



NPS Midwest Region Climate Fellow Position Description

Program Description

The 2023 Public Lands Transportation Fellows Program provides paid opportunities to advance the transportation workforce by attracting our next generation of public stewards to the field of transportation—through unique opportunities for career development and public service on key visitor transportation issues. Fellows work closely under the coaching and mentoring of staff of Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs), *such as the National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*, to facilitate transportation planning or implementation projects for transportation solutions that preserve valuable resources and enhance the visitor experience. Through service at a unit or region/field office, fellows are invited to incite innovative change in our transportation systems and environmental lands management through significant contributions that advance cost-effective sustainability

FLMA Description

This fellow position will work with the National Park Service (NPS). The mission of the NPS is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

Location Description

This transportation fellow position will work with the NPS Midwest Region (MWR) and be stationed in either the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska or the Intermountain Region Office in Lakewood, Colorado. The NPS Intermountain Region Office has a typical commute from Denver in traffic of approximately 20-30 min by car. There is no direct public transportation to the Lakewood office.

The fellow will be periodically deployed to MWR Parks, including Badlands National Park (BADL), Theodore Roosevelt National Park (THRO), and others, as assigned. The locations for these assignments will be determined by the MWR Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) with input of the fellow after the start of the position.

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Job Description

As a fellow, you will be an employee of the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) at Montana State University (MSU) Bozeman. Through WTI, you will be provided with an orientation, professional development opportunities, the ability to attend conferences to build a professional network, and a transportation mentor to provide you with guidance. Through NPS, you will be provided with a supervisor as well as a workspace and computer at the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska or the Intermountain Regional Office in Denver, Colorado.

At the start of their assignment, fellows are provided with a detailed scope of work (SOW), including tasks, deliverables, and approximate work schedule to guide them throughout their assignment. This SOW includes the transportation priorities outlined by staff at the Midwest Regional Office. Within the first few months of their assignment, fellows will be able to work with staff to suggest updates to this SOW based on their expertise, passions, and exploration of the complex.

This transportation fellow will be focused on climate impacts within the Midwest Region. Some of the potential projects that the transportation fellow will provide support for during this assignment include:

- Assist with development of a strategy to monitor erosion of “badlands” terrain
- Lead erosion monitoring using equipment and training provided by NPS
- Assist in identifying and measuring factors influencing erosion
- Assist with development of a model to compare new data and existing data, to assess impacts, predict outcomes, and propose better management strategies
- Prepare responses to inquiries from Park, Regional, and National staff to help plan for future climate impacts and inform design choices
- Assist in development of a “Regional Prototype” for Climate Change Response Program of expected climate impacts in the future
- Prepare a list of recommended focus areas for environmental mitigation
- Analyze incidents requiring Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads Events to evaluate past responses and formulate recommendations for improvement
- Write research needs statements & applications to Federal Highway Administration Innovation and Research Council

More detailed information about the potential projects will be provided upon request.

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Fellow Expectations

As a fellow you are expected to:

- Commit to a twenty-four (24) month fellowship term.
- Report to duty at NPS Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska or the Intermountain Regional Office in Denver, Colorado.
- Attend an in-person orientation at Montana State University in Bozeman at the beginning of the fellowship (date TBD).
- Attend twice monthly transportation fellows' group video conferences and twice monthly individual phone calls/video conferences with your WTI mentor.
- Host a 1-3 day site visit for your mentor and provide them an agenda with an update on initiatives.
- Attend 1-2 conferences (TBD).
- Present at a poster session during the [Transportation Research Board](#) (TRB) in Washington, D.C. (January 2024 or 2025).
- Complete a final report and a webinar that discusses the work completed during the fellowship.
- Travel for occasional business as needed as part of the effort.

Skills and Qualifications

1. Strong oral, writing, and graphic communication skills to interact with federal, state, and local agencies, interest groups, partners, regional staff, and field staff;
2. Strong organizational skills;
3. Ability to establish and maintain positive professional relationships with a variety of agencies and the public;
4. Excellent working knowledge of GIS and mapping tools;
5. Working knowledge of common spreadsheet and database tools;
6. Knowledge of transportation planning and asset management principles and techniques;
7. Ability to assess transportation needs, evaluate and identify priorities, and to modify or develop new approaches to solve transportation or access management challenges;
8. Ability to assist with scoping projects to pilot and implement transportation management systems and programs, potentially working on multiple projects at once;
9. Ability to assist with assembling grant applications with provided technical information;
10. Familiarity with methods for assessing the sustainability and resiliency of transportation assets;
11. Ability to take initiative and work independently, yet know when to ask for help and guidance;
12. Ability to work in a small team and willingness to assist with some day-to-day tasks and issues;
13. Familiarity with marketing and social media; and
14. General knowledge of the National Park Service and a genuine interest in supporting our collective transportation efforts related to our primary goals.

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Requirements

All applicants must:

- Be U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens of the U.S.;
- Be 30 years of age or under by the start date; and
- Have at least a Bachelor's degree.

Financial Package

- Assignment Period: Twenty-four (24) months.
- Salary: \$24.23/hour or \$50,400/year
- Benefits: Eligible for benefits through MSU (<https://www.montana.edu/hr/recruitment-hiring-onboarding/FY23%20Benefits%20Overview.pdf>)
- Relocation Expenses: Reimbursement of up to \$750 for relocating to and from your home to assignment location, for a maximum total of up to \$1,500. Travel costs from the assignment location to the rotational assignment locations will also be covered (see additional information under travel costs below).
- Personal Transportation: Personal transportation (e.g., travel from your housing to unit, to grocery store, etc.) will be the financial responsibility of the transportation fellow.
- Professional Development: up to \$1000 is available for pre-approved, transportation fellow professional development. Note that this *cannot* be used for professional society membership.
- Travel Costs: Costs for travel to orientation, relocation to rotational locations, conference travel, and occasional business travel will be reimbursed/covered by WTI.

Federal Non-Competitive Eligibility Status

Transportation fellows who **complete** their assignment will be eligible for federal non-competitive hiring status for two years following the completion of their fellowship. The transportation fellow, with the help of their supervisor, must demonstrate that specific minimum hour work requirements have been met.