

National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NSF-EPSCoR).

Idaho EPSCoR is a federal-state partnership between the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Idaho's three research universities to build capacity for statewide academic science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research, education and outreach. Enhanced research infrastructure augments economic development by supporting industry establishment, diversification and growth.

Idaho EPSCoR has received three concurrent NSF Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) awards for understanding the effects of climate on water resources and the adaptation of economic and ecological systems. The awards have broadened STEM participation and fostered integrated research and education programs across the state.

Research and outreach goals focus on 1) strategies for buffering climate impacts, 2) understanding effects of climate variability on water resources and other state interests and 3) investigating linkages between land use, climate-driven change and water supply.

Accomplishments.

- Augmented the NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA), and attracted funding for the DoI Northwest Climate Science Center (NW CSC) and the USDA Coordinated Agriculture Project (CAP). These are all designed to better understand and respond to the impacts of climate change on Idaho aquiculture, forests, water supplies, and industry.
- Engaged more than 200 university faculty, staff, undergraduates, graduate students and technicians and more than 1,680 K-12 students and teachers in STEM programs throughout the state.
- Created ten new academic faculty positions throughout Idaho, including experts in a wide range of disciplines. This enhances our ability to attract other research dollars and to respond to Idaho research needs.
- Catalyzed CI and data management, sharing and research through the Northwest Knowledge Network (NKN).
- Provided decision makers with a risk-based framework for investigating economically optimal distribution of ground and surface water resources.
- Developed strategies for long term management of Snake River Basin groundwater to buffer climate change effects for multiple water uses.
- Prepared Idaho's population and workforce to prosper in a science-based, high technology world.



Future Funding Challenges.

The next round of EPSCoR infrastructure awards will be significantly more competitive given a projected reduction in the total number of awards and an increase in the number of EPSCoR eligible states.

Idaho's next RII proposal will:

- Feature a major science theme of importance to the state of Idaho that is best addressed through integrated research and education across the state's higher education institutions,
- Build upon Idaho EPSCoR's reputation as a regional and national leader in the design and build-out of cyber-infrastructure and innovations in research data management, assurance of data quality, and inter-institutional data sharing, and
- Apply the state's academic capital to economic development and prosperity and the positioning of Idaho in the global marketplace.



For more information, please contact:

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