Funding Opportunity Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Faculty Fellowship Program

The Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC) invites applications for its 2027 Faculty Fellowship Program[1] from faculty and non-faculty scientists with primary investigator status at University of Washington (UW), Boise State University (BSU), Northwest Indian College (NWIC), Oregon State University (OSU), Portland State University (PSU), University of Montana (UM), Washington State University (WSU) and Western Washington University (WWU).

Modeled after our highly successful graduate student and postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program[2], the NW CASC Faculty Fellowship aims to support research related to climate adaptation in Northwest natural and cultural resource management and training in the principles and practices of co-producing decision-relevant (i.e., "actionable") science during the 2027 calendar year (see below for information about specific funding period). **Applications are due August 31, 2026.**

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, northern California) 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 the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, BSU, NWIC, OSU, PSU, UM, WSU and WWU. The NW CASC Faculty Fellowship Program aims to support efforts to make existing research more usable for natural and cultural resource managers facing climate-related risks and challenges. To achieve this aim, the program supports research involving faculty at NW CASC Consortium institutions and provides skills-building opportunities around the co-production of decision-relevant (i.e., "actionable") science.

Research Support. The NW CASC Faculty Fellowship Program is a "last-mile" program that funds activities aimed at enhancing the usability of existing research for natural resource managers. Last-mile activities take research beyond peer-reviewed publication to formats more easily accessed, interpreted and applied by resource managers. All proposed activities must (1) align with the NW CASC Science Agenda, (2) demonstrably benefit NW CASC external partner(s) and (3) result in actionable-science deliverables within the Fellowship year. Example deliverables may include interactive tools, research syntheses, field or lab protocols, workshops and trainings, outreach materials, and/or other products aimed at making existing faculty research more directly applicable to the decision-making of Northwest resource managers.

[1] https://nwcasc.uw.edu/programs/faculty-fellowship-program
[2] https://nwcasc.uw.edu/programs/research-fellowship-program

Science priorities. NW CASC science priorities are closely tied to the needs of regional natural and cultural resource managers and are detailed in the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2025-2030, available in Appendix B, and in the *NW CASC Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas*[4,5,6,7] and *Research Needs and Capacity Needs*[8] developed during NW CASC Deep Dives. Applications should focus on co-developing last-mile products that can be directly applied to these management needs, either locally or broadly across landscapes in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and surrounding river basins (e.g., western Montana, northern California). Applications must have a clear link to climate impacts and/or adaptation (not climate mitigation).

Applications addressing the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2025-2030 must address at least one priority ecosystem (as listed in Figure 4) *or* at least one species of greatest conservation need in Idaho, Oregon, Washington (see "Priority Species" on pg. 9), or western Montana (species occurring west of the Continental Divide; see Montana's State Wildlife Action Plan) *and* at least one climate-linked driver of change (as listed in Figure 5). Applications addressing the *NW CASC Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas* may address science priorities detailed in the following documents:

- Managing western Washington wildfire risk in a changing climate (*Actionable Science Agenda on Westside Fire*[4])
- Managing post-fire vegetation change in a warming climate (*Actionable Science Agenda on Post-Fire Vegetation Transformation*[5])
- Managing inland migration of coastal habitats (*Actionable Science Agenda on Coastal Squeeze*[6])
- Managing the ecological impacts of extreme heat (*Actionable Science Agenda*[7])
- Understanding and responding to climate-induced impacts on stream permanence in the northwestern U.S. (*Research Needs and Capacity Needs related to Stream Permanence*[8]*)*

NW CASC External Partners. Primary NW CASC external partners are fish, wildlife and ecosystem managers within the US Department of the Interior bureaus (National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation; note: the US Forest Service and NOAA are not DOI bureaus), Northwest Tribes or Tribal entities and state/local fish and wildlife and natural resource management agencies. Prospective Faculty Fellows must detail how their proposed project would benefit one of these primary NW CASC partners and provide a letter of support.

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[4] https://nwcasc.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/01/Managing-Western-Washington-Wildfire-Risk-in-a-Changing-Climate.pdf (see pages 9-10)

[5] https://nwcasc.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/01/Managing-Post-Fire-Vegetation-Change-in-a-Warming-Climate.pdf (see pages 10-11)

[6] https://nwcasc.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/01/Managing-Inland-Migration-of-Coastal-Habitats-in-Response-to-Sea-Level_Rise.pdf (see pages 12-13)

[7] https://nwcasc.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/01/Managing-the-Ecological-Impacts-of-Extreme-Heat-in-the-Northwest.pdf (see pages 14-15)

[8] https://nwcasc.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/01/Understanding-and-Responding-to-Climate-Induced-Impacts-on-Stream-Permanence-in-the-Northwestern-U.S.pdf (summary on page 2, more information in Tables 1-3 & 6-8)

Applications that identify committed NW CASC external partners and an initial plan for their engagement will be evaluated more favorably. Applications may include additional partners who are not primary NW CASC partners.

Faculty Fellowship Funding Period and Deliverables. The funding period for the NW CASC 2027 Faculty Fellowship cohort is from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. Research applications 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 July 1, 2027, and a final report due within one month after fellowship funding ends.

