



**Special Opportunity:  
Call for Statements of Interest for Tribal Climate Adaptation Research Projects  
Federal Fiscal Year 2021**

**Overview**

The Northwest and Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Centers (NW CASC, SW CASC) invite statements of interest for tribal climate adaptation research projects to be initiated in Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.

The **NW CASC** is seeking statements of interest for tribal climate adaptation research projects that focus on the following priorities, as identified and described in the [NW CASC Science Agenda for 2018-2023](#): 1) management of aquatic resources, 2) management of at-risk species and habitats, 3) management of invasive species and diseases, 4) management of forest ecosystems, and 5) human dimensions of climate adaptation. Statements of interest that describe leveraging of existing projects will also be considered.

The **SW CASC** is requesting statements of interest that specifically draw upon the application of traditional methods of ecosystem restoration and natural resource management, with special emphasis on fire in the context of climate change and adaptation. These projects can be used as seed funding in preparation for subsequent calls for proposals or focus on developing a process for implementing traditional practices and/or building bridges between western (conventional) and indigenous practices. Statements of interest that describe leveraging of existing efforts will also be considered.

**Eligible Applicants**

Federally recognized tribes listed in the current Federal Register and tribal organizations as defined at 25 U.S.C. §5304(l) may submit statements of interest for this funding opportunity. Other entities (federal, state, or other) can partner with federally recognized tribes and/or tribal organizations and receive funds through subawards (see Funding Flow, below).

**Eligible Geographies**

Statements of interest submitted to the **NW CASC** should have geographic footprints within the states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and/or California (northern).

Statements of interest submitted to the **SW CASC** should have geographic footprints in the states of California (central and southern), Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and/or New Mexico.

For projects that cross the NW and SW CASC geographies, please email both CASC primary points of contact (see below) to discuss coordination issues.

**Funding Flow**

Funds will be transferred from the NW or SW CASC to successful applicants via: 1) an interagency agreement between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and another federal agency (e.g., Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Forest

Service), who will then execute a financial assistance award or contract with the eligible tribe or tribal organization or 2) a financial assistance award from USGS to the University of Washington (for the NW CASC) or the University of Arizona (for the SW CASC), who will then execute a subaward with the eligible party.

### Project Funding Guidance

The **NW CASC** expects to initiate 2-3 new tribal climate adaptation research projects in FY 2021.

1. The NW CASC will accept statements of interest for project durations up to 24 months and a total award ceiling of \$200,000, inclusive of all indirect costs.
2. This funding opportunity only awards funds for FY 2021. If a multi-year project is funded in FY 2021, out-year activities must be approved each subsequent year, and project continuation will be subject to availability of funds.
3. Projects selected from this funding announcement should expect to begin in summer 2021.

The **SW CASC** expects to fund 4-6 new projects from this funding announcement with durations of up to 24 months and a total award ceiling of \$65,000. Points (2) and (3) above also apply.

### Schedule for Submission, Review, and Awards

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Deadline for Statements of Interest (SOI)..... | December 17, 2020 (5 pm PST) |
| Invitation to submit Full Proposal.....        | January 8, 2020              |
| Deadline for Full Proposals.....               | February 26, 2021 (5 pm PST) |
| Applicants notified of Intent to Award* .....  | March 19, 2021               |

\**Intent to Award* means the NW CASC and SW CASC have selected the project for funding, pending completion of all administrative reviews, approvals, and processing to complete formal awards. This date may to change, subject to U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Geological Survey review and approval timelines.

### NW CASC Contacts

**Nicole DeCrappeo, NW CASC Director**  
**Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center**  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 777 NW 9<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 400, Corvallis, OR 97330  
 Phone: (541) 750-1021  
 Email: [ndecrappeo@usgs.gov](mailto:ndecrappeo@usgs.gov)  
 NW CASC website: <https://nwcasc.uw.edu>

*For feedback on project ideas and SOI content, contact:*

- Chas Jones, NW CASC Tribal Resilience Liaison ([cejones@usgs.gov](mailto:cejones@usgs.gov))
- Meade Krosby, NW CASC University Deputy Director ([mkrosby@uw.edu](mailto:mkrosby@uw.edu))

