

# Future proglacial lake evolution and outburst flood hazard in Iceland

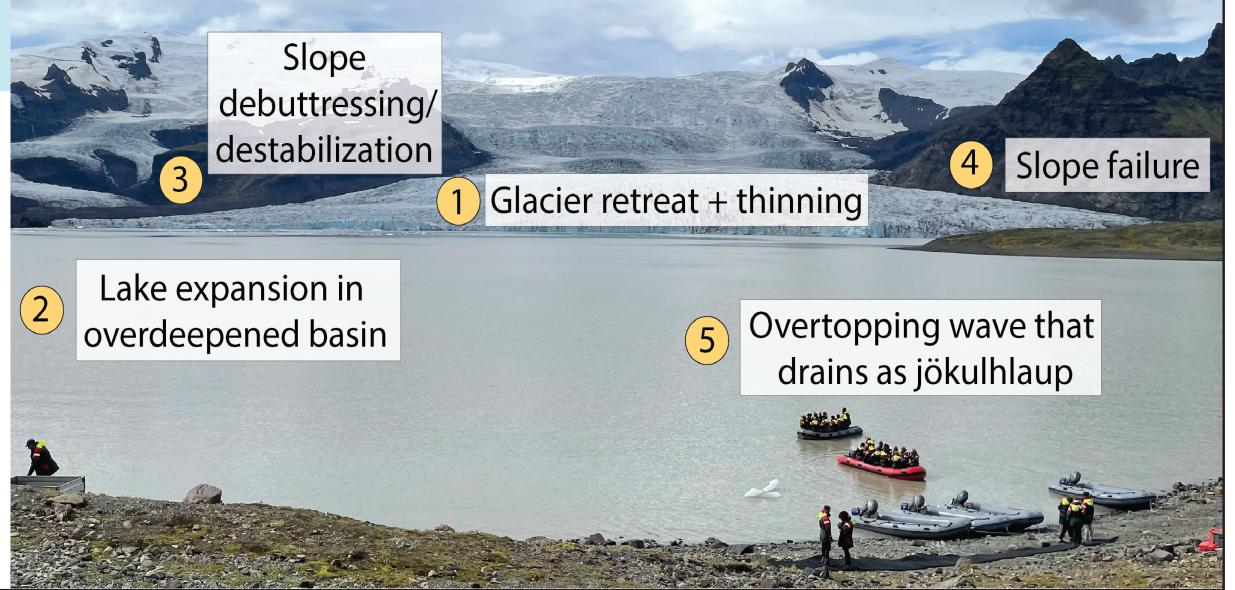


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#### An emerging hazard in Iceland

- Glacier mass balance has decreased nearly 20% since 1890 (Aðalgeirsdóttir et al., 2020)
- Proglacial lakes are expanding at most outlet glaciers (Guðmundsson et al., 2019; Magnússon et al., 2012)
- Largest ice caps are predicted to lose ~20% of current volume by 2100 (Schmidt et al., 2020)



#### Research questions

- 1) How will proglacial lakes evolve in a warming climate?
- 2) How will lake development affect outburst flood risk?
  - 3) How will this hazard impact downstream infrastructure and communities?

Work packages

Topographic map (subglacial, subaqueous, + subaerial terrain)

Future lake volume and extent (present to 2100) Map of potential slope failure "hot spots"

Hydraulic models of flood drainage routes and dynamics

### Sólheimajökull: Vegagerðin funding



Multibeam sonar survey lake bathymetry and volume (Summers 2023 + 2024)



Glacier retreat + thinning rates estimate future terminus position (Winter 2023)



Identify slopes >30° inform future geological mapping and monitoring sites (Summer 2023)



Radio-echo sounding survey subglacial topography (May 2023)



#### Next steps + anticipated outputs

- Combine datasets --> timeline for glacier retreat, lake expansion, and flood risk
- Hydraulic modeling (HEC-RAS) --> flood drainage routes, inundation depth, and flow dynamics
- Estimate flood geomorphologic impact (zones of erosion vs. deposition; composition and clast size of deposited material)
- Collaborate with communities, government agencies, and guiding companies --> hazard assessment, mitigation, and communication

Estimated lake

change, 2021–

future:

Max. depth:

128 m

210 m

Surface area:

 $0.364 \text{ km}^2$ 

0.971 km<sup>2</sup>

Volume:

