

AEG OREGON NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 5



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

January Meeting

A Bridge to Somewhere
(Polychrome Bridge Launch)

[RSVP here.](#)

Meet the Presenters

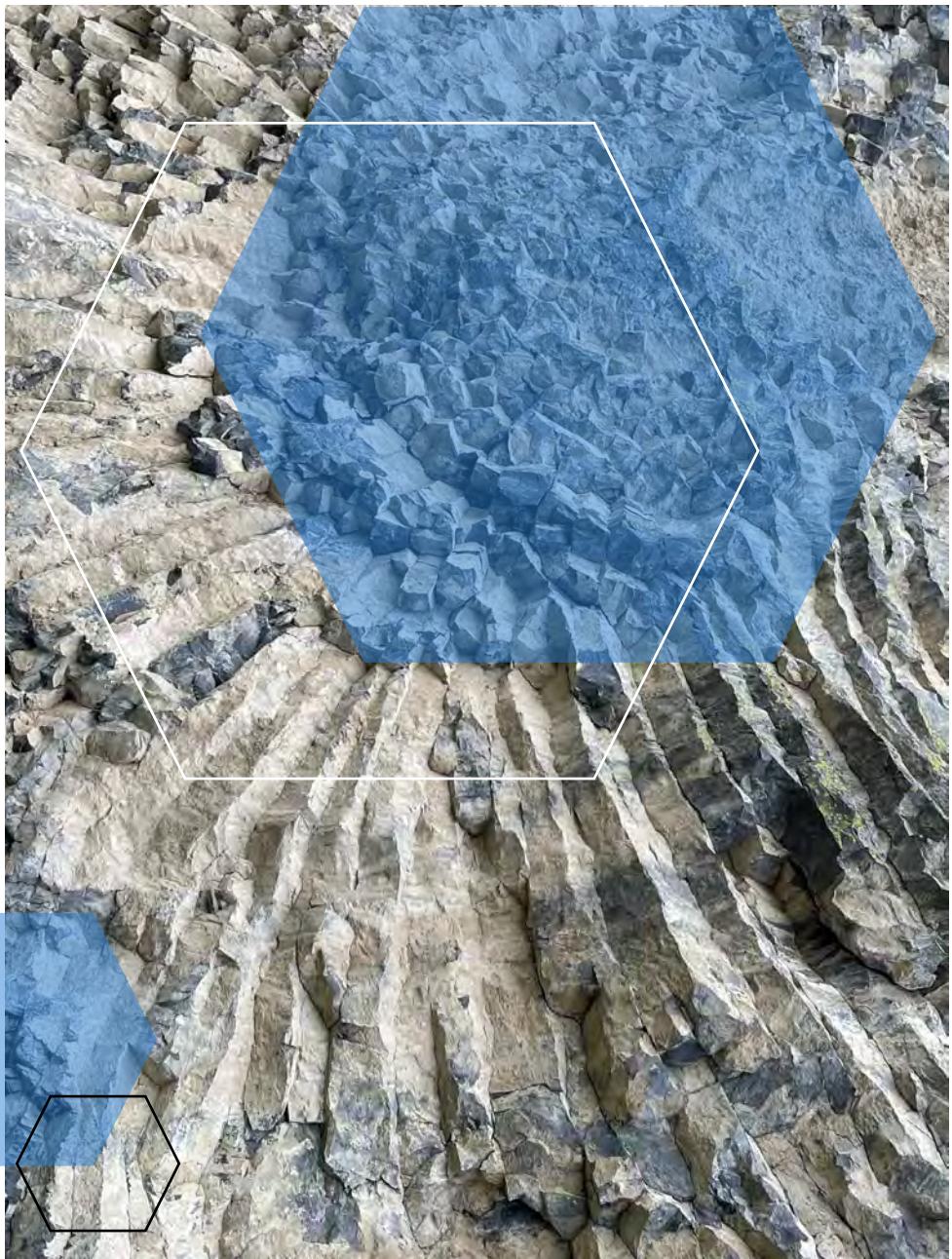
Douglas Anderson, Evan Garich,
and Gary Conner

Letter from the Chair

Take care this season

AEG Oregon Bulletin

Local industry goings-on



UPCOMING MEETINGS

JANUARY 20, 2026

ASCE/AEG Joint Meeting
Douglas Anderson, Evan Garich, and Gary Conner
A Bridge to Somewhere
(Polychrome Bridge Launch)

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

Special Event!

