

Idaho NSF EPSCoR Program

The Idaho Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) represents a federal-state partnership to provide lasting improvements to academic research infrastructure and increase Idaho's research competitiveness. Idaho's EPSCoR partners are the University of Idaho, Boise State University, Idaho State University, and Idaho's 2-year and 4-year colleges.



An EPSCoR Committee of 16 members leads Idaho EPSCoR, with representatives from the public and private sectors, the legislature, and all regions of Idaho. The Director reports to the Idaho EPSCoR Committee and is supported by a professional staff in the Idaho EPSCoR Office, located on the Moscow campus. It leads the planning, administration, and implementation of EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) programs and supports the state "Science and Technology Plan for Higher Education" in areas that contribute to the National Research Agenda through the philosophy of ONEIdaho—an integrated, productive, and creative research culture and community of Idaho researchers and educators.

Recent Accomplishments

- Catalyzed Cyberinfrastructure (CI) and data management, data sharing, research, and sharing of data products through the Northwest Knowledge Network (NKN), the Idaho LiDAR Consortium, and national systems.
- Engaged more than 400 university faculty, staff, undergraduates, graduate students, and technicians and nearly 14,000 K-12 students, teachers, and other stakeholders in STEM programs throughout the state to prepare Idaho's workforce to prosper in a science-based, high-technology world.
- Contributed to the development of the Idaho STEM Roadmap by leading the State's strategy for increasing diversity in STEM.
- Improved internet connectivity to the Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station and the UI Kimberly Research and Extension Center and created a new Data Manager position at UI.
- Improved cyber connectivity and broadband access (up to 100x more) at three rural 2-year and 4-year colleges and two universities via the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON), providing increased video collaboration and distance learning capabilities via the Idaho Education Network (IEN).



Active NSF EPSCoR RII Projects

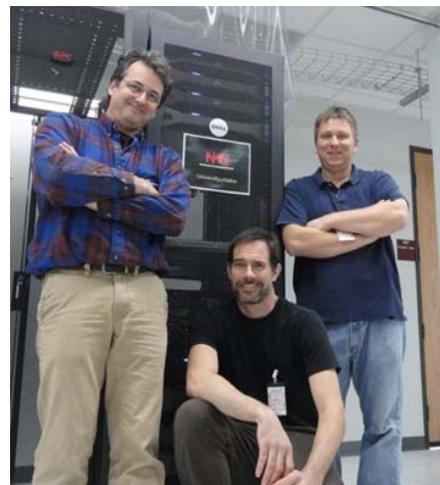
RII Track 1 - Managing Idaho's Landscapes for Ecosystem Services (MILES) (2013-2018) was funded at \$20.0M in June 2013. It will advance Idaho's capacity to create new knowledge about relationships between the benefits humans get from the natural world (ecosystem services), landscape change, and associated social and economic systems, and establish the infrastructure to provide science-based decision support for sustainably managing Idaho's resources.

The project will facilitate integrated, collaborative research and education on characterization, vulnerability, integrative modeling, and visualization and virtualization, with study sites in the Coeur d'Alene, Treasure Valley, and Pocatello/Idaho Falls areas. The grant will help Idaho's universities add 11 new faculty positions in related disciplines statewide. It will involve extensive stakeholder engagement and Cyberinfrastructure, Diversity, and Workforce Development improvements and programs.

RII Track 2 - Western Consortium for Watershed Analysis and Visualization (WC-WAVE) (2013-2016) is the second \$6.0M collaborative project involving Idaho, Nevada, and New Mexico EPSCoR. It will advance watershed science, workforce development, and education with Visualization and Data Cyberinfrastructure (CI)-enabled discovery and innovation.

Recently Completed Three Concurrent NSF EPSCoR RII Projects in late 2013

- Track 1 - Water Resources in a Changing Climate (\$15.0M) for research and education capacity related to the effects of climate change on water resources and the impact of these effects on ecological, human, and economic systems.
- Track 2 - Western Consortium of Idaho, Nevada, and New Mexico (\$2.0M) for cyberinfrastructure and data management capacity to support collaborative regional science.
- C2 - Intra- and Inter-Campus Connectivity (\$1.2M) for improved internet connectivity and collaboration at five of Idaho's higher education institutions.



Request: Fund the NSF Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) at \$165 million in FY 2015.

Account: Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill, National Science Foundation, Research and Related Activities (RRA), Office of Integrative Activities, EPSCoR

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