Megan Ruggles

Data-journalism

**Final Project Story Ideas**

**How flooding affects communities of color**

According to a recent study in Natural Hazards, communities of color are overrepresented in flood exposure hotspots. I would use data from the Census, general studies, and FEMA reports to discern the factors behind this. Questions I have include:

* Is there less access to buyout assistance?
* Is this an issue with representation when requesting assistance?
* Are residents trapped economically?

I expect my reporting will also conclude that communities of color are disproportionately affected due to a lack of political and economic representation.

**Impact of the Colorado River Basin Drought in the West**

Using data from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and certain states’ department of water resources, I would like to investigate how Western states are being impacted by drought as it pertains to the Colorado River Basin. Questions I have include:

* Will water supply to residents in the upper basin be cut off?
* What does this mean for irrigation?
* Will this disproportionately affect indigenous communities?

My reporting will likely lead me to discover that water rationing will intensify as well as determine an exact number of the 40 million residents relying on the Basin that will be impacted. I also expect to find that Indigenous communities will be most affected.