



Partnership Highlights: Southern Oregon University and the National Park Service–Klamath Network

Two Decades of Collaboration

The Klamath Network (KLMN) joined the SOU campus in 2003, beginning a partnership that advances science and natural resource management in the region. We serve 6 nearby national park units (Crater Lake NP, Lava Beds NM, Lassen Volcanic NP, Whiskeytown NRA, Redwoods NSP, and Oregon Caves NMP), and having a centrally located field station is vital to our success. It supports efficient travel to parks for fieldwork and provides us easy access to natural resource scientists at the university with whom we collaborate regularly. We benefit from a gear-friendly office space and IT support provided by SOU. In return, over the past 17 years, our scientists have been productively engaged with SOU students and faculty through a wide variety of win-win collaborations. We have provided over \$4 million in funding to the university through agreements. Being a part of the SOU community has helped us build relationships and continue to create new and dynamic collaborations.

Value to Students

Experience with our program helps students gain professional skills, learn 'real-world' application of classroom principles, define their career paths, and stand out from others in the job market. By working with KLMN staff, SOU students have been able to

- **Gain experience collecting scientific data**
 - We have offered field internships for whitebark pine, bat, and stream monitoring, water quality sampling, and rare and invasive plant surveying
 - Real-world field experience gives students a competitive edge
- **Apply internship data to a capstone project or thesis**
 - Many students have written a capstone project or thesis based on data collected through KLMN internships, especially the whitebark pine project



"The NPS Klamath Inventory & Monitoring Network provided the single most valuable experience of my education while obtaining my degree in Biology at SOU ('13). Although I took classes across a number of departments and was privileged to take courses with some truly exceptional professors, the exposure to hands-on experience, mentoring, and opportunity to explore the field I received through interning with the Klamath Network team was irreplaceable in a classroom and formed the true 'capstone' of my degree. Through my internship I gained real-world experience that has still come up in interviews for roles in unrelated fields over six years later."

Kelton Shockey

Image: Kelton Shockey sweeps a net underwater to collect aquatic insects during stream monitoring with SOU's Dr. Michael Parker and Klamath Network's Dr. Eric Dinger in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument

- **Earn academic credit and receive compensation**
 - Most internships offer course credit and are paid
- **Receive mentorship from KLMN scientists**
 - Internships provide an opportunity for close relationships with professional scientists
 - Students gain valuable insight into environmental career paths in federal agencies, learn how to compete well for federal jobs, and network to make connections
- **Gain experience in science communication and interpretation**
 - Student authors contribute to our monthly “Featured Creature” natural history articles and biannual newsletters
 - The jointly developed KLMN Strategic Interpretation Plan in 2005 identified several in-depth interpretive products that were completed by SOU Environmental Education students
- **Gain multimedia communication skills**
 - SOU students completed a Rogue Valley Community Television Videography Project to create short videos about KLMN science
- **Enhance their resumes and stand out from others in the job market**
 - Our science communication internships offer students the chance to publish on NPS.gov
 - Students are invited to professionally present park-related capstone projects at our annual NPS science symposium at SOU—Klamath Conversations
 - Relationships built with park staff during internships can open the door to potential employment at the park

Value to Faculty

In support of academics, KLMN staff have been able to

- Provide real-time, park-based datasets for GIS students to analyze in ES 349, ES 451/551
- Visit classrooms to present information and ideas for student projects in ES 451/551
- Offer guest lectures, seminars, and field trips, including a recent guest lecture and lab for BI 340
- Provide technical assistance to faculty

