



# Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center

## Natural Resources Workforce Development Fellowship Collaborative Team Science Training

**Deadline: March 17, 2020**

### 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.

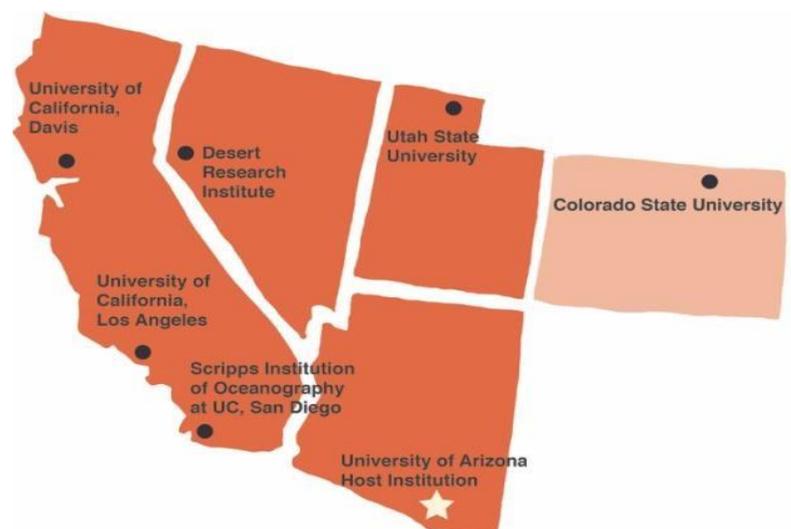
**Team science theme: Management in the aftermath of landscape-scale disturbances.**

### 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 2020-21 fellowship cohort. The Fellowship will begin in October 2020 and extend through October 2021. 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 2020 and October 2021) to be held at Utah State University, Logan, Utah. **The successful applicants (2) at the host institution, The University of Arizona, will each receive one full year of graduate tuition.**

**We encourage broad participation from students who identify with groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in the government and academic workforce.** We welcome applicants from various cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds with unique lived experiences, skills and interests, including those that may have had fewer opportunities in natural resource 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.
- Be able to attend two in-person multi-day cohort meetings (October 2020 [start of the Fellowship] and October 2021 [to report results of cohort projects]), and monthly cohort teleconferences.
- Demonstrate the relevance of their research to the 2020-2021 SW CASC NRWD Fellowship Science Theme.

## 2020-2021 SW CASC NRWD Fellowship Science Theme

The science theme for the 2020-21 SW CASC NRWD Fellowship is **management in the aftermath of landscape-scale disturbances**. 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):

- ❖ As large-scale disturbances change landscapes (e.g., from forest to non-forest ecosystems), what guidelines can be used to increase the resilience of the new, post-disturbance landscape?
- ❖ What are the effects of landscape-scale disturbances on ecosystem services?
- ❖ What collaborative management frameworks might best infuse scientific insights into operations, regulations, and policies to effectively manage natural resources after large-scale disturbances?

## Application

In no more than **600 words**, provide:

- A concise description of your research interests and relevance to the Fellowship science theme.
- A concise description of how a SW CASC NRWD Fellowship will strengthen your research and/or overall career goals.
- A concise description of your interest in a collaborative experience as part of a cohort.
- A description of a desired and feasible connection with a natural resource management decision-maker. Natural resource management decision-makers may include personnel in federal, tribal, state or city agencies, non-governmental organizations, private landowners.
- 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, related to natural resource management issues articulated in the fellowship science theme.

## Mechanics of the Application, Evaluation Criteria and Deadlines

Applications due date: **March 17, 2020**. Evaluation results to applicants: **April 21, 2020**.

- Submit your documents including the reference letter as ONE pdf here (<https://tinyurl.com/NRWD20-21>). Google docs will require you to sign into your Google account.
- Name your PDF: Institution\_LAST NAME. For example: UA\_Govert.
- Questions: Anita Govert, [agovert@email.arizona.edu](mailto:agovert@email.arizona.edu), or 520-626-8524.

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
- Your articulation of potential connections with natural resource management decision-makers

### **Requirements for the Fellowship**

- Attend monthly 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 2020: to be in Logan, Utah, September 30 through October 3, 2020), and a fellowship cohort meeting to report cohort research results (Fall 2021).
- 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.
- 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.