MARCH 24, 2026

Chris Stohr, Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer

APRIL 13, 2026

Paul Weaver, AEG President

MAY 19, 2026

Student Night

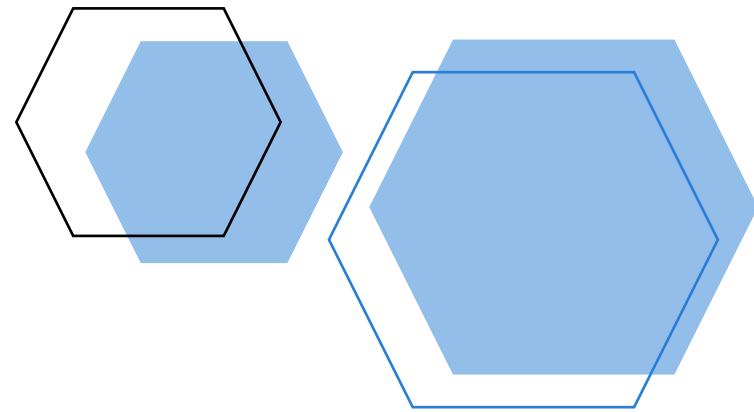
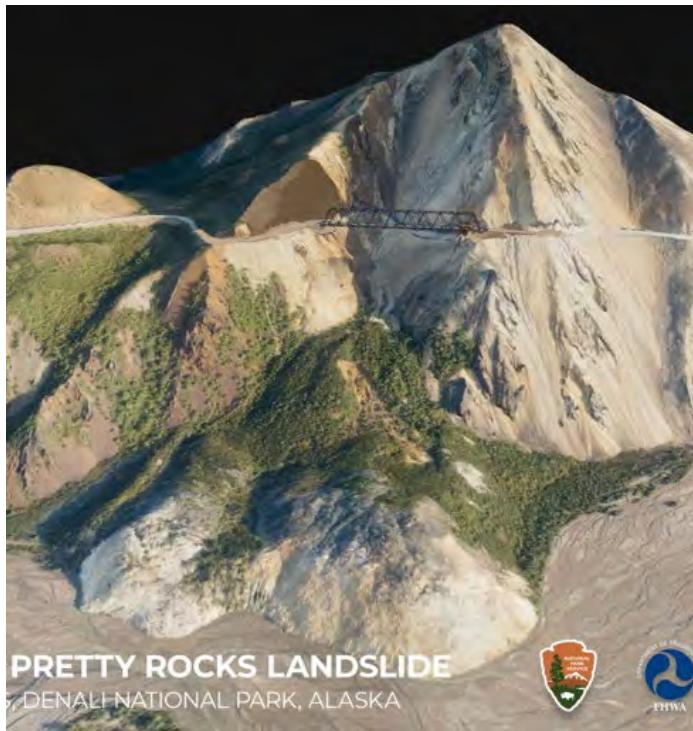
JANUARY MEETING

A BRIDGE TO SOMEWHERE

Reconnecting Nearly 47 Miles of Denali National Park Road and the Community of Kantishna in Alaska

This project represents a proactive, multidisciplinary engineering and environmental effort to adapt critical transportation infrastructure to evolving geologic and climatic conditions while balancing safety, environmental stewardship, and public access in a dynamic wilderness setting within the Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

The Pretty Rocks Landslide is a geologically active rock glacier-type landslide that intersects the Denali Park Road at Mile 45.4 in Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska. Historically a minor maintenance issue, the landslide movement began accelerating in 2014—shifting from inches per year before 2014 to inches per day and even up to 0.65 inches per hour by 2021—largely due to thawing ice-rich perma-

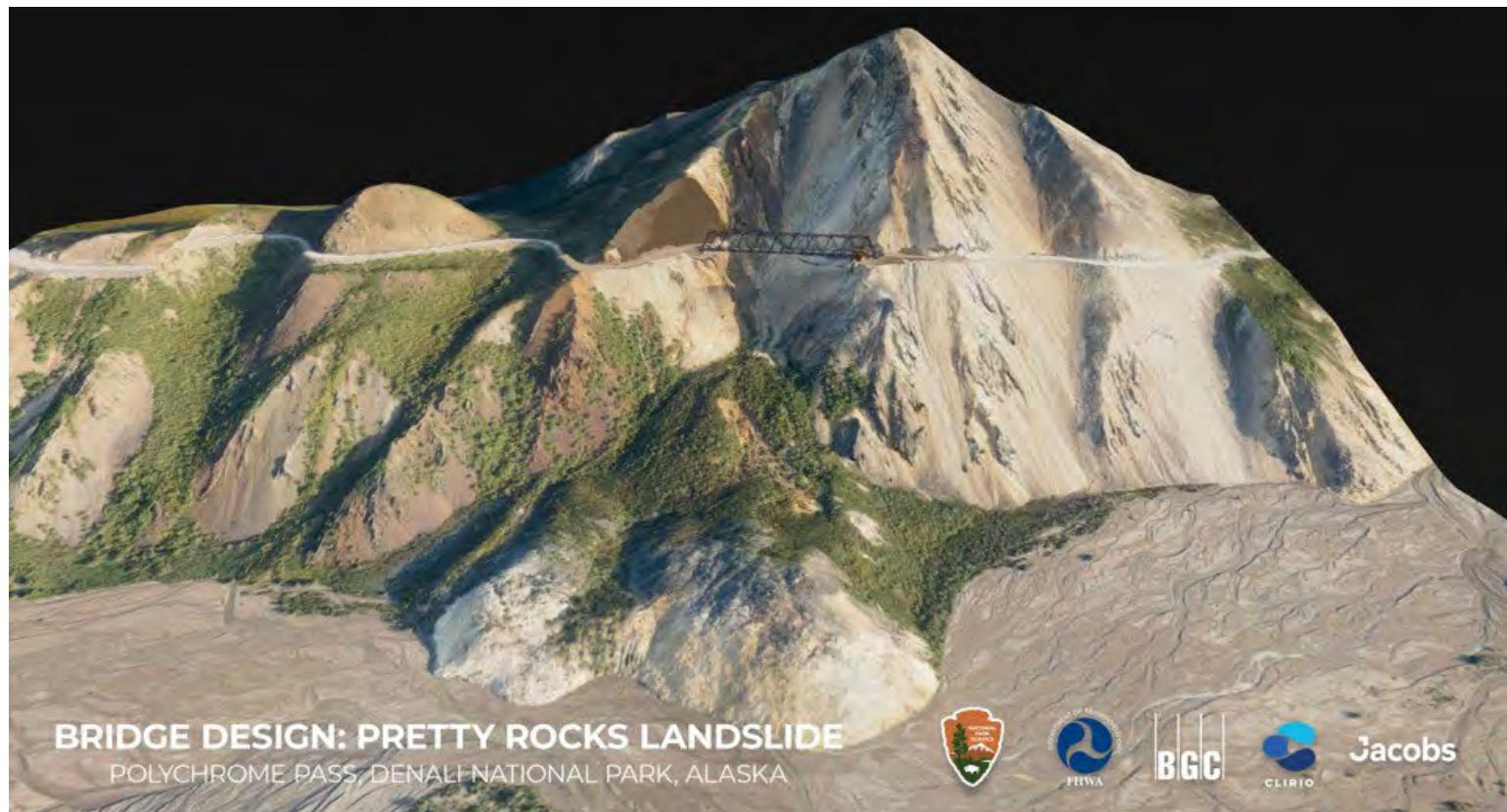


frost linked to regional climate warming and increased precipitation. This acceleration rendered traditional road repairs unsustainable and led to the closure of the park's only through-road west of Pretty Rocks in 2021, severing vehicle access to key Denali viewing, the community of Kantishna, Alaska, and other Park visitor destinations.

