



## The UPP Newsletter

A bi-monthly newsletter about the people and activities of the USGS-PSU Partnership, water science in Oregon, and related topics.

### Coming Up:

- The University of Washington, in partnership with the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC) & the University of Montana, is seeking postdocs interested in Fire & Climate. See the posting below for more information about opportunities from the NW CASC. Please share this with students who are interested in fire and climate. [https://lnkd.in/g\\_tjpGw](https://lnkd.in/g_tjpGw)
- PSU's Center for Climate and Aerosol Research is seeking applications for its Summer 2021 NSF Research for Undergraduates (REU) session. This REU focuses on conducting research related to climate change, physics, air quality, meteorology, and more. Please share this with any interested undergraduates. For more information visit the [CCAR REU website](#) or contact Andrew Rice ([arice@pdx.edu](mailto:arice@pdx.edu)).
- Stay tuned for more information about the UPP's upcoming spring events.



*Jacob Mehringer*

**Body of Water Near Mountain Under White Sky**

## Oregon Water Stories

One objective of the USGS-PSU Partnership (UPP) is to support opportunities for students to engage in meaningful projects that advance Oregon water science and resource management. By supporting opportunities that allow students to gain and practice professional and science skills, we can create a better skilled workforce that is prepared to make a positive impact across the state.

Dr. Melissa Haeffner, an associate professor in the Environmental Science and University Studies Department, is doing just that by engaging undergraduate students with the Oregon Water Stories project.

Oregon Water Stories is a text-based media database that launched in 2018 as a part of the University Studies Human and Nature Freshman Inquiry Class (FRINQ). The focus is on collecting media articles and first-person interviews that illustrate the modern relationship between humans and water. In this FRINQ Class, students from varying disciplines dive into Oregon's intricate water issues while learning data management techniques. Each successive class adds tabs to the website, such as an interactive map of water-related articles, videos of student-led interviews, and a quiz to test website visitors' water knowledge. Recent additions include lectures from the School of Environment's 2020 Speaker Series on Water Justice.

Oregon Water Stories isn't just part of the FRINQ. The database is also a critical part of a Water Injustice Early Detection System that Dr. Haeffner and students in her Water Justice Lab are building. Construction of this detection system involves creating three databases: a 5-year collection of text-based media (Oregon Water Stories), a hydro-geographical assessment of human water values, and a dataset detailing the safety, affordability, reliability, and availability (SARA) of water. Data from these databases will help reveal SARA issues, determine water needs among varying

### PARTNER PROFILE



**Name:** Adam Booth

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Affiliation:** Portland State University, Geology Department

**Biography:** I earned my Bachelor's degree in Physics at Grinnell College in 2004, and then taught high school math for 2 years on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. I then went back to school and earned my PhD in Geology from the University of Oregon in 2012, spent a year as a postdoc at Caltech, and started my job here at PSU in 2013.

**What do you do?** I study landslides and their interactions with other surface processes. This typically involves a combination of fieldwork, remote sensing work, and modeling to develop an understanding of how a specific landslide works, or more broadly to evaluate the contribution of landslides to landscape evolution over geologic time.

communities and identify which voices are missing in shaping the state's water policy and management.

Since its creation, the Oregon Water Stories website has become a tool for Water Justice Lab members to reference, discuss their work, and connect with other water justice organizations across Oregon.

The Oregon Water Stories project educates a broad range of students about Oregon's water resources and issues, helps them practice useful data management skills, and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration. Supporting projects where students can grow these necessary skills benefits and strengthens the future of water science and its growing workforce.

For more information, visit the [Oregon Water Stories](#) website.

**Why do you do what you do?** I've always been fascinated by basic physical principles -- like conservation of mass, momentum, and energy -- and how those principles can be used to understand such a wide range of natural phenomena. Once I took a geology class in college and learned that I could apply those principles to literally the ground beneath my feet, I was hooked. Studying landslides and landscape evolution in particular lets me work on things that I'm scientifically interested in and that have important societal relevance.

**Why should others care that you do it?** Landslides are an important hazard -- they damage or destroy property and cause fatalities every year, including here in the Pacific Northwest.

**What would you be doing if you weren't in your current job?** Perhaps I'd be an architect. I was always sketching house plans for fun when I was a kid and briefly considered pursuing that in college.

**Any hobbies?** Hiking with my family, running, woodworking, gardening (especially fruit trees).

**Favorite Dish?** Anything with *Boletus Edulis*, the prized mushroom also known as The King.

## This Month in Water Humor...



Portland Water Bureau  
@portlandwater

...

Is your teen **STILL** texting about our water system?

We're here to help.

**IS YOUR TEEN TEXTING  
ABOUT PORTLAND'S WATER  
SYSTEM?**

**KNOW THE SIGNS.**

**SMH** = So Much Hydration

**GR** = Groundwater Rocks

**LOL** = Lots of Liquid

**BRB** = Bring Reusable Bottle

**IMHO** = I Make Hydrants Operate

**FWIW** = Firefighter's Work Involves Water

**MTFBWY** = Maddened To Find Bottled  
Water, Yuck!



5:30 PM · Mar 2, 2021 · Twitter Web App

## Monthly Read:

[New Court Ruling could prevent curtailments of irrigation in Upper Klamath Lake tributaries](#)

[Waldo Lake and Crater Lake Declared Outstanding Resource Waters](#)

[Everything You Need to Know About Oregon's River Democracy Act](#)

[Turning Pressure into Energy and Dollars](#)