USGS National Competitive Grants Program
WRS Graduate Research Assistantship Supplements
Notice of Intent due June 2, 2021

For Minnesota teams submitting a proposal to the 2021 USGS/NIWR National Competitive Grants Programs, (Annual Grants, Aquatic Invasive Species Grants or Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Grants), the WRC is offering supplemental (nonfederal) funding for research assistance. For proposals funded by USGS, the supplement will support salary and tuition-inclusive fringe benefits for a 0.5 FTE Water Resources Science (WRS) graduate research assistant (GRA) for a duration of 24 months. These supplements will count toward the 1:1 match requirement of the USGS programs.

Eligibility and requirements
To be eligible, proposed supplements must the following requirements:

- The funded GRA must have responsibilities directly related to the proposed project.
- The project principal investigator (or a co-PI) must be a current WRS faculty member and commit to supervising the student as their primary advisor.
- Expend all supplement funds within the funded period of the project. Supplement funds can be applied to any continuous 24-month period during the project.

Each funded student will be expected to:

- Be enrolled in the WRS program.
- Submit (with other co-authors as appropriate) an abstract for presentation at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference at least once during the project. The WRC will cover the cost of the student attending the conference.
- Write a short (~600 word) article about their work to be featured in the WRC’s Minnegram newsletter.

Selection criteria
Supplement requests will be reviewed by the WRC. Preference will be given to requests that:

- Will recruit a new WRS student (as opposed to extending funding for an existing WRS student).
- Involve an interdisciplinary research team.
- Clearly identify the benefits of the student’s connection with the WRC.
- Involve early career scientists in leading components of the project and supervising the student.

Application and award process
Supplement requests must be submitted in a Notice of Intent (NOI) as described on the WRC Funding Opportunities Webpage by June 2, 2021. The WRC expects fund supplements for up to four proposals. Proposers will be notified of whether their project has been selected for a supplement by June 4, 2021. The WRC will provide a letter of commitment for each project with a funded supplement, allowing those projects to include the value of the assistantship as part of the required matching funds. Note the proposal will need to be selected for USGS funding to receive the assistantship.

Contacts
- Adam Wilke – USGS grants programs, application process
- Tracy Fallon – WRS graduate program