Value to the University

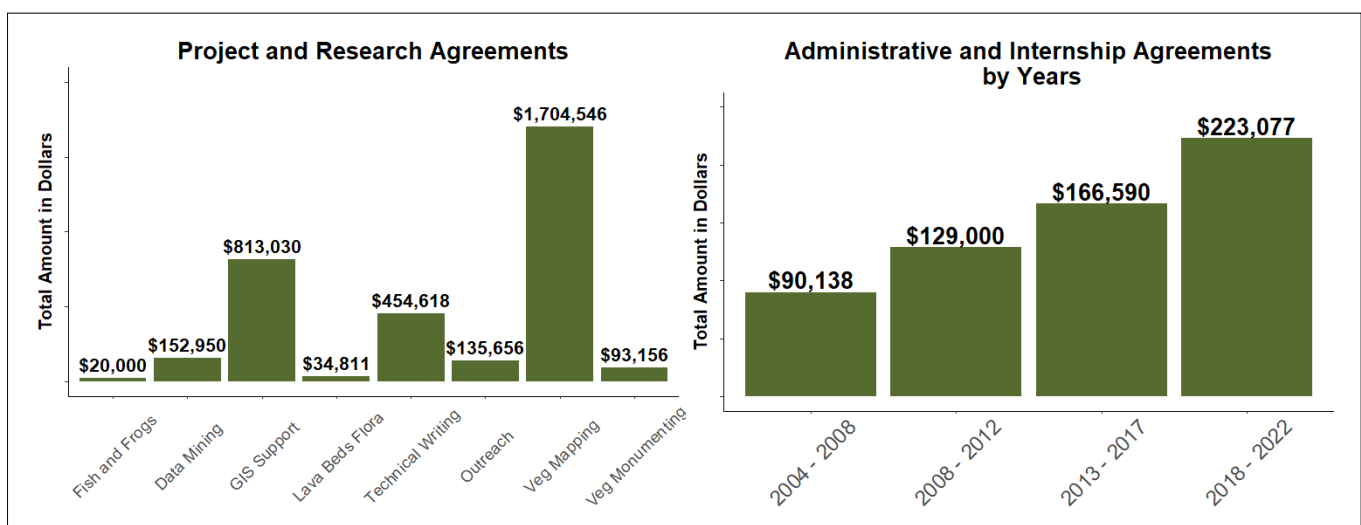
- **Funded over \$4 million in agreements**
 - Most agreements are through the Pacific West Region Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit
- **We connect students, faculty, and staff to the National Park Service and nearby parks**
 - Our annual science symposium—Klamath Conversations—on the SOU campus, brings together staff from the 6 network parks and is open to all SOU faculty and students
 - Our relationship with area parks helps connect students and faculty with research projects across the Klamath Network

SOU Collaborators

- Dr. Michael Parker
- Dr. Stewart Janes
- Dr. Ed Battistella
- Dr. Jamie Trammell
- Dr. Greg Jones (now at Linfield College)

More Information

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Task Agreements with Southern Oregon University since 2003 executed under the Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit. Total funding by NPS towards SOU projects and support is \$4,017,570.

