Award Finalist in 2012.

Encyclopedia Entries

"The National Parks," in *Encyclopedia of Populism*, Edited by Alexandra Kindell and Elizabeth Sherburn Demers. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014.

Works in Progress

"Yosemite National Park: A History," book manuscript under conditional contract with the University of Nevada Press.

"Building the New Sun Valley: Resort Real Estate Development in the Modern West," for *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*.

"Devil's Bargains?: Tourism and Outdoor Recreation in the U.S. West," with Susan Rugh and William Philpott for the *Pacific Historical Review*.

Book Reviews

- Review of Diana L. Di Stefano's *Encounters in Avalanche Country: A History of Survival in the Mountain West, 1820-1920* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2013) in *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* (in progress).
- Review of Brian Allen Drake's, *Loving Nature, Fearing the State: Environmentalism and Antigovernment Politics before Reagan* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2013) in *Western Historical Quarterly* (in progress).
- Review of Frank Zelko's *Make It a Green Peace!: The Rise of Countercultural Environmentalism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013) in *American Historical Review* (in progress).
- Review of William Philpott's *Vacationland: Tourism and Environment in the Colorado High Country* (University of Washington Press, 2013) in *Journal of the West* (in progress).
- Review of Melanie Shellenbarger's *High Country Summers: The Early Second Homes of Colorado, 1880-1940* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2012) in *Pacific Historical Review*, February 2014.
- Review of Jen A. Huntley's *The Making of Yosemite: James Mason Hutchings and the Origins of American's Most Popular National Park* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2011) in *Environmental History*, March, 2013.
- Review of Mark Hudson's *Fire Management in the American West: Forest Politics and the Rise of Megafires* (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2011) in *Contemporary Sociology*, May 2013.
- Review of Duane Smith's *Rocky Mountain Heartland: Montana, and Wyoming in the 20th Century* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2009) in the *East Texas Historical Journal*, Winter 2010.
- Review of Michael J. Yochim's *Yellowstone and the Snowmobile: Locking Horns over National Park Use* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2009), in *Western Historical Quarterly*, Fall 2010.
- Review of David Beesley's *Crow's Range: An Environmental History of the Sierra Nevada* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2004) in the *Journal of San Diego History*, Winter 2007.
- Review of Carol Higham and Robert Thacker's *One West, Two Myths: A Comparative Reader* in the *American Review of Canadian Studies* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2004) in *The American Review of Canadian Studies*, Winter 2005.

PUBLIC HISTORY EXPERIENCE

Coauthored Works

- "The New Deal, 1933 to 1939," and "World War II and Post-War Boom in Visitation, 1941-1955," in *The Yosemite Way: An Administrative History of Yosemite National Park*, Andrew Kirk, Lincoln Bramwell, and Michael Childers, in fulfillment of National Park Service Task and Great Basin CESU Cooperative Agreements, 2009.

Field Experience

- 2005-2007 Project Manager, Yosemite National Park Administrative History Project. Supervised two summer research trips, facilitated two graduate seminars, and organized nearly 2,00 digitized documents.

2004-2005	Senior Researcher/Project Manager, Las Vegas Valley Water District Administrative History. Conducted and organized research on the history of water management agencies in Las Vegas and assisted Hal Rothman in writing a draft of the history for the Las Vegas Valley Water District.
Summer 2004	Olema Valley Dairy Ranches Historic District National Register of Historic Places Application, Point Reyes National Seashore. Researched and coauthored a draft of the National Register of Historic Places application for Point Reyes National Seashore.
2003-2004	Interviewer, Nevada Test Site Oral History Project. Interviewed former Las Vegas News Bureau photographer Don English on his experiences photographing atomic blasts during the 1950s.
2003-2004	Project Manager, National Park Service Fire Management Administrative History. Organized three years of research, coordinated comments by outside readers, and assisted Hal Rothman in drafting the administrative history for National Park Service.
2003	Internship, Colorado Ski and Snowboard Museum and Hall of Fame. Worked with the museum curator in assessing the collection, helped organize the museum's fund raising campaign, and participated in setting up an external storage and research center.

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Northern Iowa

Courses

History of Outdoor Recreation (Fall 2014) – upper division/graduate course cross-listed between the History Department and Leisure, Youth, and Human Services (30 student cap)

The Mississippi River Basin: A Natural and Human History (Fall 2014) – upper division/graduate course for History majors and other interested students (30 student cap)

United States History: Colonial America to 1865 (Spring 2014) – Core History Major course (35 student cap)

United States History: 1865 to Present (Spring 2014) – Core History Major course (35 student cap)– freshman level course

Analysis of Contemporary Social Issues (Fall 2013) – upper division Liberal Arts Capstone taught through the History Department (35 student cap)

Environment, Technology, and Society: A History of Sustainability (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014) – upper division Liberal Arts Capstone taught through the Biology Department (35 student cap)

Northern Arizona University

Teaching Awards

Outstanding Educator Award, Northern Arizona University Athletics in 2011

Courses

The Colorado River: A Natural and Human History (Spring 2013) – upper division course (50 student cap)

