JONNY ARMSTRONG

Assistant Professor of Fisheries

I was born and raised in Ashland, Oregon. Most of my youth revolved around performing stunts with my twin brother. We spent our summers hopping off cliffs into local reservoirs and our winters hitting jumps on skis. Despite our similar genes and environment, we eventually diverged in one trait: love of fish. I became obsessed with salmon and my futile attempts to catch them. My enthusiasm for finned critters led me to major in biology at Lewis and Clark College and to pursue a PhD with the University of Washington's Alaska Salmon Program. I've spent the last decade researching the ecology of coastal watersheds in Alaska, studying fish and wildlife ranging from juvenile Coho salmon to Kodiak brown bears. During my adventures in Alaska I developed a passion for photographing wildlife with homemade camera traps. Last year I camera trapped a wide variety of wildlife including Pacific fisher, striped hyena, and Arctic ground squirrel. When I'm not researching or photographing critters, I enjoy mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and binge-watching shows on Netflix.





RESEARCH

I work at the nexus of animal behavior, physiology, and landscape ecology to ask a deceptively simple question: how do animals interact with the incredibly variable environments that they live in? Much of my research explores how fish and wildlife exploit watershed-level variation in habitat conditions and how this enables them to thrive in a world of feast and famine. I use a variety of techniques including field experiments, observational study, and simulation models. I enjoy communicating science as much as I do conducting research and I strive to engage public audiences in ecology and conservation.











ADVISING

I love sharing my enthusiasm with students and helping them thrive. My goal as an adviser is to help students identify what they are passionate about and how they can use their education to turn their passion into a career.