

**NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII)
Managing Idaho's Landscapes for Ecosystem Services (MILES)**

Call for Proposals

Innovation Working Groups (IWG)



March 24, 2017

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Overview and Deadlines

MILES Innovation Working Groups (IWG)

The **vision** of the MILES program is for Idaho to be widely recognized as a national leader and model state for applying coupled natural-human systems research focused on ecosystem services to inform sustainable development of mid-sized cities.

The **mission** of MILES is to: 1) advance understanding of changes in ecosystem services at the interface between urban and rural environments, 2) relate those changes to societal and climate drivers, and 3) provide science-based tools and training to inform policy decisions about the sustainable management of these ecosystem services.

The **goal** of MILES is to create new knowledge about relationships between ecosystem services, landscape change, and associated social ecological systems (SES), and establish the infrastructure to provide science-based decision support needed to sustainably manage Idaho's resources.

Increasing trans-disciplinary collaboration related to SES will enhance Idaho's ability to secure competitive funding and tackle complex MILES research agendas. Therefore, Innovation Working Group (IWG) funds are being made available to support collaborative, trans-disciplinary workshops by MILES researchers. These workshops will lead to collaboration among scientists and stakeholders from different disciplines and development and submission of proposals to NSF crosscutting programs and/or the publication of synthesis papers in peer reviewed journals. The workshops will also be used to enhance intra-state collaboration. The MILES IWG program is managed by the three-member, MILES Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and Idaho EPSCoR staff.

MILES is predicated on the supposition that integration is key to expanding SES research capacity in Idaho. The MILES IWG program is designed to support this goal.

What IWG Funds Will Support

IWG workshops will provide a venue to engage scientists and educators, along with invited nationally and internationally recognized experts, in activities modeled after those hosted by the NSF-supported National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. IWG funds are designated for working groups that are clearly related to MILES integrative goals (see [MILES Strategic Plan](#) for more information) and advance MILES research and education objectives: (1) increasing the human and physical resource base for advancing research capacity in the delivery and sustainability of ecosystem services; (2) advancing fundamental science that informs landscape management policy; and (3) developing and implementing education and workforce programs to prepare a diverse group of students to succeed in a 21st century economy.

IWG support is aimed at working groups that emphasize cross-site integration among MILES institutions and the collaborative development and testing of important ideas and theories. An IWG typically will support ~8-12 researchers who work collaboratively for ~1-3 days on their proposed challenging issues. IWG topics may be distributed among one or many of MILES integrative components: integration, SES characterization and vulnerability, integrative modeling, visualization and virtualization, stakeholder engagement, and workforce development.

Who Should Apply

- Any faculty member and/or postdoc from an Idaho academic institution participating in MILES may submit proposals.
- IWGs are not intended to fund the collection of new data or field research.

Proposal Deadlines

Proposals are normally solicited four times per year. The next **due dates are May 31, 2017, August 31, 2017, and November 30, 2017.** *Proposals may be submitted at other times after consultation with the Idaho EPSCoR Project Administrator.* A two to three week review period is anticipated prior to award announcement.

Expectations for IWG Scientists

Reporting and Evaluation: The IWG lead investigator or convener must write a summary report of the IWG efforts and outcomes. IWGs resulting from a given solicitation due date must convene and complete reports to EPSCoR within six months of the application deadline. In addition, it will be the responsibility of the lead investigator or convener to ensure that NSF-required data regarding IWG participants (e.g., demographic) have been given to Althea Sheets in the Idaho EPSCoR Office. Evaluation and assessment questionnaires will be requested of participants and should be returned in a timely manner.

Tracking of Science Products: NSF requires that EPSCoR track science products resulting from the IWGs. The IWG lead and all participating scientists will need to provide the Idaho EPSCoR Program with any proposal submissions related to the IWG topic, the result or success of proposals, and any relevant publication citations.

Funding Source Acknowledgement: Acknowledgement of the funding sources is requested and should be formatted as: "This work was supported by the Idaho EPSCoR Program and by the National Science Foundation under grant number OIA-1301792".

Writing an IWG Proposal

Content:

- IWGs should focus on topics related to the components of the MILES research and education agenda.
- IWG activities should be integrative, question-driven and product oriented.
- Proposals addressing cross-site integrative capacity are sought.
- Proposals are evaluated on the collaborative and synthetic nature of the ideas.
- IWGs should specify whether publication submittal is a goal, and if so, should specify publication outcomes, especially journals targeted for special issues.
- IWGs should specify whether proposal development is a goal, and if so, state the specific grant or NSF program targeted.
- IWGs should consider how to share their experience and results through campus seminars, broadcast seminars, online materials at MILES websites, public media, and other approaches.

