



## Funding Opportunity      Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Research Fellowship Program

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC) invites proposals for its 2020-2021 Research Fellowship Program from *graduate students* at University of Washington (UW), Boise State University (BSU), Oregon State University (OSU), University of Montana (UM), Washington State University (WSU) and Western Washington University (WWU) and *postdoctoral scientists* at BSU, OSU, UM, WSU, and WWU (this fellowship cannot support postdocs at UW).

The NW CASC Fellowship supports research related to climate adaptation in Northwest natural and cultural resource management and training in the principles and practices of co-producing decision-relevant (“actionable”) science during the 2020-2021 academic year (see below for information about specific funding period). **Proposals are due March 16, 2020.**

### Program Overview

The NW CASC was established to help safeguard the natural and cultural resources of Idaho, Oregon, Washington and surrounding river basins (e.g., western Montana) by providing managers and policymakers with actionable science on climate change impacts and adaptation actions. The NW CASC is hosted by the UW in partnership with BSU, OSU, UM, WSU and WWU.

The NW CASC Research Fellowship Program<sup>1</sup> 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 training 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. The program supports both research that generates new knowledge and that which synthesizes, assesses or interprets existing knowledge for application in specific management contexts. Proposed research must (1) align with the NW CASC Science Agenda, (2) demonstrably benefit NW CASC stakeholder(s) and (3) result in actionable-science deliverables within the Fellowship year.

**Science agenda.** NW CASC research priorities are closely tied to the needs of regional natural and cultural resource managers and are detailed in the *NW CASC Science Agenda for 2018-2023*.<sup>2</sup> Proposals developed in response to this funding opportunity should focus on developing knowledge that can be directly applied to the management needs detailed in the *Science Agenda*, either locally

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/science/research-fellowship-program/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/science/science-agenda/>

or broadly across landscapes in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and western Montana, in at least one NW CASC science priority areas:

- Managing aquatic resources
- Managing at-risk species and habitats
- Managing invasives and diseases
- Managing forest ecosystems
- Managing shrubland ecosystems
- Managing working lands and waters (this fellowship does not fund research related to intensive agriculture/croplands)
- Incorporating human dimensions of climate adaptation

*NW CASC Stakeholders.* Primary NW CASC stakeholders are fish, wildlife and ecosystem managers within the U.S. Department of the Interior bureaus (National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Recreation; note: the US Forest Service is not a DOI bureau), Northwest Tribes or tribal entities and state fish and wildlife and natural resource management agencies. Prospective Fellows must detail how their proposed research would benefit one of these NW CASC stakeholders, and provide a stakeholder letter of support. Proposals that demonstrate working partnerships or other deep stakeholder engagement will be evaluated more favorably.

*Fellowship Funding Period and Deliverables.* The funding period for the NW CASC 2020-21 Fellowship cohort is from the beginning of fall term, 2020 through 31 July 2021, with the potential for extension to the end of summer term, 2021. Extensions are contingent on continued DOI funding of the NW CASC itself *and* satisfactory progress by the Fellow. Research proposals must define substantive results and deliverables that will be produced during the fellowship period. Progress on the proposed research is required to be documented with a progress report, due by May 15, 2021, and a final report, due within one month of the end of Fellowship funding.

*Training in Actionable Science.* NW CASC Research Fellows learn and practice actionable science principles and practices through a variety of activities, including skills development and network enhancement activities:

- *Cohort Meetings.* Fellows will participate in monthly meetings using video conferencing services to facilitate group learning and cohort building. Cohort meetings 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 NW CASC's fall- and spring-quarter Actionable Climate Science Skills-building Webinars series, which are designed to help those engaged in climate impacts research better understand the range of approaches for developing actionable science.<sup>3</sup>
- *Actionable Science Graduate Seminar.* Fellows will participate (in-person and via web conferencing) in a 2-credit 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. The seminar will

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/resources/actionable-science-webinars/>

meet weekly during the UW winter quarter (January-March 2021). Fellows at institutions other than UW can receive independent study credit for the seminar.

- *NW Climate Conference*. Fellows will be supported to attend and present their work at the annual NW Climate Conference (October 2020; Seattle-area).<sup>4</sup>
- *Science/Practice Deep-Dive Workshop*. Fellows will be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation of the NW CASC annual “deep dive” workshop. These workshops combine assessment of the state of science and the state of practice related to complex climate adaptation challenges in the NW.

