

Immediate Funding Opportunity: NW Climate Science Center Research Fellowship Program

Department of Interior Northwest Climate Science Center

A Cooperative Program of the University of Washington, Boise State University, University of Montana, Washington State University, Western Washington University and the US Geological Survey

The NW Climate Science Center invites proposals from faculty at UW, BSU, UM, WSU and WWU for funding to support research by graduate students and post-docs in fields relating to understanding and addressing climate impacts on NW natural and cultural resources, and training of these NW CSC Fellows in the principles and practices of co-producing decision-relevant (“actionable”) science. Funding will be available as early as Fall 2017, to support research performed during the 17-18 academic year (at least through December 2017).

Overview

The Department of the Interior Northwest Climate Science Center (NW CSC) 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 CSC is hosted by the University of Washington in partnership with Boise State University, University of Montana, Washington State University and Western Washington University.

The NWCSC Fellowship Program aims to produce early career scientists skilled in creating and communicating actionable climate science in partnership with natural resource managers. The program supports graduate and postdoctoral research and provides training in the principles and practices of co-production of decision-relevant (“actionable”) science.

Research Support. The NW Climate Science Center Fellowship will support research relevant to identifying and addressing climate impacts in NW natural and cultural resource management by graduate students and post-doctoral 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 in the context of specific decision needs. Of particular interest is research conducted by or for a NW Tribe or substantively related to Tribal interests and research relevant to the following areas of resource management, planning and decision making:

- Managing aquatic resources (addressing low water availability, warming streams...)
- Managing at-risk species and habitats (in general and trigger points/thresholds)
- Managing invasive species
- Managing forests (fire, water availability, disease)
- Managing shrublands
- Managing working lands & waters for ecological and cultural values (water rights, property at risk)

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

¹ As of August 2017: University of Washington, Boise State University, University of Montana, Washington State University, Western Washington University.

- *Cohort Meetings.* Fellows will participate in monthly-quarterly 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.* Topics for these approximately quarterly webinars may include actionable science in theory and practice, developing a successful co-production process, social science and collaborative research methods for non-social scientists, best practices for Tribal engagement, and science communication (e.g., data visualization, media training). 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 one-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 10-11, 2017; Tacoma, WA).

Criteria for Funding of NW CSC Research Fellowships

Proposed research projects must:

- Be relevant to management decisions related to identifying and addressing climate impacts in NW natural and cultural resource management and the priorities of the NW CSC,
- Involve graduate students or post-doctoral scientists at consortium partner institutions² who are committed to participate in the Fellowship training activities described above,
- Demonstrate actionable science principles (e.g., identify co-production partners and plans for engaging those partners),
- Be described in a proposal submitted jointly by a faculty member (students'/post-docs' major advisors) and the prospective fellow,
- Be based on a demonstrably effective relationship with natural or cultural resource managers and/or other stakeholders preparing to deal with the challenges/opportunities of climate change,
- Be likely to result in completion, results, deliverables in the 2017-18 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 conducted by or for a NW Tribe or substantively related to Tribal interests
- 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 (addressing low water availability, warming streams...)
 - Managing at-risk species and habitats (in general and trigger points/thresholds)
 - Managing invasives
 - Managing forests (fire, water avail, disease)
 - Managing shrublands
 - Managing working lands & waters (water rights, property at risk)

² As of August 2017: University of Washington, Boise State University, University of Montana, Washington State University, Western Washington University.

The NW CSC 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 (including, e.g., tuition cost-share, funding from other governmental and private organizations). 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 jacquem@wsu.edu; applications received before **11 September 2017** will be given preference. 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 by June 2018
 - i. Proposed cost
 - 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 graduate 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 desiring a NW CSC 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 to 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. An optional 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, projections, or tools that will result from the project that can support their decisions regarding the management of the risks and impacts of climate change.
6. CV of the prospective fellow.

To be eligible, the graduate student or postdoctoral scholar must be currently enrolled (and in good standing with the Graduate School) or employed, or accepted to begin enrollment by Fall 2017, and

advised by the faculty member preparing the proposal. Progress on the proposed research is required to be documented with an annual report, due by June 15, and a final report within one month after the end of their NW CSC Fellowship funding.

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

For more information, please contact:

University of Washington:

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

Boise State University:

- Dr. Alejandro Flores – Co-Principal Investigator, Boise State University NW CSC Lead (lejoflores@boisestate.edu 208-426-2903)

University of Montana:

- Dr. Thomas H. DeLuca – Co-Principal Investigator, University of Montana NW CSC Lead (tom.deluca@mso.umt.edu, 406-243-5521)

Washington State University:

- Dr. Stephanie Hampton – Co-Principal Investigator, Washington State University NW CSC Lead (s.hampton@wsu.edu, 509-335-6750)

Western Washington University:

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