Training in Actionable Science. The NW CASC Faculty Fellowship will provide a variety of skills-building activities to support Fellows' effectiveness in their last-mile projects:

- ***Actionable Science Workshop***. This two-day workshop focuses on building the knowledge and skills needed to engage effectively with resource management partners to co-produce actionable science. Such skills are typically not taught or rewarded in traditional science training, yet are increasingly required to meet broader impacts criteria, conduct societally-relevant research that addresses modern environmental crises, and mentor the growing number of graduate students and early career scientists committed to making science that makes a difference.
- ***Cohort Calls***. Faculty Fellows will participate in four, quarterly meetings using video conferencing services to facilitate group learning and cohort building. Cohort meetings will provide an opportunity for Faculty Fellows to discuss challenges and opportunities encountered in their last-mile projects, particularly related to their co-production and actionable science efforts. Calls will also provide Faculty Fellows with further skills-building opportunities to support their effective engagement with resource manager partners.

Criteria for Funding of NW CASC Faculty Fellowships

Proposed research projects must:

- Be led by a faculty member or a non-faculty scientist with primary investigator status at a NW CASC Consortium institution (i.e., UW, BSU, NWIC, OSU, PSU, UM, WSU or WWU) who is committed to participating in the Faculty Fellowship training activities described above. Please note that Faculty Fellows will only be funded for a maximum of one fellowship year (i.e., will not be eligible for participation in a second Faculty Fellows cohort).

- Be focused within the NW CASC geographic domain, i.e., Idaho, Oregon, Washington and surrounding river basins (e.g., western Montana, northern California).

- 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 for 2025-2030 and the NW CASC Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas.

- Be relevant to a primary NW CASC external partner, i.e., fish, wildlife and ecosystem managers within the US Department of the Interior bureaus (National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation; note: the US Forest Service and NOAA are not DOI bureaus), Northwest Tribes or Tribal entities and state/local fish and wildlife and natural resource management agencies.

- Be designed to produce substantive results and deliverables during the 2027 fellowship year.

NW CASC Faculty Fellowship funding will be used to develop "last-mile" products (e.g., technical reports, protocols, tools, workshops) that make existing research more easily applied to management decisions.

Priority will be given to projects that demonstrably leverage other efforts and resources (e.g., funding from other governmental and private organizations; or use of laboratory space, equipment, field station or site) and for which NW CASC funding will make a meaningful difference.

Maximum funding amount per award is $32,000.

Application and Selection Process

Applications are due by **11:59 pm PDT on August 31, 2026.** Please complete **two** steps:

1. *Complete online application form.* Please use this online form (https://forms.gle/a1awETaJUe6APspf8) to submit the following information:
    a. Name and contact information (email, phone) of prospective Faculty Fellow
    b. University
    c. Academic department
    d. Project title
    e. Project study area (if relevant)
    f. Brief (2 sentence) project description
    g. Specific component(s) of your project addressed by the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2025-2030, the Actionable Science Agenda on Westside Fire, the Actionable Science Agenda on Post-Fire Vegetation Transformation, the Actionable Science Agenda on Coastal Squeeze, the Actionable Science Agenda on Extreme Heat, or the Research Needs and Capacity Needs on Stream Permanence
    h. Specific outcomes/products anticipated during period of funding
    i. List of external partners
    j. Total requested funding
    k. Leveraged support

2. *Email application.* Please email your application (as a single pdf) and budget (both within your PDF and as a separate Excel file) directly to nwcasc@uw.edu. **Email must be received by 11:59 pm PDT on August 31, 2026.** Applications should be formatted with 1-inch margins and 12 point font. Include the following documents in the pdf:
    a. *Cover page* listing the name of prospective Faculty Fellow and project title.
    b. *Letter of application from the prospective Faculty Fellow* (1-2 pages *maximum*). The application letter should include the applicant's reason for seeking a NW CASC Faculty Fellowship and relevance of the fellowship training to their career objectives and previous experience.
    c. *Concise summary of the proposed research* (3-page limit; references can be included on additional pages) including the following as appropriate to the project:
        i. Background, justification (including relevance of the proposed project to NW CASC science priorities and primary NW CASC external partner(s)), goals and objectives.
        ii. Description of last-mile activities. This includes sufficient context about the applicant's existing research, details about the proposed last-mile activities, and explanation of why these activities will enhance the usability of the existing research for the identified NW CASC external partner(s).
        iii. Timeline with tasks to be completed.
        iv. Intended deliverables and products.
        v. Plan for interaction with primary NW CASC external partner(s), expected use of products in natural resource decision making, any additional project outcomes.
    d. *Budget details* including, as appropriate, salaries, benefits rates, supplies, travel, and indirect (F&A) rates for specific terms, including summer if applicable. Please use the sample budget Excel spreadsheet available here: https://nwcasc.uw.edu/programs/faculty-fellowship-program/applying-for-the-faculty-fellowship-program/. (The budget should be included both in the complete pdf application file *and* submitted as a separate Excel spreadsheet.)
    e. *A brief statement of support from a primary NW CASC external partner* (*e.g.,* in a DOI bureau, state/local resource agency, or Tribe) describing their involvement in the project and the expected impact of the project and its products in supporting their decisions regarding management of climate risks.
    f. CV of the prospective Faculty Fellow.