### **Criteria for Funding of NW CASC Research Fellowships**

*Proposed research projects must:*

- Involve graduate students (at UW, OSU, BSU, UM, WSU, and WWU) or postdoctoral scientists (at BSU, OSU, UM, WSU, and WWU) who are committed to participating in the Fellowship training activities described above. 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 2020. This fellowship cannot support postdocs at UW). *Please note that students who have previously received funding through the NW CASC Fellowship Program are not eligible to apply for additional funding.*
- Be focused within the NW CASC geographic domain, i.e., Idaho, Oregon, Washington and surrounding river basins (e.g., western Montana),
- Be relevant to management decisions related to identifying and addressing climate impacts on Northwest natural and cultural resource management, as identified in the NW CASC *Science Agenda*,
- Be relevant to primary NW CASC stakeholders, i.e., fish, wildlife and ecosystem managers within the U.S. Department of the Interior bureaus (National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Recreation; note: the US Forest Service is not a DOI bureau), Northwest Tribes or tribal entities and state fish and wildlife and natural resource management agencies,
- Be designed to produce substantive results and deliverables during the 2020-2021 fellowship year.

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. It can be used to support research to generate new knowledge or efforts focused on synthesizing, assessing and interpreting existing knowledge for application in specific management contexts.

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 NW CASC funding will make a demonstrable difference.

Previous awards have averaged around \$30,000, with a range of \$8,000 to \$65,000. Because of UW matching funds, total allowed award costs from UW fellows are calculated *excluding* tuition and indirect costs.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nwclimateconference.org/>

## Application and Selection Process

Please send applications (including budget) in a single PDF file by email to [nwcasc@uw.edu](mailto:nwcasc@uw.edu) by **11:59 pm on March 16, 2020**. In addition, send the budget in an excel spreadsheet. Include the following documents in the pdf:

1. *Cover page* listing the following information:
  - a. Name and contact information of prospective fellow
  - b. Current level (graduate student: MS/PhD, postdoc)
  - c. Department of study
  - d. Name and contact information 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. List of external partners
  - j. Total requested funding
  - k. Leveraged support
2. *Letter of support from the faculty advisor* (1 page). The faculty member's letter must indicate a justification for the research, endorsement of the student's/postdoc's proposed research and support for the student's/postdoc's participation in the NW CASC Fellowship Program activities. 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 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 (including relevance of the proposed project to NW CASC science priorities and primary stakeholders), 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 NW CASC primary stakeholders, and application of outcomes throughout the life of the project, and beyond.
5. *Budget details*, including, as appropriate, salaries, benefits rates, tuition, supplies, travel, and indirect (F&A) rates for specific terms, including summer if applicable. Please use and submit the sample budget excel spreadsheet available here: <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/resources/funding-opportunities/>. (The budget should be included both in the complete pdf application file *and* submitted as a separate excel spreadsheet.)
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*.

After screening for the minimum requirements listed above, 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.

*Note:* NW CASC USGS staff (see below) are available to consult with prospective fellows on the salience of their potential research to NW CASC science priorities and primary stakeholders and may be able to assist in identifying additional NW CASC stakeholders for some proposed projects.

### **For More Information**

#### *University of Washington:*

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

#### *Boise State University:*

- Dr. Alejandro Flores – NW CASC Lead for BSU  
[lejoflores@boisestate.edu](mailto:lejoflores@boisestate.edu), 208-426-2903

#### *Oregon State University:*

- Dr. Selina Heppell – NW CASC Lead for OSU  
[selina.heppell@oregonstate.edu](mailto:selina.heppell@oregonstate.edu), 541-737-9039

#### *University of Montana:*

- Dr. Solomon Dobrowski – NW CASC Lead for UM  
[solomon.dobrowski@umontana.edu](mailto:solomon.dobrowski@umontana.edu), 406-243-5521

#### *Washington State University:*

- Dr. Jan Boll – NW CASC Co-Lead for WSU  
[j.boll@wsu.edu](mailto:j.boll@wsu.edu), 509-335-4767
- Dr. Julie Padowski – NW CASC Co-Lead for WSU  
[julie.padowski@wsu.edu](mailto:julie.padowski@wsu.edu), 509-335-8539

#### *Western Washington University:*

- Dr. John Rybczyk – NW CASC Lead for WWU  
[John.Rybczyk@wwu.edu](mailto:John.Rybczyk@wwu.edu), 360-223-5806

#### *USGS:*

- Dr. Nicole DeCrappeo – NW CASC Federal Director  
[ndecrappeo@usgs.gov](mailto:ndecrappeo@usgs.gov), 541-750-1021
- Dr. Betsy Glenn – NW CASC Research Coordinator  
[eglenn@usgs.gov](mailto:eglenn@usgs.gov), 541-750-1022