Proactively, Denali National Park began funding road centric unstable slope asset and performance management studies to support mitigation funding requests along with remote sensing and mapping, geophysical surveys, and subsurface geotechnical investigations with near real-time and traditional landslide monitoring from 2016 through 2019. These geotechnical asset evaluations, teamed with remote and traditional surface and subsurface geotechnical investigations, were then used to further evaluate the Polychrome Pass Area. In 2020 and 2021, the existing alignment was compared to a south and north by-pass alignment as part of an expert-based risk assessment (EBRA) conducted virtually with innovative HoloLens Technology by Clirio. This fed critical “road segment probability values and engineering estimate” information to the subsequent and required Value Assessment conducted by the National Park Service (NPS) in 2021.



In response to the road closure in August 2021, the Polychrome Area Improvements project, a collaboration between NPS and the Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration with closely integrated engineering support from a Jacobs and BGC design and construction team, aims to restore reliable access and infrastructure resilience to the increasing changes at the site and through the design life of the preferred bridge alternative eventually selected by NPS. Ultimately, a Contractor Manager/General Contractor contract was awarded to Granite Construction in 2022 for constructability feedback and innovative brainstorming to accelerate design and construction of a 475-foot-long steel truss bridge to span the active landslide zone, accompanied by slope stabilization measures, strategic earthwork, road realignment, and thermosyphon installation to mitigate permafrost thaw. Construction began in 2023, with phased work planned through 2026. While construction has uncovered some challenges, the design and construction project team has worked diligently to achieve critical construction milestones. Although the bridge has been launched across the chasm and the associated stabilization of the roadway approaches leading to the new abutments will largely be complete in 2026, the nearly 47 miles of Denali Park Road will require spot rehabilitation and road bed and ditch grading and shaping prior to public access in Spring 2027.



MEETING DETAILS

Date:

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Agenda:

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Social
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Dinner
7:00 p.m., Presentation

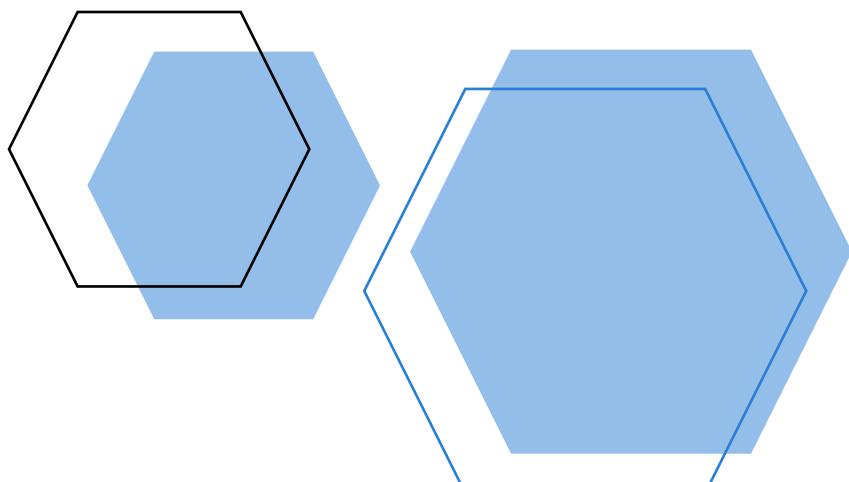
Location:

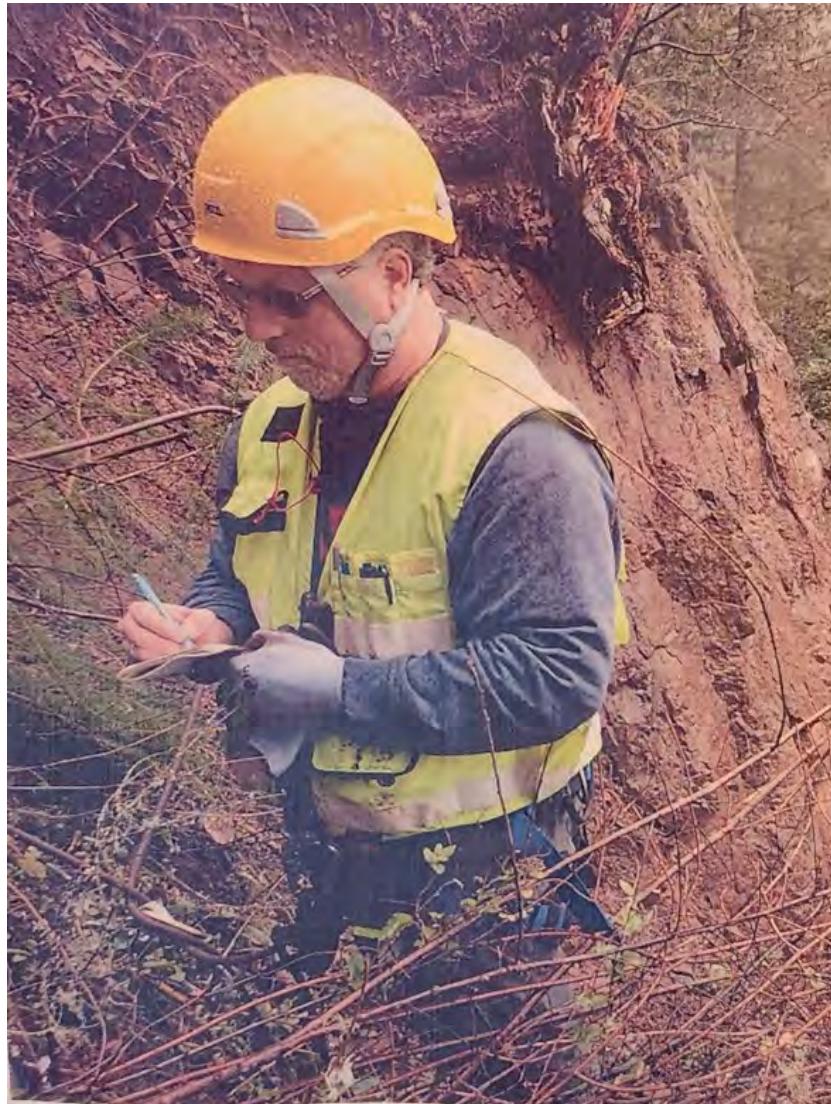
Old Market Pub
6959 SW Multnomah Boulevard