After screening for the minimum requirements listed above, applications will be reviewed based on the rigor of the proposed work and salience to NW CASC priorities, the potential future impact of the Fellowship on the participating faculty member, and the degree to which their work effectively leverages other efforts and sources of funding. Final decisions also consider representation of Consortium institutions and projects that reflect the breadth of NW CASC Science Agenda priorities. The criteria that reviewers will use to appraise applications is provided in Appendix A of this document.

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

For More Information

University of Washington:

- Dr. Meade Krosby – NW CASC University Director, UW Climate Impacts Group
  mkrosby@uw.edu, 206-579-8023
- Dr. Anima Kalafatis – NW CASC Deputy University Director, UW Climate Impacts Group
  scottkal@uw.edu, 206-543-6720

Boise State University:

- Dr. Kelly Hopping – NW CASC Co-Lead for BSU
  kellyhopping@boisestate.edu, 208-426-4152

Northwest Indian College:

- Dr. Emma S. Norman – NW CASC Lead for NWIC
  enorman@nwic.edu, 360-392-4309

Oregon State University:

- Dr. Selina Heppell – NW CASC Lead for OSU
  selina.heppell@oregonstate.edu, 541-737-9039

Portland State University:

- Dr. Paul Loikith – NW CASC Lead for PSU
  ploikith@pdx.edu, 503-725-3078

University of Montana:

- Dr. Solomon Dobrowski – NW CASC Lead for UM
  solomon.dobrowski@umontana.edu, 406-243-5521

Washington State University:

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

Western Washington University:

- Dr. John Rybczyk – NW CASC Lead for WWU
  John.Rybczyk@wwu.edu, 360-223-5806

USGS:

- Dr. Leona Svancara – NW CASC Acting Regional Administrator
  lsvancara@usgs.gov

Appendix A: NW CASC Fellowship Application Review Criteria

Proposed last-mile projects must:

1. Be **led by a faculty member or a non-faculty scientist with primary investigator status** at a NW CASC Consortium institution (UW, BSU, NWIC, OSU, PSU, UM, WSU or WWU) who is committed to participating in the Fellowship training activities described above and:
    - Are currently employed or plan to begin employment at a Consortium institution by January 1, 2027.
    - Have not previously received funding through the NW CASC Faculty Fellowship Program.

2. Be **focused within the NW CASC geographic domain**, i.e., Idaho, Oregon, Washington and surrounding river basins (e.g., western Montana, northern California).

3. 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 for 2025-2030 and the NW CASC Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas**. They must have a clear link to climate impacts and/or adaptation (*not* climate mitigation). Applications addressing the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2025-2030 must address at least one priority ecosystem OR species of greatest conservation need AND at least one climate-linked driver of change. Applications addressing the NW CASC Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas may address science priorities detailed in the following documents:
    - Managing western Washington wildfire risk in a changing climate (*Actionable Science Agenda on Westside Fire*[4])
    - Managing post-fire vegetation change in a warming climate (*Actionable Science Agenda on Post-Fire Vegetation Transformation*[5])
    - Managing inland migration of coastal habitats *(Actionable Science Agenda on Coastal Squeeze*[6]*)*
    - Managing the ecological impacts of extreme heat (*Actionable Science Agenda*[7])
    - Understanding and responding to climate-induced impacts on stream permanence in the northwestern U.S. (*Research Needs and Capacity Needs related to Stream Permanence*[8]*)*

4. Be **relevant to primary NW CASC external partner(s)**. Prospective Fellows must detail how their proposed research would benefit one of these NW CASC external partners, and provide a letter of support. Support from other partners is welcome, but would need to be *in addition* to support from one of the entities listed here. Primary NW CASC external partners include:
    - US Department of the Interior bureaus (National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation; note: the US Forest Service and NOAA are not DOI bureaus)
    - Northwest Tribes or Tribal entities
    - State or local fish and wildlife and natural resource management agencies

5. Be **designed to produce substantive results and deliverables during the 2027 Fellowship year**. Deliverables should include products likely to be readily applied by decision-makers (e.g., tools, datasets, workshops), rather than peer-reviewed papers (though these would be welcome as additional products).

6. Priority will be given to projects that **demonstrably leverage other efforts and resources** (e.g., funding from other governmental and private organizations) and **for which NW CASC funding will make a demonstrable difference** in advancing the usability of existing work.

After screening for the minimum requirements listed above, applications will be reviewed based on:

- The rigor of the proposed work and its salience to NW CASC priorities
- The potential future impact of the fellowship on the participating faculty member
- Evidence of the prospective fellow's commitment to participating in fellowship training activities
- The degree to which the proposed work effectively leverages other efforts and sources of funding
- Final decisions also consider representation of Consortium institutions and projects that reflect the breadth of NW CASC Science Agenda priorities