Hi, I am Dr. Jon Chorover and I lead the research conducted at the Santa Catalina - Jemez CZO.

We research how landforms, bedrock, and soil affect water movement in semi-arid ecosystems.

The Critical Zone here ranges from snow capped mountains with deep soils to hot, dry shrub lands with shallow soils.

One of our main goals as a CZO is to determine how landforms and bedrock affect water movement and storage.
Our CZO has instrumentation to measure energy, water and carbon budgets.

We also study water’s feedback with carbon cycling in plants and weathering of minerals.

And changes to soils and rocks from forest fires.

The trees, rivers, and soils here have supported many native peoples such as the Jemez Pueblo and Tohono O’odham.

As well as western settlers and today’s outdoors enthusiasts.

Understanding how water moves in montane Critical Zones is important for sustainability of cities in the dry Southwest!

Santa Catalina Mountains & Jemez River Basin Critical Zone Observatory

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