

The USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center Science to Action Fellowship

Michigan State University's (MSU) Department of Fisheries and Wildlife is currently accepting applications for the [USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center](#) (NCCWSC) Science to Action Fellowship from graduate students at MSU and at the [Department of Interior Climate Science Center](#) (CSC) Consortium Institutions. The mission of NCCWSC is to coordinate regional CSCs and to provide scientific information, tools, and techniques that managers and others interested in land, water, fish, wildlife, and cultural resources can use to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate change. This fellowship will expose students to NCCWSC and also support them in developing a policy-relevant product related to the impacts of climate change on fish and/or wildlife resources. 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. This unique educational opportunity offers students a chance to interact with the USGS community and others outside of academia.



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WILDLIFE

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MSU is an affirmative-action,
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Financial Award and Mentoring Experience

In 2016, up to two recipients will be selected to receive a financial award of \$10,000¹. 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. The fellowship experience will last one year: **April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017**. 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.

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 challenge in the natural resources policy arena.

¹ All grant funds are required to be used for direct fellowship expenses. No portion may be used for indirect expenses from a Fellow's host institution.

Application Requirements

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 (Spring 2016- Spring 2017). Applicants may be Master's or Doctoral students at any stages of their research program. Applications will be evaluated based on requirements listed below, and application materials must include:

1. A cover letter that clearly articulates the applicant's career goals and demonstrates evidence of leadership potential in the field of fisheries, wildlife, ecology, or related field.
2. A CV that includes the following information (along with other relevant information):
 - 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.
 - 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.
3. Identification of mentors from home institution and within NCCWSC.
4. 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 internship experience. Priority projects can be identified in consultation with the home institution and NCCWSC mentors (also see: [NCCWSC Science Program Goals and Objectives](#)).
5. A clear project proposal written by the applicant with guidance from his/her mentors. The project proposal should include the following components. Please reference the [NCCWSC/CSC Funding Opportunity Guidance Document](#) for specific information to include in each of the four required sections listed below:
 - a. Proposal cover page 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 may 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*)
6. 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.
 7. 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.

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, not thesis or dissertation research.

The NCCWSC mentor should also describe his/her ability to:

- Act as a source of information on the mission and goals of the Department of the Interior, USGS, and NCCWSC to the home institution and other stakeholders
- Give feedback on observed performance
- Provide recommendations on activities that will add to experience and skill development
- Provide encouragement
- Provide opportunities and resources
- Provide increased exposure and visibility through attendance at various meetings both within and outside the mentoring agency
- Assist in planning a career path

Beginning the Application Process

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the Review Committee via e-mail prior to formal application. Upon request, a committee member will advise prospective students on the application process and will provide guidance on connecting with potential mentors. Applicants are also encouraged to invite their academic advisors to contact the Review Committee.

2016 Review Committee Members:

- 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 (paukerc@missouri.edu)
- Scott Winterstein, Michigan State University (winterst@msu.edu)

Submission

Applications for this fellowship must be submitted via an online management system which can be accessed directly:

https://my.usgs.gov/rfpManager/register/nccwsc/2016_National_Climate_Change_and_Wildlife_Science_Center_Science_to_Action_Fellowship

Applicants will receive a confirmation email once the application has been submitted. If you have any issues with the online management system, please contact Abigail Lynch, USGS NCCWSC (ajlynch@usgs.gov).

Electronic submissions are preferred. The deadline for the 2016 academic year is **March 15, 2016, 11:59PM mountain time.**

Acceptance

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status no later than **March 31, 2016**

Once accepted, the applicant will be responsible for reporting requirements that include quarterly progress reports, publications, and formal presentations described in more detail below:

Requirements for the 2016 USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center Science to Action Fellowship

1. *Update Meetings.* The Fellow, the Fellow's Mentoring Committee, and the Review Committee will participate in three virtual meetings, one 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.* Each Member of the Mentoring Committee will be required to write a brief description of the mentoring experience and provide advice for future mentors.