RSVP:

Ticket prices vary. Use cash or check to pay at the door.

If you want to pay with card, [RSVP here](#).





MEET THE PRESENTERS

DOUGLAS ANDERSON, LG, LEG

Doug retired in the fall of 2025 with more than 30 years working as a geopractitioner in the transportation and associated facilities/utilities industry. He worked his way up to the GEO Team Manager at the Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration in Vancouver, Washington, in 2020 after serving as a senior-level engineering geologist on the GEO Team since early 2013. Prior experience included supervising one of two engineering geology design and construction groups as the Assistant Chief Engineering Geologist at the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) in Tumwater, Washington, after working his way up the career ladder from a staff engineering geologist. He worked for WSDOT from 1999 to 2013 and also dabbled in interesting and complex private property landslide projects with Kenneth G. Neal & Associates in Olympia, Washington, as a side-hustle during his time with WSDOT. Prior to joining WSDOT, he worked as a geologist in the Mt. Hood National

Forest and in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area from 1995 to 1999, where he met his lovely wife, Jo. Doug graduated from Portland State University in 1995 and has been a member of AEG since 1994!

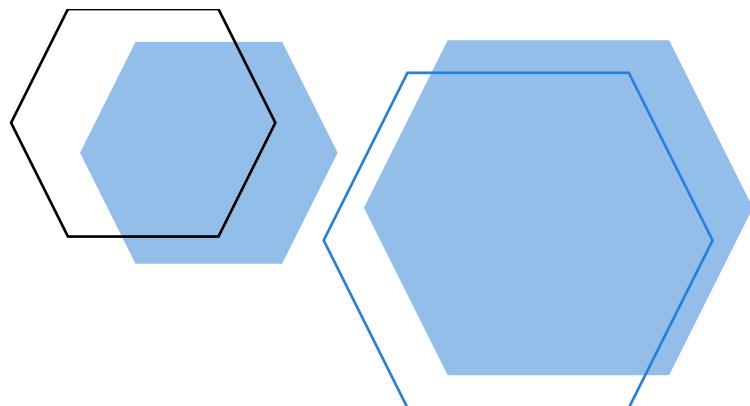


MEET THE PRESENTERS



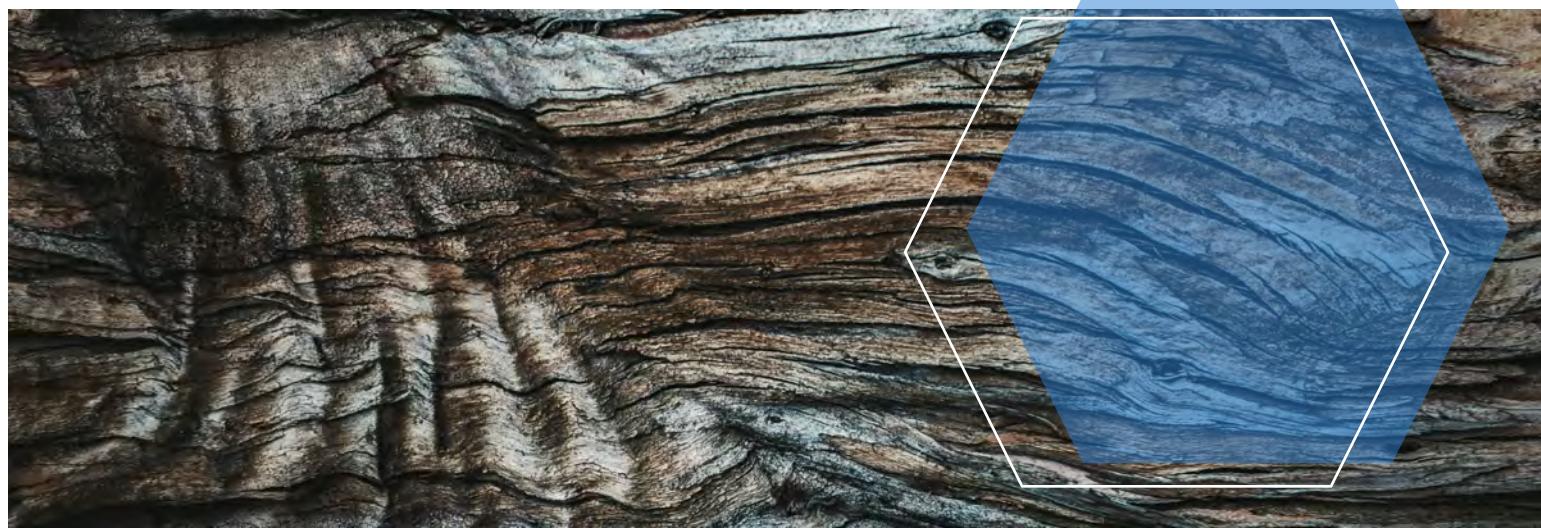
EVAN GARICH

Evan Garich is the Pacific Northwest Geotechnical & Tunneling Manager at WSP. From 2016 to May of 2025, he was a geotechnical engineer at the Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration in Vancouver, Washington. There, he performed geotechnical work to support the design and construction of roadways and bridges in national parks and other federal lands, including Denali National Park. Evan graduated from Portland State University and Texas A&M University with degrees in civil engineering.