*For questions about the application process or budget preparation, contact:*

- Betsy Glenn, NW CASC Research Coordinator ([eglenn@usgs.gov](mailto:eglenn@usgs.gov))
- Laura Davis, NW CASC Grants Manager ([ldavis@uw.edu](mailto:ldavis@uw.edu))

## SW CASC Contacts

**Carolyn Enquist, SW CASC Deputy Director**

**Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center**

University of Arizona

1064 Ft. Lowell Road, Tucson, AZ

Email: [cenquist@usgs.gov](mailto:cenquist@usgs.gov)

SW CASC website: <https://www.swcasc.arizona.edu/>

*For feedback on project ideas and SOI content, contact:*

- Althea Walker, SW CASC Tribal Resilience Liaison ([awalker@aihec.org](mailto:awalker@aihec.org))
- Amber Pairis, SW CASC Partnership Liaison ([apairis@ucsd.edu](mailto:apairis@ucsd.edu))

*For questions about the application process or budget preparation, contact:*

- Betsy Glenn, NW CASC Research Coordinator ([eglenn@usgs.gov](mailto:eglenn@usgs.gov))
- Molly Hunter, SW CASC Research Coordinator ([mollyhunter@u.arizona.edu](mailto:mollyhunter@u.arizona.edu))

## Research Priorities to be Addressed

### NW CASC Research Priorities – FY 2021

In keeping with its mission, the NW CASC identifies research priorities that are tied closely to the needs of natural and cultural resource managers. Statements of interest (SOI) submitted through this call should help develop knowledge that can be applied to tribal resource management challenges in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and/or northern California. SOI should: 1) address one or more climate adaptation priorities identified by federally recognized tribes and/or U.S. Department of the Interior [bureaus](#) and 2) develop scientific questions, information, and products that assist with climate adaptation planning and resource management actions. Proposed activities should also fall under one or more of the resource management priorities identified in the [NW CASC Science Agenda for 2018-2023](#), which include 1) aquatic resources, 2) at-risk species and habitats, 3) invasive species and diseases, 4) forest ecosystems, 5) shrubland ecosystems, 6) working lands and waters, and 7) human dimensions of climate adaptation. Example topic areas and science opportunities are described below, but any SOI that meets the general criteria stated above will be considered:

#### **Management of Aquatic Resources**

Climate change is bringing significant changes to culturally important aquatic resources. Rising air temperatures and altered precipitation patterns are leading to water shortages and water temperatures that can be lethal to subsistence and culturally important aquatic resources, such as fish. Sediment loading and nonpoint nutrient pollution can increase in streams as precipitation intensity increases, impacting water quality and aquatic resources. Managing aquatic resources also includes understanding groundwater changes in relation to climate and land use, balancing the management of streamflow with the needs of instream flows and salmonid habitats, and incorporating climate change information into habitat restoration design. An important aquatic resource management goal is to prepare for future reductions in natural water availability and minimize impacts to tribes, vegetation, fish, wildlife, and infrastructure. Science opportunities within this topic include:

- A. Identify drought impacts on culturally important water sources, rivers, groundwater springs, and natural water storage reservoirs.

- B. Identify and evaluate traditional or conventional methods to offset drought impacts to vegetation, fish and wildlife, infrastructure, and other water uses
- C. Describe how aquatic plant and animals that are important to the tribal community may be impacted with changes in water temperature, water chemistry, and streamflow

### **Managing At-Risk Species and Habitats**

“At-risk” species include culturally important species, federally listed threatened or endangered species, species of greatest conservation need, rare species, and species and habitats that are particularly sensitive to climate change and likely to become at-risk in the future. Science opportunities within this topic include:

- A. Describe and evaluate traditional, conventional, and adaptive management approaches for enhancing resilience of sensitive habitats for at-risk species under future climate, wildfire, and land use patterns
- B. Determine culturally appropriate management approaches for at-risk species that are informed by traditional knowledges and/or other management trigger points for management of at-risk species and habitats based on data analysis
- C. Relate changes in the timing of biological processes, plants, and animals to changing patterns in habitat, land use, temperature, precipitation, and related climatic parameters

