

Appendix C: About H.J. Andrews Forest

The H.J. Andrews (HJA) Experimental Forest is a natural candidate in which to situate data-rich stories. The U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State University, along with countless partners, have been collecting extensive data at the 16,800-acre site since 1948. Hundreds of scientists collect or use data at the site each year, connecting their data to historic findings and to the [background data](#) that are consistently collected within the forest. These data are also available to teachers and the public, making the site valuable as a teaching tool. One can readily connect stream flows, weather, fish counts, carbon sequestration, soil types, and many other variables to explore how these variables interact in an authentic setting and are connected across a common narrative of change.

HJA is situated within a two-hour drive of participating NiNMoM teachers, making it accessible for retreats and building a sense of it being a local and accessible place for students. At the same time, HJA sits on the “wet side” of the Cascades Mountains, providing a stark environmental contrast to the rain shadow environment in which the participating teachers live. This was particularly valuable for teachers and their classes who collected local field data that could be compared to the HJA data story.



Teacher participants measure the stream flow on Lookout Creek at HJA, a task they were later able to conduct with their students in a stream behind their school. Students saw the images and videos of their teachers measuring and then modelling the stream flow, allowing them to compare not only the data but also the context.