GARY CONNER

Gary Conner is a Senior Bridge Engineer, Project Manager, and Transportation Business Manager for Jacobs with 36 years of bridge design and construction experience. He has Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees from Oregon State University. His recent work includes serving as the lead bridge engineer on projects in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

TAKE CARE THIS SEASON

AEG Oregon,

I am writing this to you the day before I take two weeks off for the holidays. I always have mixed feelings about taking off that much time off from work. On one hand, I like to be busy. My preferred state of being is “almost overwhelmed.” It’s like I need to push myself close to the edge of the abyss to stay mentally stimulated. Trust me, I know how that sounds. My therapist and I are working on it.

On the other hand, I am tired. To say this year has been tumultuous is an understatement. And, as much as I enjoy my work, I recognize the need to get away. One of the things that drives me is the tremendous fulfillment I get from helping others succeed. But if I can’t take care of myself, I can’t take care of others. As the saying goes, if you don’t make time for your wellness, you will be forced to make time for your illness.

I hope you all took care of yourselves and tried to get away from it all this holiday season. On January 20, 2026, we will have Douglas Anderson, Evan Garich, and Gary Connor presenting on the Polychrome Bridge Launch. This is also the annual joint meeting we have with our local ASCE Chapter. It promises to be an exciting night, and I hope to see you all there.

Regards,

Nicholas Farny, AEG Oregon Chair





Services Summary

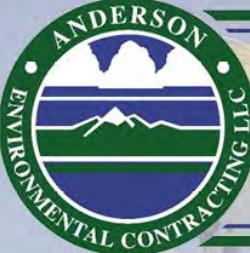
- Sonic & Direct Push Drilling
 - Incl. limited access and angle!
- Well Install/Development/Decom
- Multi-Point Injection Trailer
- Treatment System Install + O&M
- General & HazMat Excavation
- Tank & Fuel System Decom/Install
- And More!

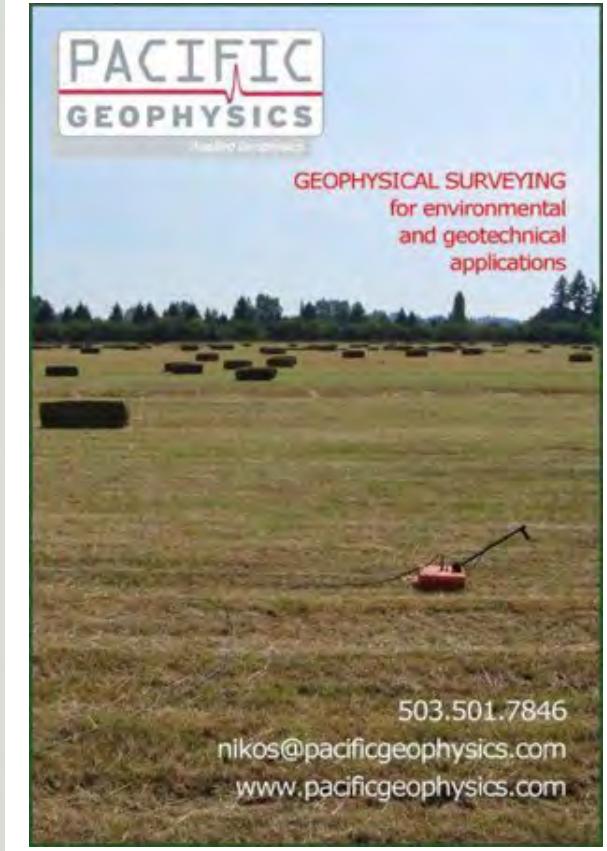
About AEC

- Proud SDVOSB
- Locations in Kelso (HQ), Tacoma, Portland
- All Operations staff w/ HAZWOPER
- Doing business for 25 years!

Contact

Connor Smith | Business Development
connors@aecllc.net | 509.881.7575





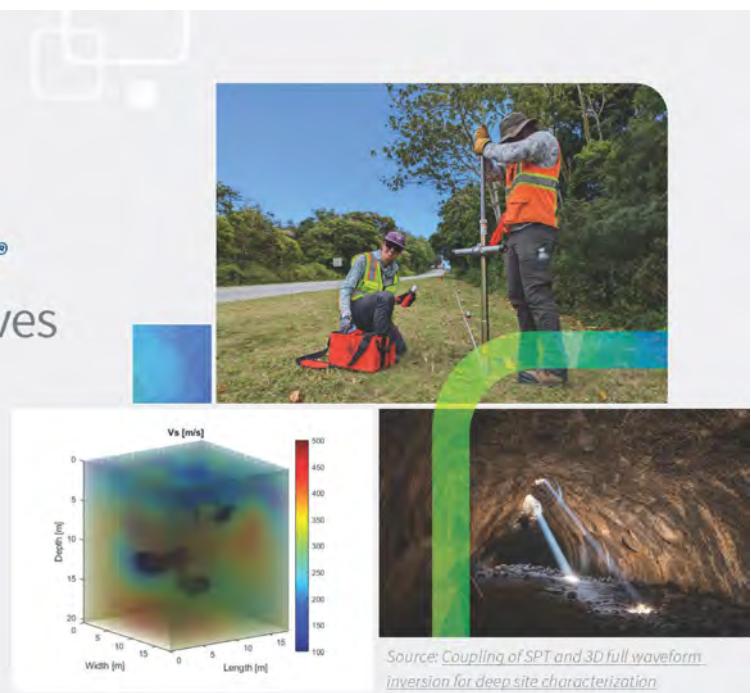
PACIFIC GEOPHYSICS
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYING
for environmental
and geotechnical
applications

