



PROFILES OF DIVERSITY

**Dr. Michelle McClure,
PMEL Director**



ABOUT Dr. McClure

Michelle did most of her growing up in the Pacific Northwest, where attending camp (Hancock Field Station, run by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry) in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument was a formative experience, setting her on a path of exploring the natural world (and introducing her to her future husband). Michelle attended The Evergreen State College for her undergraduate education, and then took a few years to explore the world, studying penguins in Antarctica, being a park ranger at Mesa Verde, measuring beaks of endangered Hawaiian forest birds, and as surveying for archeological remains in Colorado, where her supervisor was named Gary Matlock. She moved on to graduate school at Cornell University, and completed her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, working on the development and evolution of pigment patterns in a group of minnows. From there, she got a job at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NOAA Fisheries), working on salmonid conservation in the Interior Columbia Basin for about 13 years. Switching gears, but not locations, she then moved to lead the division responsible for most of the science supporting harvest management for West Coast Groundfish. In early 2019, she began as the director of PMEL, in spite of the government shutdown and a very snowy first two weeks. Michelle and her husband have two 16-year-old boys, a cat, five chickens, and a lot of fruit trees, and like to get outside when they can and travel just about anywhere. Little known fact: Michelle's sister writes romance novels.