A wide range of processes from the long-term evolution of mountain ranges, to the complex interactions of vegetation, flow and sediment involve the use of geomorphologic models. In such models, the histories (e.g. sequences of flows) of a channel, hillslope or even an individual particle are often neglected either for the sake of simplicity or because little is known about preexisting conditions. Here, we use a combination of field measurements, laboratory experiments, and numerical modeling to demonstrate the importance of geomorphic history at a range of temporal and spatial scales.

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