503.501.7846
nikos@pacificgeophysics.com
www.pacificgeophysics.com



Leading with Science® to improve people's lives

The Tetra Tech Geophysics/Geohazards group specializes in high-resolution subsurface characterization of voids, faults, and other geohazards. Our expertise in 3D seismic and gravity imaging supports projects in geotechnical and civil engineering, remediation design, and critical infrastructure design and rehabilitation.



900 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 1600, Portland, OR 97204

Lizzy.Clyne@tetratech.com | [f](#) [in](#) [i](#)

NO TERRAIN TOO TOUGH
PLI Delivers Where Others Can't!



Call: (503) 649-8111

Rock Supremacy

Slope Stabilization



We are a one-stop-shop for your next retaining wall project from a basic cantilevered concrete, battered micropile foundation or a heavy duty anchored soldier pile wall.

Rockfall Mitigation



We are highly skilled in stabilizing rock slopes using pinned Tocco® systems, cable/ring netting, and double twist wire mesh. We also perform rock scaling, rock bolting/doweling and many other rockfall mitigation measures.

Drilling



We have extensive experience in drilling multiple variations of rock bolts/rock dowels, cable anchors, micropiles, rock sockets, tie-backs or horizontal drains in all types of subsurface environments.

Tunnel Rehabilitation



We specialize in rehabilitating or providing new tunnel construction with steel set erection, road heading, tunnel notching, liner removal, and applying shotcrete.

Shotcrete



We use a proprietary formula to effectively seal canals, soil nail walls or rock/soil surfaces. Our mix design is extremely durable and can be colored to match existing native landscapes. We also perform sculpting & staining services.

Landslide Remediation



We have years of experience solving landslide problems with a wide range of solutions to reach the perfect solution.



541.383.ROCK (7625) | Info@RockSupremacy.com | RockSupremacy.com

65147 N Hwy 97, Bend, OR 97701



HOLT SERVICES INC

EMPLOYEE OWNED



Environmental/Geotechnical/Clean Water Drilling

- Air Knife Vacuum Truck
- Cable Tool
- Direct Push
- Dual Rotary
- HSA, Mud Rotary and Core
- Limited Access
- Self-contained Decontamination System
- Sonic

High Resolution Site Characterization (HRSC) utilizes MIP and OIP direct imaging tools to vertically log in-situ conditions that include volatile petroleum hydrocarbon and solvent contamination, permeability, electrical conductivity, and delineation of non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) hydrocarbon fuels and oils.



**Holt has 4 office locations
Licensed to Drill in 13 States**

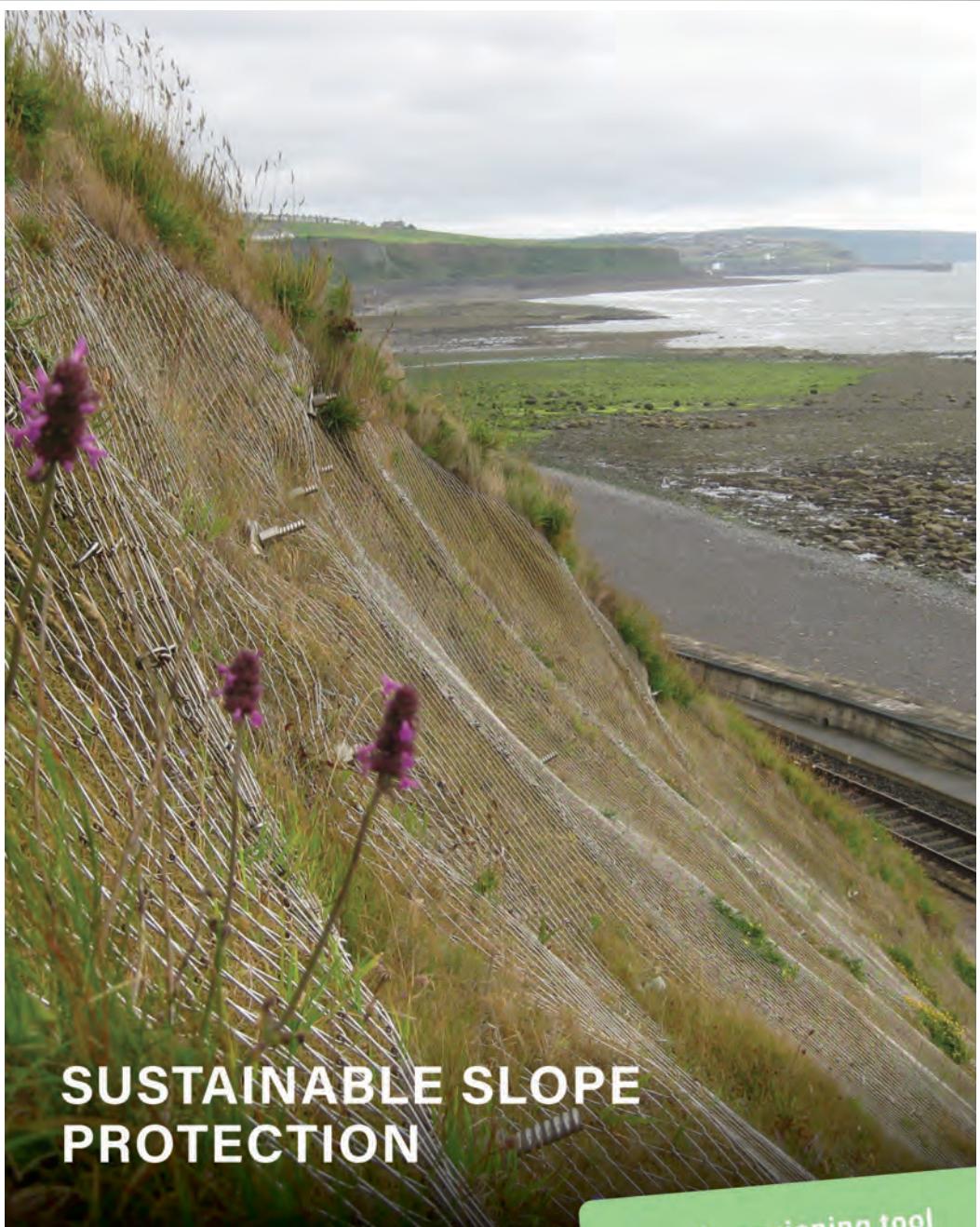
- Edgewood WA
- Vancouver WA
- Everett WA
- Boise ID



