Measuring Snow from the Ground Up:

A Conversation with Dr. Claire Pettersen and her journey to working as part of the NASA Community

Meet the Scientist

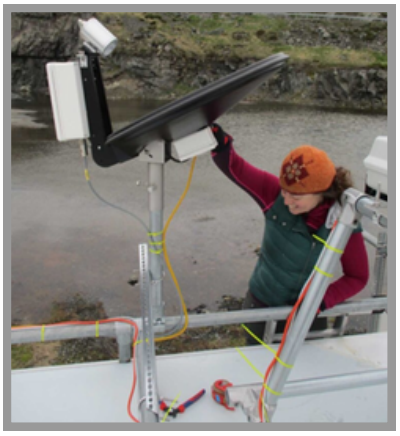
- Claire is Project lead for the NSF Snow Sensitivity to Clouds in a Mountain Environment Project or S2noCliME field experiment near Mt. Werner, Colorado.
- Works at the University of Michigan as an Assistant Professor.
- She has a B.A. in Physics, a M.Sc. in Materials Science and Engineering, and MSc and a PhD in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences.

What does Claire do?

- She leads remote field deployments that include installing instruments to measure precipitation (rain and snow).
- She analyzes precipitation data to understand more about how it falls and how storms form in mountainous terrain.
- She uses the precipitation data collected during field campaigns to engage local communities and discuss water resource management efforts.

Claire's Connection to the NASA GPM Mission

The detailed datasets that Claire collects from the field can help understand the physical process of precipitation in a cloud which is then used to improve GPM satellite data products.



Advice for working in this field?

"There's no single path to becoming a scientist or professor! There are lots of paths and topics to explore and everyone will have a unique journey. Writing and communication skills are essential! Embrace writing, take communication classes, and good science graphics can go a long way. For field work- being confident and safe in the field is crucial. Also learn basic tool usage, ask questions, and be comfortable with uncertainty and learning on the go!"