

Science to Action Fellowship

**with the USGS National Climate Change
and Wildlife Science Center**

Description and Application Process

The **Science to Action Fellowship** was developed to:

- Expose graduate students to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) through the [USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center](#) (NCCWSC), whose mission is to provide scientific information, tools, and techniques to help natural and cultural resource managers anticipate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, and ecosystems.
- Support graduate students in developing a policy-relevant product related to the impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, their habitats, and users. This product should put science into action, applying scientific research directly to decision making about natural resources. It may be related to the graduate student's own research, and if so, may present a unique opportunity to enhance and share research with a broader community of decision makers.
- Provide students the opportunity to interact with the USGS community and others outside of academia.



DEPARTMENT OF
**FISHERIES AND
WILDLIFE**

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During the fellowship year and beyond, Fellows benefit from collaborations with university and USGS mentors, from interactions with other colleagues and partners of USGS, and from exposure to high priority, real-world challenges in the natural resources policy arena.

Eligibility: This opportunity is open to graduate students at Michigan State University and the [Department of Interior Climate Science Center](#) (CSC) Consortium Institutions (all listed below) who are students for the entire fellowship year.

Chickasaw Nation
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
College of Menominee Nation
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Desert Research Institute
(Nevada)
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Louisiana State University
Marine Biological Laboratory
Michigan State University
Montana State University
NOAA Geophysical Fluid
Dynamics Laboratory

North Carolina State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
Scripps Institute of
Oceanography
Texas Tech University
University of Alaska -
Anchorage
University of Alaska -
Fairbanks
University of Arizona
University of California - Davis
University of California - Los
Angeles
University of Colorado
University of Guam

University of Hawai'i at Hilo
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
University of Idaho
University of Mass. - Amherst
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri -
Columbia
University of Montana
University of Nebraska -
Lincoln
University of Oklahoma
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin -
Madison
University of Wyoming

MSU is an affirmative-action,
equal-opportunity employer



Financial Award: Up to two fellows will be selected, annually, to receive a financial award of \$10,000¹ each. The financial award is intended to support the additional efforts undertaken by the Fellow for the NCCWSC project, *not* as a graduate stipend.

Mentoring Experience: Each Fellow will work closely with his/her university mentor (typically, the applicant's graduate program advisor) and a mentor from NCCWSC (identified by the applicant during the application process).

Fellowship Duration and Location: The fellowship experience will last one year (*start date is flexible within funded year*). During this time, the Fellow will be expected to work at USGS headquarters just outside of Washington, D.C. in Reston, Virginia for two months (*typically summer; specific dates are flexible*) but may remain at his/her host institution for the rest of the term.

To learn more about the Science to Action Fellowship and about previous and current fellows in the program, please visit: <https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/science-action-fellowship>

Requirements for the USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center Science to Action Fellowship

1. *Update Meetings.* The Fellow, the Fellow's Mentors, and the Review Committee will participate in three virtual meetings spaced throughout the fellowship year. For example, if a fellowship year starts in the spring, one meeting would be held in the spring, as the student is beginning the fellowship and planning for the summer, one in the summer while the student is working at the NCCWSC, and one in the fall as the fellowship is nearing completion. The Fellow will be responsible for scheduling meetings, developing an agenda, and providing a short (*1 page maximum*) progress report to all attendees for each meeting.
2. *Formal Presentations.* The Fellow must present an [NCCWSC webinar](#) at the end of the fellowship and is encouraged to present the project results at their home institution and in other formal venues.
3. *Final Report by the Fellow.* The Fellow will be required to write a formal USGS project report within three months of completing the fellowship. The final report should include:
 - a. A description of the fellowship project in detail, description of the Fellow's experience as a Fellow, lessons learned, and advice for future fellows.
4. *Final Report by the Mentors.* The University and NCCWSC mentor will be required to write a brief description of the mentoring experience and provide advice for future mentors.

¹ No portion of this financial award may be used for indirect expenses from a Fellow's host institution. All grant funds are required to be used for direct fellowship expenses (e.g., travel and lodging for two months in Reston, supplies, travel to conferences, etc.).

Application Process

Application Timeline:

Submission of Statement of Interest (SOI)	SOIs are accepted on a rolling basis (April 1st – December 15th)
Decision on SOI and Notification to Applicant	Approximately 1 month after submission
Formal Application Due (If SOI is selected)	March 15th
Decision on Formal Application and Notification to Applicant	March 31st

Refer to the following web site to submit the Statement of Interest (SOI) and the Formal Application: <https://my.usgs.gov/rfpManager/event/plist>.

To apply for this fellowship, the applicant must be a graduate student of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at MSU or one of the [CSC Consortium Institutions](#) for the entire fellowship year (refer to table above). Applicants may be Master's or Doctoral students at any stages of their research program. **Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the Review Committee** (listed below) **via e-mail with any questions or discuss actionable research needs prior to submitting a statement of intent**. Applicants are also encouraged to invite their academic advisors to contact members of the Review Committee.

