DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Ethan Greene was raised in Boulder, Colorado and introduced to mountain activities at an early age. His strong interest in skiing led him to eschew a college education and he spent several years living in Telluride, Colorado. There he became interested in snow and avalanches. He moved to Bozeman, Montana to pursue these interests, interning at the Southwest Montana Avalanche Center and working at the Big Sky Ski Resort as a ski patroller.

Ethan's work in Montana produced a keen interest in the atmosphere and weather forecasting. He decided to pursue a formal education, earning a B.S. in Meteorology at the University of Utah in 1997. He studied numerical modeling and snow drift formation at Colorado State University (CSU) and received an M.S. in Atmospheric Science in 2000.

In the fall of 2000, Ethan began working as an Avalanche Specialist for the Forest Service Utah Avalanche Center in Salt Lake City and returned to graduate school in the Geosciences program at CSU. After several years of splitting his time between these two endeavors he decided to focus on graduate school. He studied snow metamorphism and microstructure, spending most of his time in cold labs at the USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station in Fort Collins, Colorado and the WSL Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research in Davos, Switzerland. He eventually earned a Ph.D. in 2007.

While finishing his dissertation, he became the director of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) in 2005, a position he still holds. The CAIC is the largest avalanche forecasting program in the United States with a staff of 20 in 10 locations, covering 24 sections of highway and over 50,000 square miles of backcountry terrain.

Ethan has published a variety of articles in industry and scientific journals. He is the lead author of Snow, Weather, and Avalanches: Observation Guidelines for Avalanche Programs in the United States, and a coauthor of The International Classification for Seasonal Snow on the Ground. He heads the Snow and Avalanche division of the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences.

Ethan lives at 10,150 ft. in Leadville, Colorado with his wife and two children.