### **Management of Forest Ecosystems**

Climate change will directly and indirectly impact forest plant and animal species through a variety of mechanisms, including more frequent and severe disturbances (e.g., wildfires, droughts, pest outbreaks). What is unclear is how forests will respond to these disturbances and how traditional, conventional, and adaptive management approaches may influence those outcomes. Managers also need information on changes in groundwater and soil moisture, as well as evaluation of different management practices for silviculture activities and for controlling the spread of tree diseases. Science opportunities within this topic include:

- A. Improve understanding of how traditional forest management practices relate to groundwater, soil moisture, stream water quality, instream habitat, forest health, and climate change
- B. Identify and evaluate traditional, conventional, and adaptive management approaches for silviculture tree mortality and growth rates

### **Human Dimensions of Climate Adaptation**

Recognizing and explicitly incorporating the human dimensions of climate adaptation is key to ensuring that tribes have the right tools to address their adaptation challenges. Potential research activities that may provide alternative and useful ways to frame climate change and natural resource issues include:

- A. Identify the cultural and social acceptability of 1) future ecosystems that may occur under changing climate conditions and 2) management actions to address or adapt to these changes. For example, can stand-replacing fires facilitate transitions to novel ecosystems better adapted to a warmer climate? What cultural, social, political, and economic implications might result from the use of stand-replacing fires as a restoration tool?
- B. Use traditional knowledge and/or other methods to identify how various socio-cultural

groups assign meanings and value to water and terrestrial resources and understand how climate change may affect people and communities. This goal could consider how institutional flexibilities and constraints help or hinder management decisions and adaptation processes. This information may help resource managers communicate with different socio-cultural groups and find ways to talk about changes in water availability related to changing climate conditions in the Northwest.

- C. Synthesize existing information related to co-management of terrestrial and/or aquatic resources between tribes and federal, state, and/or non-profit resource management agencies. Catalogue, compare, and contrast different examples of co-management strategies. What aspects of the different models led to more successful outcomes? What challenges were faced? What are the best management practices for successful co-management strategies?

### SW CASC Science Priorities—FY21

The SW CASC identifies research priorities that are tied closely to the needs of natural resource managers. Proposals developed in response to this funding opportunity should focus on developing knowledge, building relationships, and testing practices that have direct application and benefit to local or broader management challenges across landscapes in Central-Southern California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. Proposals can be strengthened by establishing and describing partnerships with other stakeholders, but this is not required.

**The SW CASC** is requesting statements of interest that specifically draw upon the application of indigenous science and traditional methods of ecosystem restoration and natural resource management in the context of climate change and adaptation, with special emphasis on fire. This can include, but is not limited to, advancing the integration and equal valuation of tribal science and knowledge for management and stewardships of the land; understanding of the role and management of fire in a changing climate; understanding, demonstrating, and/or communicating the traditional use of fire in ecosystem restoration past, present, and future; and post-fire ecosystem recovery.

These projects can provide the seed funding to initiate the process for stakeholder engagement, or lay the ground work for a future project or proposal that strengthens a process for advancing and implementing indigenous approaches and practices and/or builds bridges between western (conventional) and indigenous practitioners. Statements of interest that describe leveraging of existing efforts also will be considered.

### Application Process

1. **Submission of Statements of Interest (SOI).** All parties responding to this call must first submit an SOI using the template in **Appendix A**. SOI should be submitted via email to Betsy Glenn ([eglenn@usgs.gov](mailto:eglenn@usgs.gov)), NW CASC Research Coordinator, no later than December 17, 2020 at 5 pm PST. Applicants will receive a confirmation message that their SOI has been received.
2. **Evaluation of Statements of Interest.** SOI will be reviewed by NW and SW CASC staff using the following evaluation criteria and weights. Applicants may be contacted to provide additional or clarifying information.
  - **Relevance and applicability to tribal resource management priorities and climate adaptation needs (weight = 35%):** The SOI directly addresses resource management priorities and associated

climate adaptation needs for tribes in the NW and/or SW CASC geographic footprints (see Eligible Geographies, above). The SOI clearly describes how the project is connected to a tribal resource management concern, the relevancy of the project results to land, fish, wildlife, habitat, or cultural heritage management issues, and how the project may add value to tribal resource management decisions. Projects should be applicable to immediate, real-world planning and decision-making needs as identified by tribal participants.

