Opportunity Title: USGS Assessing Groundwater Depletion and its Impacts in the U.S.
Opportunity Reference Code: DOI-USGS-2026-81

Organization U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)

Reference Code DOI-USGS-2026-81

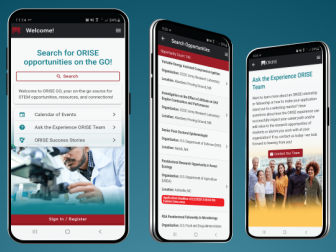
How to Apply ***To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click APPLY.***

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click here for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations. At least one recommendation must be submitted in order for the mentor to view your application.

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

Connect with ORISE...on the GO! Download the new ORISE GO mobile app in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to help you stay engaged, connected, and informed during your ORISE experience and beyond!"

OAK RIDGE INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
ORISE GO

The ORISE GO mobile app helps you stay engaged, connected and informed during your ORISE experience – from application, to offer, through your appointment and even as an ORISE alum!
Visit ORISE GO
GET IT ON Google Play
Download on the App Store

Application Deadline 1/14/2027 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description ***Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis and applications may close before the deadline.**

USGS Office/Lab and Location: A research opportunity is currently available with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). **This opportunity is remote.**

The USGS mission is to monitor, analyze, and predict current and evolving dynamics of complex human and natural Earth-system interactions and to deliver actionable intelligence at scales and timeframes relevant to decision makers. As the Nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency, USGS collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides science about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems.

Research Project: The project will provide an overview of the impacts of groundwater depletion on water resources throughout the Nation.
A combination of existing datasets, federal and state regulations, and potentially novel model results will be used to assess which areas of the country experience water limitations due to excessive groundwater withdrawals as well as the nature of those limitations. You will collaborate with and learn from researchers contributing to the USGS 2030 National Water Availability Assessment. Through this project, you will gain experience with the scientific analyses, methods, and publication processes used in large-scale water availability assessments. Please see

https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/pp1894 as an example of the type of analysis and publication by this team.

Learning Objectives: You will have the opportunity to learn about applying regional and national tools and datasets to answer questions about the state of groundwater resources in the U.S., their historical trends, and potential limitations to water availability from human activities and climate. You will strengthen your scientific communication skills through presentations at scientific conferences and contributions to the preparation of one or more scientific manuscripts. You will also have the opportunity to experience collaborating in a large, multidisciplinary scientific team at a federal scientific agency.

Mentor: The mentor for this opportunity is Edward Stets (estets@usgs.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: February 2, 2027. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for two years, but may be renewed upon recommendation of DOI and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full time.

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) only.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and USGS. Participants do not become employees of USGS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

Questions: If you have questions about the application process please email USGS@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing or have received a doctoral degree in the one of the relevant fields.

Preferred skills:

- Experience studying groundwater dynamics, watershed hydrology, water use, or ecological flows.
- Familiarity with one or more regional-to-national geospatial and/or environmental datasets relevant to groundwater availability (GRACE satellite products, streamflow records, aquifer or well-level data, climate datasets)

Opportunity Title: USGS Assessing Groundwater Depletion and its Impacts in the U.S.
Opportunity Reference Code: DOI-USGS-2026-81

- Proficiency with programming and scientific computing in one or more languages such as R, Python, MATLAB, or similar.
- Ability to synthesize disparate datasets to generate indicators, metrics, or assessments.
- Strong written and oral communication skills, including the ability to communicate scientific findings to both technical and non-technical audiences.
- Ability to be in a large, integrated team to answer high-level scientific questions.

Stipend $81,415.00 – $97,582.00 Yearly

Point of Contact Rachel

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.
- **Discipline(s):**
  - **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** (1)
  - **Earth and Geosciences** (4)
  - **Engineering** (2)
  - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** (2)