Contact Information
253.604.4878
support@holtservicesinc.com

Additional Services Include

- Injection Remediation
- Site Development
- Tank Pulls
- Excavation
- Utility Clearance
- Remediation System Installations
- **AND MORE!**



SUSTAINABLE SLOPE PROTECTION

Anchored TECCO® System
made of high-tensile steel mesh

Free dimensioning tool
www.mygeobrugg.com



Your local Geobrugg specialist:
www.geobrugg.com/contacts

BRUGG
Geobrugg

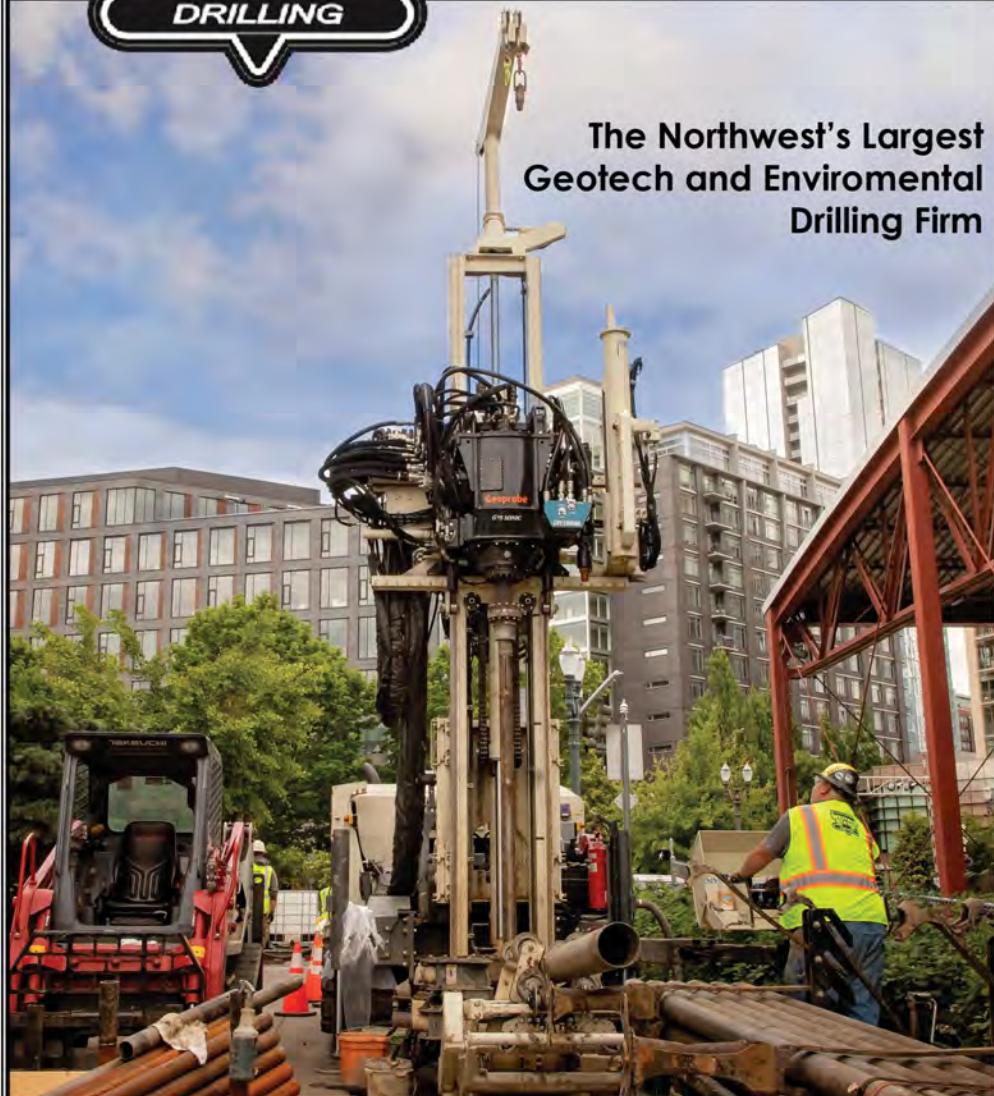
Safety is our nature



Call : 503-982-1777

www.westernstatessoil.com

**The Northwest's Largest
Geotech and Environmental
Drilling Firm**



**The industry's most experienced drillers with over 200 years of
combined drilling experience.**

**Committed To Providing Quality
Geotechnical & Environmental
Drilling Services to the Pacific Northwest**

DBE Certified in OR/WA



Making a
Sustainable Impact
on Our **Communities**
Now and Into the Future

apexcos.com





PSU STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE

Cameron Stallcup has recently presented a poster at AGU in New Orleans! He presented research looking at thermal and structural controls on rockfall in the Gilkey Trench in Southeast Alaska with the team from the Juneau Icefield Research Program and the University of Portland, led by Dr. Kiya Riverman.

