

# Community Spotlight

Haley Thoresen

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## **Q: Tell us about yourself.**

I am a fourth year PhD candidate at the University of Idaho studying with Dr. Elizabeth Cassel. I am originally from Cincinnati, Ohio and am getting ready to defend my PhD dissertation within the next year!

## **Q: How are you connected to the AGeS program?**

I was awarded an AGeS grant in 2021 and now I am sitting on the AGeS Network committee.

## **Q: Describe your research (Beyond AGeS).**

I am utilizing the Eocene basin record in southwest Montana to determine the earliest record of extension following Sevier and Laramide crustal shortening and thickening. I am interested in the driving forces behind extension, what controls the distribution and magnitude of extension, and how this is recorded in the basin record.

## **Q: What geochronologic techniques do you use?**

For my AGeS grant, I conducted detrital zircon (U-Th)/He analyses in Julie Fossick's BATHY lab at the University of Connecticut.

## **Q: What excites you about your research?**

Southwest Montana is a relatively unstudied area that is critically important to understanding the evolution of the North American Cordillera and orogenic belts in general. Plus it is a beautiful area!

## **Q: What are your hobbies outside work?**

Outside of work, I spend most of the time climbing, skiing, and hiking around Idaho! I also love to play pickleball and cook for my friends.

## **Q: What inspired you to get into the earth sciences?**

I have always been fascinated by the landscapes around me and how they formed. I also love spending time in the mountains and studying geology allows me to do so.