 $0.186 \, \text{km}^3$ 

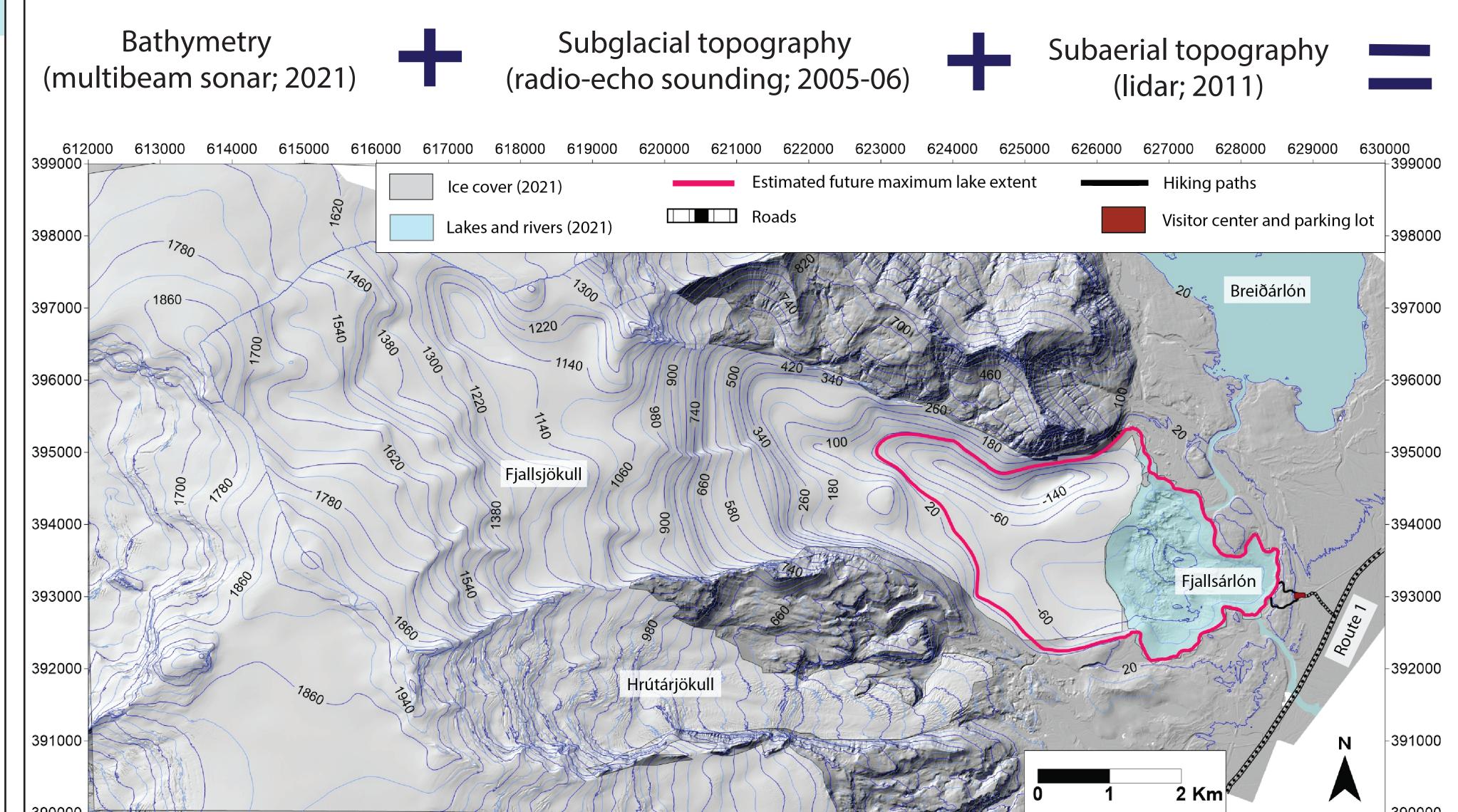
0.636 km<sup>3</sup>

Bathymetric surveys on other lakes in south + southeast Iceland

#### How can Vegagerðin use these results?

- Building sites for future roads, buildings, and tourism infrastructure
- Bridge + road strength/material able to withstand predicted flood dynamics
- Construction of flood mitigation structures (i.e. levees)
- Zones of likely post-flood sedimentation vs. erosion --> aids clean-up/repair efforts

## Fjallsjökull: previous study site



References

- Aðalgeirsdóttir, G., Magnússon, E., Pálsson, F., Thorsteinsson, T., Belart, J.M.C., Jóhannesson, T., Hannesdóttir, H., Sigurðsson, O., Gunnarsson, A., Einarsson, B., Berthier, E., Schmidt, L.S., Haraldsson, H.H., Björnsson, H., 2020. Glacier changes in Iceland from 1890 to 2019. Frontiers in Earth Science 8, 523646.
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