



The Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center

Immediate Funding Opportunity: Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Research Fellowship Program

Department of Interior Northwest Adaptation Climate Science Center

A Cooperative Program of the University of Washington (UW), Boise State University (BSU), University of Montana (UM), Washington State University (WSU), Western Washington University (WWU), and the US Geological Survey (USGS)

The Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center invites proposals from faculty at UW, BSU, UM, WSU, and WWU for funding to support research involving graduate students and postdoctoral scientists in fields relating to understanding and addressing climate impacts on Northwest natural and cultural resources, and instruction of funded fellows in the principles and practices of co-producing decision-relevant (“actionable”) science to facilitate development of scientists proficient in confronting complex socio-ecological problems. Funding will be available as early as fall term, 2018, to support research performed during the 2018-19 academic year. **Proposals are due July 25, 2018.**

Overview

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC) was established to help safeguard the natural and cultural resources of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and surrounding river basins by providing managers and policy-makers with accessible science on climate change impacts and adaptation actions. For 2017-2022, the NW CASC is hosted by the UW in partnership with BSU, UM, WSU, and WWU.

The NW CASC Fellowship Research Program aims to support the development of science relevant to natural and cultural resource managers facing climate-related risks and challenges. To achieve this aim, the program supports research involving graduate students and postdoctoral scientists and provides instruction in the principles and practices of co-production of decision-relevant (“actionable”) science.

Research Support. The NW CASC Fellowship will support research relevant to identifying and addressing climate impacts in Northwest natural and cultural resource management involving graduate students and postdoctoral scientists at consortium partner institutions¹. Fellows’ research must demonstrate actionable science principles (e.g., identify co-production partners and plans for engaging those partners). The program will support both research to generate new knowledge and efforts focused on assessing and interpreting existing knowledge needed in specific management contexts. Of particular interest is research conducted by or for a DOI bureau, state fish and wildlife agency, or tribe (or substantively related to tribal interests). Research should also be relevant to at least one of the following NW CASC science priority areas:

¹ As of June 2018, these institutions include: University of Washington, Boise State University, University of Montana, Washington State University, Western Washington University.

- Managing aquatic resources, particularly in relation to lower water availability and warming stream temperatures
- Managing at-risk species and habitats under changing climate conditions and identifying thresholds in which species management strategies may need to be modified
- Managing invasive species and diseases, including projecting rates of spread in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
- Managing forest ecosystems by understanding changes in fire regimes, groundwater, and soil moisture availability
- Managing shrubland ecosystems, particularly in relation to controlling invasive annual grasses under future climate conditions
- Managing working lands and waters for ecological and cultural values, including providing projections for summer streamflows for water managers and identifying infrastructure at risk from extreme events
- Incorporating human dimensions of climate adaptation

Instruction in Actionable Science. Fellows will participate in effectiveness building, skills development, and network enhancement activities, including:

- *Cohort Meetings.* Fellows will participate in monthly meetings using video conferencing services to facilitate group learning and cohort building. The calls will provide an opportunity for Fellows to discuss challenges/opportunities encountered in their research projects, particularly related to their co-production and actionable science efforts.
- *Skills-Building Webinars.* Fellows will attend fall- and spring-quarter webinar series covering topics related to the use of social science methods in developing and delivering actionable science, as well as emerging science priorities. Fellows will be encouraged to apply each module to their own work.
- *Actionable Science Graduate Seminar.* Fellows will participate (in-person and via web conferencing) in a winter-quarter UW seminar: *The Theory and Practice of Linking Knowledge with Action to Address Modern Environmental Challenges*. This reading and discussion-based seminar reviews foundational and emerging literature that explores the science and practice of linking of knowledge and action (e.g., co-production, knowledge brokering, transdisciplinarity) in the context of climate change adaptation.
- *NW Climate Conference.* Fellows will be encouraged to attend the NW Climate Conference (October 9-11, 2018; Boise, Idaho).
- *Science/Practice Deep-Dive Workshop.* Fellows will be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation of the NW CASC autumn workshop on *Science for Managing Increasing Fire Risk*.

Criteria for Funding of NW CSC Research Fellowships

Proposed research projects must:

- Be relevant to management decisions related to identifying and addressing climate impacts on Northwest natural and cultural resource management and science priorities of the NW CASC,
- Involve graduate students (at UW, WWU, WSU, BSU, UM) or postdoctoral scientists (at WWU, WSU, BSU, UM) who are committed to participating in the Fellowship training activities described above,
- Demonstrate actionable science principles (e.g., identify co-production partners and plans for engaging those partners) that prioritize a DOI bureau, state fish and wildlife agency, or tribe as partners,
- Be described in a proposal submitted jointly by a faculty member (students'/postdocs' major

- adviser) and the prospective fellow,
- Be based on a demonstrably effective relationship with natural or cultural resource managers and/or other stakeholders preparing for the challenges and opportunities of climate change,
- Be likely to result in completion, results, and deliverables in the 2018-19 academic year.