TEST DATES

January 4, 2026: 75-day application deadline for the March 20, 2026, ASBOG exams.

STUDENT NIGHT

Student night will be May 21, 2026. This is an opportunity for students to present their projects and mingle with industry professionals. And there are prizes! It's never too early to start thinking about what you might present.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 9, 2026: Geological Society of Oregon presents Bill Burns, "Landslide and Debris Flow Hazards using Multitemporal Lidar." 7:30 p.m., PSU (Portland), Cramer Hall, Room 53

Jan. 22–23, 2026: Leapfrog Geo Fundamentals training course. Sequent Vancouver Office.

Jan. 27, 2026: Central Oregon Geoscience Society presents Kellie Wall, "The Wax and Wane of Volcanism in the Goat Rocks Wilderness." 5:30 p.m., Worthy Brewing (Bend)

Jan. 29, 2026: ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Dinner. 4:30 p.m., Embassy Suites Washington Square (Tigard)

CALL FOR CONTENT!

We would love to hear from you! Tell us about your recent projects, career milestones, events, awards, and job postings or submit articles and visual elements. Send newsletter contributions to Sarah Norton at snorton@gri.com.

2025 – 2026 CHAPTER OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS



CHAIR:
Nicholas Farny, FHWA Western
Federal Lands
nicholas.farny@dot.gov



CHAIR-ELECT:
Justin McCarley, Conforth
Consultants
justin.mccarley@ccilt.com



TREASURER:
Cathleen McMahon, GRI
cmc mahon@gri.com



SECRETARY:
Darlene Verduzco, GRI
dverduzco@gri.com



PAST CHAIR:
Nikos Tzetas, Pacific Geophysics
nikos@pacificgeophysics.com



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:
Rachel Sweeten, Certerra
Northwest
rachels@earth-engineers.com



PROGRAM CHAIR:
Nathan Villeneuve, GRI
nvilleneuve@gri.com



LEGISLATURE CHAIR:
Sebastian Dirringer, Conforth
Consultants
sebastian.dirringer@ccilt.com



FIELD TRIP CHAIR:
Brittni Bishop, PSU
brbishop@pdx.edu



**PSU STUDENT CHAPTER
PRESIDENT:**
Blue Hansen, PSU
bluha@pdx.edu



NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Sarah Norton, GRI
snorton@gri.com



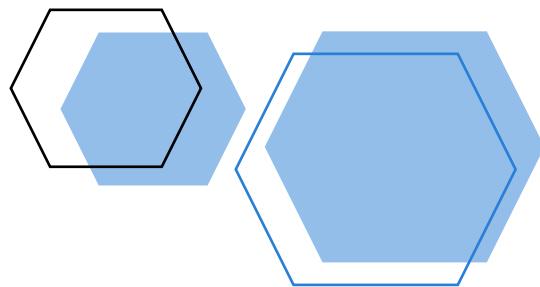
WEBPAGE EDITOR:
Paige Stuhlmuller
paigestuhlmuller26@gmail.com



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING AEG

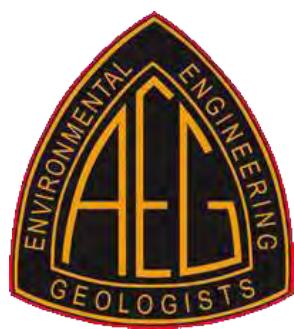
A BIG THANKS TO OUR...

Members, Volunteers, Aspect Consulting, Cornforth Consultants, Inc., DOGAMI, Earth Dynamics LLC., Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Geobrugg, GRI, Hi-Tech Rockfall Construction, Holt Services, Inc., NACSE, ODOT, Oregon State University, Pacific Geophysics, PBS Engineering and Environmental, PLI Systems, Portland State University, and Western Oregon University



THE OREGON CHAPTER IS ALSO ON THE WEB
<http://www.aegoregon.org>

NATIONAL AEG WEBPAGE
<http://aegweb.org>



THE AEG OREGON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) contributes to its members' professional success and the public's welfare by providing leadership, advocacy, and applied research in environmental and engineering geology. AEG's values are based on the belief that its members have a responsibility to assume stewardship over their fields of expertise. AEG is the acknowledged international leader in environmental and engineering geology and is greatly respected for its stewardship of the profession.

AEG OREGON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER is published monthly from September through May. Subscriptions are for members of AEG affiliated with the Oregon Chapter or other Chapters and other interested people who have requested and paid a local subscription fee of \$10.00. E-mail subscriptions are free. Subscribe to the newsletter by filling out our form [here](#). News items are invited and should be sent to: Sarah Norton, AEG Oregon Newsletter Editor, at snorton@gri.com. Deadline for submittal is the 20th of the month. Advertising: business card size \$100/yr; 1/4 page \$200/yr; 1/2 page \$350/yr; 1 page \$450/yr.

PHOTO CREDITS:

The Eye, Gordon Cliffs. © 2022, Sarah Norton / Bridge Design: Pretty Rocks Landslide. © 2025 / Cristales cueva de Naica. © 2010, Alexander Van Driessche, Public license. <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0>. Cropped / Painted Hills in Oregon. © 2020, Troy Squillaci / Gray and White Wallpaper. © 2018, Johannes Plenio / White Rectangular Board on Brown Surface. © 2020, Cottonbro Studio