

Fellowship Opportunity: XPRIZE Wildfire Year of Impact

Overview: The XPRIZE Foundation is seeking a highly motivated fellow with specialized expertise in wildfire resilience, fire science, climate adaptation, disaster technology, or a related field to work alongside the XPRIZE Wildfire Program Director and the XPRIZE Impact team. This opportunity will allow the fellow to contribute across the full arc of the Impact Phase, with a central focus on the End-User-Informed Technology RFP, the mechanism through which XPRIZE Wildfire finalist technologies move from competition into real-world pilot deployment with fire agencies, utilities, insurers, landowners, and communities. The fellow will help convene a series of end-user input sessions, draft the RFP based on the end-user input, support dissemination of the RFP, manage the application process, support submission review and judging, and conduct project management and evaluations, while also contributing to the broader strategy and stakeholder engagement that shape the Wildfire Year of Impact.

Skills and Experience:

- Current postdoctoral scholar or recent PhD graduate (or equivalent advanced research experience) in fire science/engineering, environmental science, emergency management, forestry, engineering, business, public policy, or a related field.
- Experience in wildfire management, wildfire resilience, climate adaptation, disaster technology, or public-private innovation partnerships.
- Experience conducting research, drafting proposals or RFPs, or supporting grant, procurement, or evaluation processes.
- Strong analytical, written, and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to engage effectively with fire agencies, utilities, landowners, and other technical or operational stakeholders.
- Strong organizational and project management skills.
- Ability to work independently while collaborating within a multidisciplinary team.
- Comfort operating in a fast-moving, year-long program with evolving priorities and a wide stakeholder base.
- Interest in or experience with the wildfire space preferred.

Project Overview: The Fellow will support the XPRIZE Wildfire Program Director across the Wildfire Year of Impact, with the End-User-Informed Technology RFP as a central workstream. This includes helping coordinate end-user input sessions, draft the RFP itself, managing the intake of applications, supporting review and evaluation of proposals, and helping coordinate the Advisory Board's judging process. The Fellow will also contribute to broader Year of Impact activities, including use case development, stakeholder engagement, and preparation for key milestones and events across the program.

Fellowship Activities/Tasks:

- Support the September Use Case Development Workshop, synthesizing stakeholder input to inform RFP challenge areas.
- Help draft the End-User-Informed Technology RFP, including scope, application requirements, and scoring criteria, in coordination with PG&E and the Advisory Board.
- Manage intake of RFP applications during the four-week application window, ensuring completeness and organized tracking.
- Review submitted applications against fit, urgency, and applicant contribution criteria, and prepare summaries for the Advisory Board.
- Support coordination of the December RFP Judging process, including materials preparation for PG&E/other sponsors, XPRIZE, and the Advisory Board.
- Support outreach to potential applicants across fire agencies, utilities, insurers, landowners, forestry organizations, and communities to build a strong, diverse applicant pool.
- Contribute to broader Year of Impact activities, including research, stakeholder briefings, and materials for events such as Red Sky, the Investor Summit, and Global Visioneering.

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop a strong understanding of the wildfire technology and resilience landscape, including the barriers standing between demonstrated technology and lasting deployment.
- Gain hands-on experience running a major RFP process end to end, from drafting through intake, review, and award.
- Build skills in evaluating proposals against defined criteria and preparing recommendations for a judging body.
- Build skills in stakeholder engagement across government, industry, insurance, and community sectors.
- Gain experience supporting a flagship public-private partnership between XPRIZE and a lead corporate sponsor.
- Develop practical project management skills through managing RFP workstreams and supporting a cross-functional Impact Phase team.
- Learn how XPRIZE moves prize-winning technology from competition into scaled, real-world deployment.

This fellowship is designed for individuals who are passionate about strengthening wildfire resilience and eager to make a tangible difference in how breakthrough technology reaches the people who need it most. If you are ready to take on this challenge, we look forward to receiving your application at xprizehub@ucalgary.ca

Application Deadline: September 15 at 11:59 AM, 2026