Science to Action Fellowship Review Committee:

- **Doug Beard**, USGS NCCWSC (dbeard@usgs.gov)
- **Shawn Carter**, USGS NCCWSC (scarter@usgs.gov)
- **Dana Infante**, Michigan State University (infanted@msu.edu)
- **Abigail Lynch**, USGS NCCWSC (ajlynch@usgs.gov)
- **Craig Paukert**, USGS Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (paukertc@missouri.edu)
- **Scott Winterstein**, Michigan State University (winterst@msu.edu)

Statement of Intent

Statements of intent (*reviewed on a rolling basis*) will serve as means for identifying interested applicants and pairing them with a NCCWSC mentor to co-develop a project proposal. An applicant's statement of intent must include:

1. A **one page cover letter** with the following information:
 - a. The applicant's home institution (must be an applicable institution from the list provided above)
 - b. The applicant's preferred dates for the fellowship year and residency in Reston.
 - c. How the applicant's interests align with [NCCWSC Science Program Goals & Objectives](#).
 - d. What the applicant wishes to accomplish through a science to action fellowship.
 - e. A statement acknowledging that the applicant's advisor is supportive of the applicant's participation in the fellowship, if selected.

2. A **one page pre-proposal** that includes potential ideas for a fellowship project that addresses a policy-relevant issue regarding the impacts of climate change on fisheries and/or wildlife (*this will serve to help match an applicant with the appropriate NCCWSC mentor*).
2. A **CV** that includes the following information (*no page limit*):
 - a. Educational history including:
 - i. Overall grade point average and grade point average in the major field of study for each degree earned.
 - ii. Overall grade point average and grade point average in the major field of study for completed semesters in the current program of study.
 - iii. Relevant courses taken for each degree earned.
 - iv. Relevant courses completed or enrolled in as part of the current program of study.
 - v. Relevant presentations, publications, outreach, and other products that demonstrate communicating science to scientific and public audiences.
 - b. Employment or volunteer activities in the field of fisheries and/or wildlife management.
 - c. Employment or volunteer activities and leadership roles in academic or civic communities, or professional societies.

SOIs will be accepted through the NCCWSC online proposal management system:

<https://my.usgs.gov/rfpManager/event/plist>

If you have any issues with the online management system, please contact Abigail Lynch, USGS NCCWSC (ajlynch@usgs.gov).

Formal Application

Formal applications will be accepted *by invitation only* and will be evaluated based on the requirements listed below. The formal application materials include:

1. A **revised one page cover letter** with the following information:
 - a. Identification of mentors from home institution and within NCCWSC.
 - b. Identification of a specific project that is of high priority to NCCWSC and that addresses a policy-relevant issue regarding impacts of climate change on fisheries and/or wildlife resources, as opposed to more theoretical research. This project may be a component of the applicant's graduate research project; however, it must be accomplished within the one year internship experience. Priority projects can be identified in consultation with the home institution and NCCWSC mentors (also see: [NCCWSC Science Program Goals and Objectives](#)).
 - c. Identification of time constraints for accomplishing the project, including a description of how the NCCWSC internship fits with the applicant's class schedule, research requirements, and other responsibilities.
2. (*optional*) A **revised CV** if the previously submitted one is no longer current.
3. A **clear project proposal** written by the applicant with guidance from his/her mentors. The project proposal is required to include the following components.
 - a. Proposal title and project summary (*maximum length: 1 page*).
 - b. General public summary (*maximum length: 200 words*). This summary should describe the relevance of the work to a general audience and must be suitable for posting on NCCWSC web sites.
 - c. Proposal body (*maximum length: 3 pages*)

- i. **Objectives/Justification:** Explain the objective of the proposed project and describe the significance and priority of the issue to be addressed.
- ii. **Background:** Describe the scientific issues that underlie the proposed activity, including relevant findings and related ongoing activities.
- iii. **Methods:** Describe the procedures and methods to be followed in sufficient detail to permit evaluation by the Review Committee.
- iv. **Expected Results:** Describe expected products to be generated within the timeframe of the project (e.g., written reports, web applications). Identify milestones for producing those products.
- v. **Management Application:** Describe the intended audience for the project deliverables and what will be done to ensure that these deliverables respond to management information needs.
- d. Literature cited (*no page limit*)
- 4. A separate **letter of recommendation from each of the applicant's mentors** from the home institution and NCCWSC (two letters in total). In these letters, the mentor should describe his/her commitment to meet with the applicant for feedback and planning over one year.
 - a. The home institution mentor (generally, the applicant's graduate advisor) should acknowledge that the funding provided with this fellowship is *in addition to* other assistantship or fellowship support held by the applicant during the fellowship period. This mentor should indicate what other support will be available to the student during this period. The financial award is intended to support the additional efforts undertaken by the Fellow for the NCCWSC internship project and cannot *not* serve as a graduate stipend.
 - a. The NCCWSC mentor should also describe his/her ability to:
 - i. Act as a source of information on the mission and goals of the Department of the Interior, USGS, and NCCWSC to the home institution or other stakeholders
 - ii. Give feedback on observed performance
 - iii. Provide recommendations on activities that will add to experience and skill development
 - iv. Provide encouragement to the Fellow
 - v. Provide opportunities and resources to the Fellow
 - vi. Provide increased exposure and visibility through attendance at various meetings both within and outside the mentoring agency
 - vii. Assist in planning a career path with the Fellow

Proposals will be accepted through the NCCWSC online proposal management system:

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If you have any issues with the online management system, please contact Abigail Lynch, USGS NCCWSC (ajlynch@usgs.gov).