Independent Study of the Rodeo-Chediski Fire and U.S. Forest Service Policy (Spring 2013)

United States History: Colonial America to 1865 (Spring 2013) – Core History Major course (50 student cap)

Outdoor Recreation and the Environment (Fall 2012) – upper division course (50 student cap)

Global Environment History Capstone Seminar (Fall 2012) – upper division course (20 student cap)

Environmental Politics in the 20th Century American West Writing Seminar (Spring 2012) – Core History Major course (20 student cap)

American Civil War: Union in Crisis (Spring 2012) – upper division course (50 student cap)

Science and the History of Managing the National Parks (Fall 2011) – upper division Honors course (30 student cap)

United States Military History (Fall 2011) – upper division course (50 student cap)

Historical Methods and Inquiry (Fall 2011-Spring 2013) – History Education Major Core course (20 student cap)

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Awards

Outstanding Teaching by Part Time Faculty Award, UNLV in 2011

Courses

United States History: Colonial America to 1865 (Fall 2008-Spring 2011) – University US Constitution requirement (50 student cap)

United States History: 1865 to Present (Fall 2008-Spring 2011) – University Nevada State Constitution requirement (50 student cap)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Western History Association

2012 Western History Association Annual Conference Program Committee Member

2009 Graduate Student Staff, Western History Association – 2009 Annual Conference

University of Northern Iowa

2013 Sustainability Working Group member

Fellow/Faculty Advisor for UNI's chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon

Northern Arizona University

2012-2013 Academic Sustainability Steering Committee

2011-2013 History Education Undergraduate Advisor

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

2008 Student Representative, UNLV History Department

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“An Evening and Book Signing with Michael Childers,” at the Fraser Valley Library, March 21, 2013, Fraser, Colorado

“Learning about Sustainability from Las Vegas,” at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve, Northern Arizona History Academy Teaching American History Grant, March 3, 2013, Las Vegas, Nevada,

“Colorado Powder Keg: Ski Resorts and the Environmental Movement,” at the Boulder Book Store, December 12, 2012, Boulder, Colorado

“The History of Skiing in Colorado,” at Cozens Ranch Museum, December 21, 2012, Fraser, Colorado

“Exploring the Tension between Ski Industry and Environmentalists,” for Colorado Matters, Colorado Public Radio, October 15, 2012, Denver, Colorado

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

“Teaching ‘America’s Best Idea:’ Lessons from a Century (and More) of National Parks Roundtable,” Western History Association Annual Conference, October 15-18, 2014, Newport Beach, California

“Devil’s Bargains?: Roundtable on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation in the U.S. West,” Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association Annual Conference, August 7-9, 2013, Denver, Colorado

“Protect Our Mountain Home: NIMBYism and Fight the against the Denver Winter Olympic Games,” Western History Association Annual Conference, October 4-7, 2012, Denver, Colorado

Chair, “Memory, Loss, and Preservation Panel,” Urban History Association Biennial Conference, October 20-23, 2010, Las Vegas, Nevada

“Free Market Slopes: Ski Lift Tickets and Deregulation in the White River National Forest,” American Society of Environmental History Annual Conference, March 10-14, 2010, Portland, Oregon

“Fire on the Mountain: The Vail Arsons and the Environmental Cost of Tourism,” American History Association Annual Conference, January 7-10, 2010, San Diego, California

“The Environment, Nature, and the Politics of Tourism in the Twentieth-Century American West,” Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association Annual Conference, August 6-8, 2009, Albuquerque, New Mexico

“A Gateway into the Mountains: Denver and the Rise of a Recreation Empire,” Denver: Inside and Out Symposium, February 27-28, 2009, Denver, Colorado

“Management Skills: Working as the Yosemite National Park Administrative Project Manager,” Learning in the Field: The Convergence of Public History, Academic History in Better Graduate Training Workshop Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association Annual Conference, August 7-9, 2008, Pasadena, California

“Rich Man’s Games, Poor Man’s Taxes: Growth and Colorado’s Rejection of the 1976 Winter Olympic Games,” Western History Association Annual Conference, October 3-6, 2007, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

“Radical Reels: Film, Adventure, Identity, and Lifestyle on the Edge,” American Society of Environmental History Annual Conference, September 7-9, 2006, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

“Denver’s Ski Area: Winter Park Ski Resort, the City and County of Denver, and Building an Urban Ski Resort,” American Society of Environmental History Annual Conference, March 29-April 1, 2006, St. Paul, Minnesota

“The Reinvention of Skiing: Freestyle Skiing and the Mary Jane Expansion of Winter Park Ski Area,” Pacific Coast Branch/American Historical Association Annual Conference, August 4-7, 2005, Corvallis, Oregon

“Denver’s Ski Area: Winter Park Ski Resort, the City and County of Denver, and Building of an Urban Ski Resort,” Shaping the American West: A New Western Ethic for the 21st Century, International Interdisciplinary Conference, June 9-12, 2005, Snowbird, Utah

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
American Society of Environmental
History Forest History Society
National Council on Public History

Organization of American Historians
Phi Alpha Theta
Western History Association

REFERENCES

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