



Southwest  
Climate Adaptation  
Science Center

## **2023-24 Natural Resources Workforce Development (NRWD) Fellowship Collaborative Team Science Training**

**Deadline: April 7, 2023**

### **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 7 scientists, working together over the course of twelve months. This will be the fifth cohort of NRWD Fellows.

### **2023-24 SW CASC NRWD Fellowship Team Science Theme:**

Since the year 2000, the western U.S. has been experiencing a megadrought, a magnitude of which has not been recorded in the past 800 years. The term "hot drought" best captures the increasing aridity phenomenon and has been attributed to decreases in streamflow in the Colorado River, for example. "Warm snow droughts" have also been used to describe decreasing snowpack in the Southwest's mountains. There is growing consensus among the scientific community that aridity will continue to increase because of increasing air temperature, even if precipitation inputs remain the same. Despite these dire warnings, how well does the public and resource managers understand the increasing aridity phenomenon in contributing to the megadrought?

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) the overarching theme:

- How is increasing atmospheric aridity viewed relative to changes in precipitation dynamics (e.g. how worried are practitioners of increasing aridity compared to decreases in snowpack)?
- Are there differences in how state, federal, or tribal agencies address aridity?
- Are there strategies that local communities are implementing to address aridity, and if so what are some success stories?

### **Who is eligible to apply and what does the funding include?**

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 2023-24 fellowship cohort. The Fellowship will begin at the end of September 2023 and extend through October 2024.

Funding includes a stipend of \$8,000 (disbursed 50% at beginning and 50% at completion), with an additional travel allowance of \$1,250 for travel to each meeting (September 27-30, 2023, traveling to

Utah on September 26, and a similar time in 2024) to be held at Utah State University, Logan, Utah. This fellowship does not include tuition support and should not be used in lieu of a graduate research or teaching assistantship.

**We encourage broad participation from students who identify with groups that have been underrepresented in the government and academic workforces.**

We welcome applicants from various cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds, with unique lived experiences, skills and interests. The Fellowship provides funding to students with active research interests 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 professionals, 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 September 27-30, 2023 (start of the Fellowship) and similar dates in September-October 2024 (to report results of cohort projects), and biweekly cohort teleconferences.
- Demonstrate the relevance of their research to the 2023-2024 SW CASC NRWD Fellowship Science Theme.



**Application Process**

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 description of your research interests and relevance to the Fellowship science theme. **(600 word limitation)**
- A description of how a SW CASC NWRD Fellowship will strengthen your research and/or overall career goals. **(1000 word limitation)**
- A description of your interest in a collaborative experience as part of a cohort. **(1000 word limitation)**
- A description of a desired and feasible connection with stakeholders and rightsholders in natural resource management and decision making. **(1000 word limitation)**

**Additionally**, please submit:

- An up-to-date curriculum vitae. Please include a brief synopsis of any prior work related to the co-production of knowledge.
- 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: **April 7, 2023**. Evaluation results to applicants: **May 9, 2023**.

- **Questions:** Anita JT Govert, [agovert@arizona.edu](mailto: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 biweekly, 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-hour biweekly teleconference.
- Attend two in-person meetings: A Fellowship cohort meeting and team-science training (Fall 2023: to be in Logan, Utah, scheduled for September 27-30, 2023), and a fellowship cohort meeting to report cohort research results (Fall 2024).
- 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.