

One Montana Climate, Water and Agriculture Fellowship

Water is our key source of life and livelihood. Yet demands and stresses from increasing climate variability, population increase and significant new economic development activities are straining this essential resource in a semi-arid state. Certainly these environmental and social stressors have huge and immediate implications for Montana's cultures, communities and its economies that power our state. In order to address these challenges at the grassroots level, One Montana is working with the Montana Watershed Coordinating Council and the Montana Association of Conservation Districts to develop a comprehensive infrastructure for their Transitional Agriculturalist position that can assist the 120 watershed councils and conservation districts in sharing best practices regarding water adaptation practices.

The Position:

One Montana Water Adaptation and Resiliency Fellow will serve as a best-practices researcher and communicator for the purposes of inventorying past, current and planned water adaptation efforts as a result of climate variability in Montana. S/he will provide critical data and stories for the Transitional Agriculturalist, who will be working for and with the Montana conservation districts and the watershed councils. The Fellow will:

- Canvass those in Montana working primarily in the agricultural industry and catalogue current adaptation practices.
- Develop an annotated inventory that describes real stories of adaptation regarding water supply and availability directly related to climate variability including extreme weather events.
- Provide any pertinent data on how these practices came into being, particularly if there are good collaboration strategies that were involved.
- Help begin development of a virtual manual that can be shared and utilized by over 120 conservation districts and watershed councils in Montana.

Location: One Montana offices; Bozeman, MT

Time commitment: 40 hours per week, June 1-August 14, 2015

Desired Qualifications:

1. Strong research skills, including a basic understanding of water resources and demand in a semi-arid region of the United States;
2. A good understanding of agricultural practices, particularly in a semi-arid climate;
3. Background in climate impacts on the environment and particularly water resources;
4. Excellent internet research, writing and communication skills;
5. Proven success in a team oriented environment;
6. Excellent organizational skills and ability to follow through and complete tasks;
7. Capacity to communicate information in laymen's terms.

This fellowship is an opportunity for a highly skilled and motivated student to contribute to a unique and exciting regional effort. As a result, the fellow will gain:

- A working knowledge of current adaptation practices due to climate variability regarding water supply and availability in Montana;
- An annotated inventory constructively reviewed by experts in agricultural water practices for the Fellow's portfolio and for possible use in future presentations;
- Relationships with a wide variety of agricultural producers and watershed communities and direct experience with the operations of a nonprofit;
- Project management experience;
- Experience working in a team environment.