Proposed research projects may:

- Involve either primary research or efforts focused on assessing and interpreting existing knowledge in the context of specific decision needs.
- Be relevant to risk assessment, identification and evaluation of response options, implementation, and evaluation and learning in the following areas of resource management:
 - Managing aquatic resources
 - Managing at-risk species and habitats
 - Managing invasives and diseases
 - Managing forest ecosystems
 - Managing shrubland ecosystems
 - Managing working lands and waters
 - Incorporating human dimensions of climate adaptation

The NW CASC Research Fellowship funding can be used to initiate a new research project; to support, extend or complete an ongoing research project; or to extend ongoing research to support management decisions. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrably leverage other efforts and resources (e.g., tuition cost-share or funding from other governmental and private organizations) and for which this funding will make a demonstrable difference. Start date, duration, and funding level of individual awards are negotiable based on the project timeline, needs of the prospective fellow, and funding from other sources.

Application and Selection Process:

Please send applications in a single PDF file by email to nwcasc@uw.edu by 11:59 pm on July 25, 2018. Include the following documents:

1. Cover page listing the following information:
 - a. Name of prospective fellow
 - b. Current level (graduate student: MS/PhD, postdoc)
 - c. Department of study
 - d. Name of faculty advisor
 - e. Project title
 - f. Geographic location (if relevant)
 - g. Brief (2 sentence) project description
 - h. Specific outcomes/products anticipated during period of funding
 - i. Total requested funding
 - j. Leveraged support
2. Letter of support from the faculty advisor (1 page). The faculty member's letter must indicate a justification for the research and their endorsement of the student's/postdoc's proposed research. Please indicate at what percentage time and for how many and which months fellowship support is desired. The faculty letter is not simply a letter of recommendation.
3. Letter of application from the prospective fellow (1-2 pages *maximum*). The application letter should include the applicant's reason for seeking a NW CASC Fellowship; the importance of the research topic in the NW region; its relevance to the priority areas identified above; and

- relevance of the Fellowship training to their career objectives and previous experience.
4. Concise summary of the proposed research (2-3 pages) including the following as appropriate to the project:
 - a. Narrative; introduction, justification, purpose, background, goals/objectives.
 - b. Research design, methods, and plans for analysis.
 - c. Timeline, tasks to be completed.
 - d. Intended deliverables and products, plans for interaction with intended users (managers and other stakeholders preparing to deal with the challenges and opportunities of climate change), and application of outcomes throughout the life of the project, and beyond.
 5. Budget details, including student salaries, benefits rates, tuition, supplies, travel, and indirect (F&A) rates for specific terms, including summer if applicable (*See example table on page 5*).
 6. A brief statement of support from an external partner or stakeholder (*e.g.* in a governmental agency, tribe, NGO, or similar organization) describing their involvement in the project and the expected impact of the data, analyses, or other knowledge or resources produced in supporting their decisions regarding management of climate risks.
 7. CV of the prospective fellow.

To be eligible, the graduate student or postdoctoral scholar must be currently enrolled (and in good standing), employed, or accepted to begin enrollment or employment by Fall Term 2018, and advised by the faculty member preparing the proposal. Progress on the proposed research is required to be documented with a progress report, due by May 15, and a final report due within one month after the end of their NW CASC Fellowship funding.

Applications will be reviewed based on the promise shown by the prospective fellows, the salience of their work to NW CASC priorities and the criteria noted above, the degree to which their work effectively leverages other efforts and sources of funding, and disciplinary and other balance.

For more information, please contact:

University of Washington:

- Dr. Amy Snover – NW CASC University Director, University of Washington, Climate Impacts Group (aksnover@uw.edu, 206-221-0222)
- Dr. Meade Krosby – NW CASC University Deputy Director, University of Washington, Climate Impacts Group (mkrosby@uw.edu, 206-579-8023)

Boise State University:

- Dr. Alejandro Flores – Boise State University NW CASC Lead (lejoFlores@boisestate.edu 208-426-2903)

University of Montana:

- Dr. Solomon Dobrowski – University of Montana NW CASC Lead (solomon.dobrowski@umontana.edu, 406-243-5521)

Washington State University:

- Dr. Jan Boll – Washington State University NW CASC Co-Lead (j.boll@wsu.edu, 509-335-4767)
- Dr. Julie Padowski – Washington State University NW CASC Co-Lead (julie.padowski@wsu.edu, 509-335-8539)

Western Washington University:

- Dr. John Rybczyk – Western Washington University NW CASC Lead (John.Rybczyk@wwu.edu, 360-223-5806)

Table 1 - Example Budget Table to support your NW CASC proposal.

Category	Rate	Amount	Notes
Academic Year Salaries			
Academic Year Benefits		\$0	<i>Check with your grants office to determine your University's benefits rates</i>
Summer Salaries			
Summer Benefits		\$0	<i>Check with your grants office to determine your University's benefits rates</i>
Services			
Travel			
Supplies			
Academic Year Tuition			
Summer Tuition			
Other Direct Costs: _____			
Other Direct Costs: _____			
Other Direct Costs: _____			
Other Direct Costs: _____			
Total Direct Costs		\$0	
Indirect Cost Base			<i>Check with your grants office to determine your University's cost base for calculating Indirect Costs</i>
Indirect Cost		\$0	<i>Check with your grants office to determine your University's correct Indirect Cost (Facilities and Administration) rate</i>
Grand Total		\$0	