

DEEP

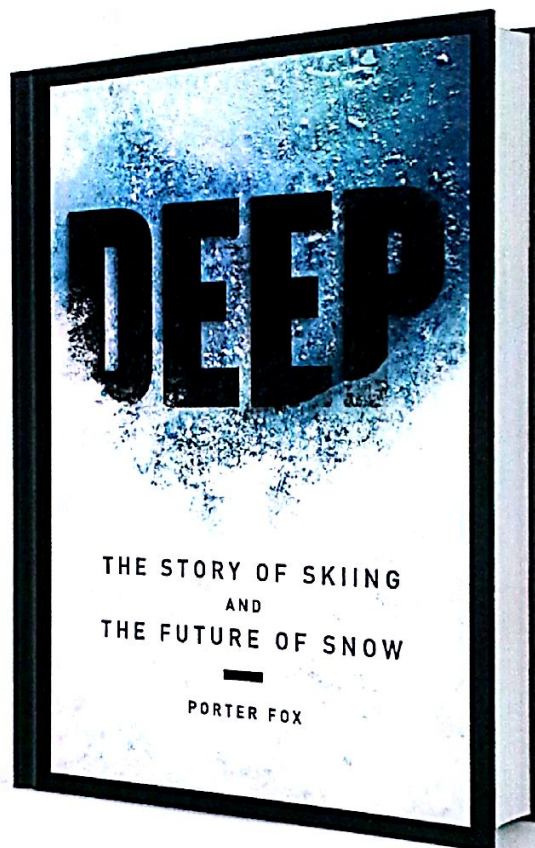
The Story of Skiing and the Future of Snow

Words: AMANDA MONTHEI

IN HIS FIRST book, *Deep: The Story of Skiing and the Future of Snow*, award-winning veteran ski writer Porter Fox takes readers on the 8,000-year-old journey of one of the world's oldest sports. He follows skiing from its beginnings in Norway to its explosion in the Alps in the 1800s to its modern form in the Rockies—and, under the threat of climate change, he follows it to its possible end in less than a century.

For North America's seven million skiers, climate change presents a crisis—for billions around the world, it presents a radical change that will redefine entire cultures. Through his own personal accounts of his time in the French Alps, road trips through the North Cascades, and adventures around the world, combined with the latest scientific studies and direct evidence, Fox explains the one of the most pressing issues skiers and the globe have ever faced: the end of winter.

During these travels, Fox introduces a cast of characters whose lives and livelihoods depend on snow, and who will be most affected by ever-diminishing snowfalls. Mountaineers, guides, skiers and world-renowned climatologists all give their input, putting faces and concrete images to an issue whose scope and effects operate on a scale too large to be seen on an everyday basis. He describes how the Great Melt will look, what will be left when it finishes, and he describes the demise



of skiing if this is allowed to happen.

While much of *Deep* documents forces occurring at a global level, it is his look at the small, unifying moments that define ski culture that bring the issue home. This is not a generalized description of a problem beyond the effect of individuals, but something that can be shaped by the actions of each of us. With decades of experience in the sport, Fox speaks to alpinists and skiers about the draw of the mountains and snow, and in those conversations it is clear what is at risk—and what

needs to be done to save the substance around which millions of people focus their lives.

Unlike standard mass media coverage, *Deep* is not all doomsday warnings about the end times: as sobering as are threats posed by climate change, Fox's book also offers honest optimism about the sport and humanity. For an industry that has not necessarily been historically sustainable but that has a capacity for—and survival dependent upon—widespread change, *Deep* looks to be motivation that skiing needs to begin that transition. In doing so, Fox teaches us that our decisions as both skiers and humans reach much further than the next powder day, the next tram ride or even the next winter. \$

Deep: The Story of Skiing and the Future of Snow is available digitally at iTunes and Barnes & Noble, and paperback, hardcover and digital versions at Amazon.com. Further information and links can be found at www.deepthebook.com.