- **Engagement of and coordination with stakeholders, decision-makers, and science beneficiaries (weight = 35%):** The SOI identifies collaborations and partners (tribal and non-tribal, if applicable) that will participate in the project and describes outreach and communication strategies for engaging with these partners and delivering products or information. Projects may build upon existing work and capacity, and applicants are encouraged to use existing information and data resources and/or leverage additional partner resources to carry out the proposed project.
- **Scientific merit and quality of the research (weight = 30%):** The project objectives described in the SOI are robust and clearly delineated. The SOI demonstrates sound scientific methodology, study design, and data management procedures. The SOI describes how the project results will have a broad geographic application or scientific inference.

**3. Request for and submission of Full Proposal.** Selected applicants will be invited by the NW CASC Director or SW CASC Deputy Director to develop full proposals, including a detailed budget and data management plan. Proposal format information and evaluation criteria will be provided to applicants with their invitation no later than January 8, 2020.

**4. Review and Selection Process for Full Proposals**

- Submissions will be screened by NW and SW CASC staff upon receipt for eligibility and conformance to the full proposal invitation provisions.
- Screened proposals will be reviewed against the evaluation criteria by a group of individuals with relevant technical expertise, selected by the NW and SW CASC Directors. Confidential information will be restricted to these reviewers, and they will be bound by confidentiality assurances. Further, reviewers will follow standard conflict of interest approaches and will be excused from evaluating proposals with which they are associated. The constituent members of the review team will be held anonymous; general information on agency or other representation may be shared.
- Reviewer scores and comments will be provided to the NW and SW CASC Director. The NW and SW CASC Directors will develop a final list of candidate projects, based on the review rankings, modified as appropriate to ensure an overall portfolio of science activities at the NW and SW CASC that is balanced with respect to the following: geographic distribution, project cost and duration, subject matter and focus, need for scientific continuity versus establishing new work, funds management, and related factors. Reviewer comments and feedback for SOIs may be released to lead proposers at the discretion of the NW and SW CASC Directors.
- Selected applicants will be notified of intent to award. This is an informal notification, provided to applicants as a courtesy. Final awards to NW and SW CASC funding recipients are contingent upon all appropriate legal and administrative reviews and processing through the USGS Office of Acquisition and Grants and the award recipient’s tribe, tribal organization, or institution for receiving funding.

## APPENDIX A

### Format and Guidelines for Statements of Interest

Statements of Interest must be submitted via email to Betsy Glenn ([eglenn@usgs.gov](mailto:eglenn@usgs.gov)), NW CASC Research Coordinator, no later than December 17, 2020 at 5 pm PST.

**SECTION 1: PROJECT ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (½ page)**

- Project title (Note: Project titles should be written for a non-technical, non-scientific audience)
- Short description (generally one sentence)
- Name of tribe, tribal organization, or lead entity requesting funding
- Project lead contact or principal investigator
- Full mailing address
- Telephone, e-mail

**SECTION 2: PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNICATION (½ page)**

- List additional investigators (and affiliations) involved in the project
- Describe the collaborative partnerships to be developed or built upon in this project
- Describe how the project will link to the climate adaptation needs of tribal natural and cultural resource managers

**SECTION 3: PROJECT SUMMARY (1 page)**

Provide a narrative summary of the project based on the science priorities and evaluation criteria described earlier in this document.

**SECTION 4: ESTIMATED BUDGET**

Provide an estimated budget, including appropriate indirect costs. Use the following table for an estimated budget and include it as the last page in the SOI document (does not count towards the 2-page maximum limit):

| Tribe, Tribal Organization, or Institution Name | Budget Year 1 | Budget Year 2 | Total |
|---|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Entity 1  |               |               |       |
| Entity 2  |               |               |       |
| Entity 3  |               |               |       |
| Entity 4  |               |               |       |
| <b>Total</b>                                    |               |               |       |