Requesting more than one convening:

- Proposals should request only one IWG convening session. In some cases, a face-to-face planning session prior to the IWG may be justified. A successful IWG may request funds in a subsequent proposal solicitation to convene again for follow up or continued development on the topic.

Participants:

- ~8 – 12 individuals working for ~1-3 full days.
- IWGs should include a diverse array of participants and pay attention to gender balance and participation by underrepresented institutions and groups.
- All three Idaho public universities participating in MILES must be represented.
- Postdocs are eligible to serve as Leads or Co-Leads
- One or more graduate students and/or postdocs should be involved.

Location:

- IWGs meeting off-campus are preferred, or when on campus, in a venue conducive to a working meeting setting.
- Field stations are possible meeting locations and help keep budgets reasonable (e.g., McCall Outdoor Science School). Please discuss options with the Idaho EPSCoR Office.

Management

- Proposals must designate who will be responsible for: planning, on-site implementation, managing participant information, finances, evaluation and assessment materials, and submission of the final report.

Guidelines for Proposals

Formatting and Submission

Proposals should be submitted in digital format in MS Word or as a PDF file. They should be submitted as a single complete document with graphics embedded in the document and should be less than 5MB in size. Please submit the proposal document by email to:

Attention: Maria Horta-Vorse, Idaho EPSCoR

Email: mariah@uidaho.edu Phone: 208-885-7102

Proposal Preparation

IWG proposals are relatively short but must include the information requested below. A maximum of 6 pages is allowed using no smaller than 11pt font. Please include all of the information requested for the Project Description section below.

I. Proposal Title Page	1 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal Title • <i>Please state: "MILES IWG Proposal"</i> • Lead Investigator, Co-Investigator(s) • All affiliation and contact information for the above people • Date of Submission
II. Project Summary	1 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half-page summary statement
III. Project Description	2 – 3 ps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem statement • Integrative potential • Scientific questions/hypotheses addressed • Proposed IWG topic and activities • IWG convening dates and location • Name of individual participants, including institutional contacts and <i>whether confirmed</i> • Name of person designated to collect participant demographics and evaluation and assessment questionnaires • Timetable of activities including pre-meeting coordination, tentative working group agenda, and post-meeting deliverables • Statement of anticipated outcomes and benefits
IV. Budget	1 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget

Proposal Budget and Finance Information

IWG support includes participant travel costs, which includes airfare, mileage, ground transportation, lodging and per diem (meals and incidentals). Meeting facility costs and food provided to participants when the meeting is occurring is also allowable. If a proposal is approved, the IWG leader is expected to remain within the proposed budget, and will work with Idaho EPSCoR financial staff to process all expenses. No sub-awards will be awarded so do not include indirect costs in the proposed budget. The granted budget must be expended during the specific period of the proposal. IWGs do not support salary for participants. All international travelers must adhere to NSF travel guidelines and the Fly America Act. Although there is no set limit on an IWG budget request, the ELT anticipate that well-justified budgets will not exceed the \$8,000 range.

The budget should include all of the information below. Please put the budget in a table (or Excel) format. Clearly state the grand total amount requested.

I. Travel	Domestic	Number of domestic participants Travel amount per domestic participant Airfare Mileage Lodging Per diem: Use the state rate Ground transportation
	International	Number of international participants Travel amount per international participant Airfare Mileage Lodging Per diem: Use the state rate Ground transportation <i>Total travel expenses</i>
II. Meeting Facility Expenses		Meeting rooms, AV or computer equipment, etc. Food provided during the meeting <i>Total meeting facility expenses</i>
III. Total		Total amount requested

Proposal Review

Proposals will be reviewed by the ELT. At the discretion of the ELT, up to three anonymous external reviewers may be sought for each proposal. Proposals are reviewed for merit, novel approaches, and rationale related to MILES research and education goals. Review criteria include:

- **Integrative potential**
- **Topic aligned with MILES research and education agendas**
- **Question driven**
- **Product and outcome oriented**
- **All Idaho public universities participating in MILES represented**
- **Significant participation by women and members of underrepresented groups**
- **Participation of graduate students or postdoctoral scholars**
- **Multi-and trans-disciplinary participation**
- **Intellectual merit and transformative nature of the work**

Contact Information

For More Information:

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MILES Executive Leadership Team:

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