



M.S. or Ph.D. Research Assistantship
Water Policy and Governance
Utah State University

Utah State University invites applications for a graduate research assistantship to **analyze water policy changes and innovations occurring in Utah, a rapidly growing and urbanizing state in the United States Intermountain West**. This assistantship opportunity is part of a multi-year, NSF-funded study aimed at understanding water resources sustainability in the urbanizing Wasatch Range Metropolitan Area (WRMA); see www.iutahepscor.org for more information. The successful applicant will be expected to:

- (a) conduct policy analysis of water strategies and reforms currently being debated in the state;
- (b) analyze governance structures for effective water management;
- (c) situate changes occurring in Utah's water sector within broader (regional, national, global) political, social, and economic dynamics and decision-making processes;
- (d) incorporate findings into dissertation chapters and co-authored publications; and,
- (e) participate in iUTAH activities.

The successful applicant will conduct an examination of the state's water policy landscape with a view toward characterizing the critical boundaries, as well as the boundary-spanning processes and information sharing tools, that: connect deliberations about water to other pressing public policy issues; affect the way water is governed; and, influence the ways in which various aspects of water management get prioritized on the state's policy agenda.

The home department for this student will be Environment and Society in the Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah State University (USU) in Logan, Utah. The position is open to either a **Ph.D. or M.S. student with an emphasis in natural resource and environmental policy**. Criteria for review of applications includes academic background, policy-related interests and/or experience, and familiarity with water in the western United States or more specifically in Utah. All iUTAH students have the opportunity and are expected to work in an interdisciplinary, cross-institutional research team that includes researchers from USU, the University of Utah, and several other Utah universities. Assistantship support for a qualified student on this project is initially guaranteed for 1.5 years at \$20,000 per year (plus a full tuition award), with expectations and opportunities to pursue supplemental funding from internal and external sources in future years.

Prospective students should contact Dr. Joanna Endter-Wada for more information (joanna.endter-wada@usu.edu). Please include a current resume, statement of research interests, and names of three references with your inquiry. **Position is slated to be filled by January 2016.**



Why Utah and USU? The Wasatch Front and surrounding agricultural valleys of Northern Utah (including Cache Valley where USU is located) are regionally representative and interesting places to conduct water policy research. USU is Utah's land grant institution. The area has stunning landscapes with nearby ski resorts, lakes, rivers, and mountains. Housing costs are lower than the national average, and there are diverse cultural opportunities. Northern Utah is close to the most scenic National Parks in the USA, including Zion, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Arches, Capitol Reef, Grand Teton, Great Basin, and Yellowstone.