KLMN Related Project	SOU Student	Current Occupation
Lassen Volcanic National Park Wetland Inventory	John Bickel	
Rare Plant Inventory	Jules Filipski	
Lassen Lake Monitoring Pilot Study	Aaron Maxwell Gwen Myers	Fishery Biologist with Nez Perce Fisheries Research
Crater Lake Wetland Inventory	Kier Morse	PhD student in plant taxonomy
Redwood Invasive Monitoring Pilot Study	Heather Lundgren	
Invasive Species in the Klamath Parks (Grad. Project)	Mitch Daniel	
Visitor Perceptions of Crater Lake National Park (McNair Scholar)	Althea Godfrey	
Climate Change in the Klamath Parks (Grad. Project)	Rebecca Slosberg	
A Flora of Lava Beds (Grad. Thesis)	Sean Smith	NPS Botanist and Project Lead (KLMN)
Rare Plants of Klamath Wetlands (Thesis, Mentoring)	Rob Sweeney	
Biodiversity in the Klamath Parks (Grad. Thesis)	Deborah Zierten	Education and Interpretation Manager at Save the Redwoods League
Interpreting Wetlands of the Klamath Parks (Grad. Thesis)	Sarah Finstad	
Interpreting Water Quality in Klamath Parks (Grad. Thesis)	Jennie Mentsch	
Environmental Curricula Whiskeytown NRA (Grad. Thesis)	John Duwe	NPS Education Coordinator (Science and Learning Center, Crater Lake NP)
Trained and Mentored on Aquatic Ecology Monitoring	Lawrence Van Egdom Kelton Shockey Shadassa Ourshalimian	Fisheries Technician, Cedar Creek Hatchery, Hebo, OR Environmental Lawyer Public Health Biostatistician
GIS Project and Natural Resource Summary	Ryan Reid	
GIS Project	Joey Myers	
Vegetation Mapping at Oregon Caves NMP, Lava Beds NM, and Crater Lake NP	Thomas Hender Kristi Mergenthaler Katelyn Detweiler	NPS Vegetation Crew Lead (KLMN; 2019) Oregon Land Conservancy
Fish and Frogs Study, Lassen Volcanic National Park	Jesse Goldstein Erim Gomez John Prunty	Projects Data Coordinator, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, UCSB PhD candidate, Biology, Wash. St. Univ. High school biology teacher
Invertebrate Surveys, Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve	Laura Stamper Goldie Warncke Micah Nash	
Lassen Volcanic National Park Lakes Fish Inventory	Lyndia Hammer Kate Meyer John Speece	Restoration Ecologist, Lomakatsi; grant writer, Siskiyou Field Institute Lead Fishery Biologist, USFS Willamette National Forest Water Quality Improvement Project Manager with the Bear Creek Watershed Council
Bat Monitoring and White Nose Syndrome Surveillance in Klamath Parks	Danielle Green	Undergraduate honors student and double major

KLMN Related Project	SOU Student	Current Occupation
Whitebark Pine Monitoring	Byron Birss	Environmental Data Assistant, New Zealand
	Erica Rudolph	Plant Ecologist, Great Basin Institute
	Reese Crebbins	
	Seth Keena-Levin	NPS Plant Ecologist (North Cascades NP)
	Travis Taylor	
Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology Assistant, Crater Lake NP	Mackenzie Gargas	NPS Fisheries Crew Leader (Crater Lake NP; 2019)
Science Communication Internship	Melissa Donner	Education Program Manager: Science-Works, Ashland; designed KLMN logo
	Elizabeth Raynal	
	Emily Lind	Current student
	Debra Agnew	Current student
	Leia Althausen	Current student
KLMN - Rogue Valley Community Television Videography Project	Jake Fery	
	Kim Marsillia-Bauman	
	Tim Moore	
	Grady Gannon	
	Idona Graham	
Nontechnical Writing	Joe Madden	
	Henry Whitridge	

Selection of Invited Lectures

Year	Topic
2003	Hierarchical Controls on Plant Diversity in Western Oregon Riparian Forests (Dr. Daniel Sarr)
2006	Guest Lecturer - Forest Management
2007	Guest Lecturer - Natural Resources
2008	Invited Lecture - Early Detection of Invasive Species (Sean Mohren)
2009	SOU Science Seminar: Fire and Alternative Stable States in the Klamath Region (Dr. Dennis Odion)
2011	SOU Science Seminar: International Ecology: Mexican Stromatolites and Pakistan Water Politics (Dr. Eric Dinger)
2017	Guest Lecturer - Aquatic Ecology (Dr. Eric Dinger)
2017	Env. Science and Policy Lunch Seminar: Monitoring natural resources and ecosystem health in national parks of the Klamath Network (Dr. Alice Chung-MacCoubrey)
2018	Guest Lecturers - Natural resources and monitoring at Lassen Volcanic NP (Dr. Alice Chung-MacCoubrey and Sean Smith)

Selection of Courses Taught

Year	Course	KLMN staff
2005	Restoration Ecology - From Theory to Practice	Dr. Daniel Sarr Co-Instructor, Biology Department
2006	Introductory GIS	Andrew Duff
2006	Landscape Ecology Seminar	Drs. Daniel Sarr and Dennis Odion, Co-Instructors, Biology Department
2006 - 2009	Conservation Biology	Dr. Daniel Sarr Guest Lecturer, Biology Department
2008-2009	Introduction to Global Positioning Systems	Lorin Groshong



Klamath Network

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