



2021-22 Natural Resources Workforce Development Fellowship Collaborative Team Science Training

Deadline Extended to: March 31, 2021

What is the fellowship?

The SW CASC NRWD Fellowship was developed to provide graduate students with opportunities for training and practice in developing use-inspired and actionable science to inform natural resource management decisions. Those selected will make up a team of 8 scientists, working together over the course of twelve months.

Team science theme: Endangered streams: building strong and authentic bridges between science and practice to understand impacts of future water flows on aquatic ecosystems.

Who is eligible to apply?

The program is for currently enrolled graduate students in research-based thesis or dissertation-granting programs at the seven SW CASC consortium institutions (see map below). One applicant from each institution will be selected to take part in the 2021-22 fellowship cohort. The Fellowship will begin in October 2021 and extend through October 2022. Funding includes a stipend of \$5,000 (disbursed 50% at beginning and 50% at completion), with an additional travel allowance of \$1,000 for travel to each meeting (October 2021 and October 2022) to be held at Utah State University, Logan, Utah.

We encourage broad participation from students who identify with groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in the government and academic workforces. We welcome applicants from various cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, with unique lived experiences, skills and interests, including applicants that may have had fewer opportunities in natural resource science and management.

The Fellowship provides funding to students with active research interests in the Fellowship science theme in order to (a) take part in training on methods to foster collaborations and the development of science that informs resource management decisions, (b) join a cohort that will collaboratively research an issue aligned with the SW CASC and its current research foci and develop a use-inspired research product that benefits the SW CASC, (c) gain experience in interacting and collaborating with natural resource management decision-makers, and (d) gain experience in effective communication of research results.



Qualifications

Applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled in an M.S or Ph.D. degree-granting program at one of the seven SW CASC consortium institutions.
- Be a student in good standing and progressing toward completion of their degree.
- Commit to attend two in-person multi-day cohort meetings (tentatively within September 21-25, 2021 time slot [start of the Fellowship] and October 2022 [to report results of cohort projects]), and monthly cohort teleconferences.
- Demonstrate the relevance of their research to the 2021-2022 SW CASC NRWD Fellowship Science Theme.

2021-2022 SW CASC NRWD Fellowship Science Theme

The science theme for the 2021-22 SW CASC NRWD Fellowship is: Endangered streams: building strong and authentic bridges between science and practice to understand impacts of future water flows on aquatic ecosystems.

We seek applicants with active research interests in this area. Relevant disciplines are by no means limited to biophysical sciences. We interpret relevant research interests broadly, to include questions and issues such as (but not limited to):

- ❖ How will rising temperatures, changes in snowpack, and more extreme and/or variable precipitation impact stream flow in the SW CASC region? How do these physical variables endanger stream flow regimes?
- ❖ How will changing flow regimes influence aquatic communities and ecosystem services?
- ❖ Which collaborative management frameworks might best infuse scientific insights into proactive management or adaptation actions to prepare for future water flows?

Application: Please submit **ALL** your documents including the reference letter as **ONE pdf** [here](#). Google docs will require you to sign into your Google account. Name your PDF: Institution_LAST NAME. For example: UA_Govert.

Please provide:

- A concise description of your research interests and relevance to the Fellowship science theme. **(maximum of 600 words)**
- A concise description of how a SW CASC NWRD Fellowship will strengthen your research and/or overall career goals. (no word limitation)
- A concise description of your interest in a collaborative experience as part of a cohort. (no word limitation)
- A description of a desired and feasible connection with stakeholders and rightsholders in natural resource management and decision making. (no word limitation)

Additionally, please submit:

- An up-to-date curriculum vitae. Please include a brief synopsis of any prior work with decision-makers.

- One letter of support from your graduate advisor that endorses your application and demonstrates the advisor's support of your aim to garner training and develop experience in producing use-inspired or actionable science and outreach in the fellowship science theme.

Mechanics of the Application, Evaluation Criteria and Deadlines:

Applications due date: **March 24, 2021**. Evaluation results to applicants: **May 1, 2021**.

- **Questions:** Anita JT Govert, agovert@arizona.edu

A SW CASC panel will evaluate the applications, based on:

- Match between your research area and the Fellowship science theme
- Your articulation of how the fellowship and collaborative cohort experience will strengthen your research and/or support your career goals

Requirements for the Fellowship

- Attend (2 per month), 1 hour Fellowship cohort teleconferences, to receive training, develop and discuss cohort research related to the Fellowship science theme, and report research progress.
 - Cohort research will employ a team-science model of interaction, which will be introduced during the initial cohort meeting. Research teams will co-develop a scope of work for cohort research, related to the SW CASC NRWD Fellowship theme, the participants' experience and research interests, and the needs of decision-makers in the U.S. Southwest.
 - Members of the cohort will represent multiple disciplines. For example, research may take the form of syntheses and assessments of research needs and gaps, examinations of the state of knowledge regarding the Fellowship theme, or a research or action plan to address a Fellowship theme-related issue or wicked problem.
 - We anticipate that Fellows will spend about 1-2 days each month on research and cohort coordination, in addition to a 1-2-hour monthly teleconference.
- Attend two in-person meetings: A Fellowship cohort meeting and team-science training (Fall 2021: to be in Logan, Utah, tentatively scheduled between September 21-25, 2021), and a fellowship cohort meeting to report cohort research results (Fall 2022).
- Submit a blog, for the SW CASC website, related to one of the following (a) the training, (b) the cohort experience, (c) cohort research, (d) engagement with natural resource management decision-makers. See past Fellows' blogs [here](#).
- Submit a written report of results and findings. This will include a group synopsis of the cohort research, and an individual synopsis of how the program has impacted your graduate work or research directions.