

CIASTA
Cooperative Institute for Atmospheric Sciences and Terrestrial
Applications
Research Review Team Data Request

1. **MISSION:** To foster long-term collaborative research on themes of mutual interest; to facilitate the establishment of joint research projects between scientists of NOAA and universities in the Intermountain West (between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada/Cascade Mountains); and to improve the effectiveness of graduate-level education and expand the scientific experiences available to graduate students in the Intermountain West to include their participation in joint research programs. **HISTORY:** The Cooperative Institute for Atmospheric Sciences and Terrestrial Applications (CIASTA) is a partnership between the University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), represented by the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (Environmental Research Laboratories, Air Resources Laboratory), the National Weather Service, and the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Services. The arrangement was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by UCCSN Chancellor Richard S. Jarvis and NOAA Administrator D. James Baker on November 29, 1994, and January 18, 1995, respectively. The Desert Research Institute (DRI) is the host institution for CIASTA.

2. Total Funding during 07/01/02 – 06/30/03 = \$2,050,000
 - Amend No. 3 07/18/02 \$ 269,000
 - Amend No. 5 09/18/02 1,620,000
 - Amend No. 6 01/28/03 161,000
 - 2a. John and Linda will provide

 - 2b. Linda will provide

 - 2c. 5% Short Term, 6% Medium Term, 89% Long Term

 - 2d. CIASTA's research projects are regional, national and global in scope. Regionally, efforts include precipitation estimates and forecasts, visibility monitoring, modeling and data analyses, atmospheric tracer research, dispersion of air toxics, aerosol and visibility observations, and study of landfill closure designs. These are performed in several of the Western United States and along the Pacific Coastline. On a national level, the Regional Climate Centers service all 50 states disseminating high quality climate

data, conducting applied research related to climate issues, and improving the coordination of climate-related activities at state, regional and national scales. Fire weather studies are also being conducted collaboratively in Florida and Nevada. Globally, airborne measurements have been conducted over the Indian Ocean, and investigations of the physical properties of severe storms have involved CIIASTA scientists in collaboration with NOAA's Hurricane Division in field excursions over the Caribbean.

3. 100% of CIIASTA's funding comes from NOAA
4. CIIASTA's unique contribution to NOAA is the expertise available within the Desert Research Institute, and the UCCSN campuses in Reno and Las Vegas, in their conduct of all aspects of research on the environment.
5. No staff funded by CIIASTA projects receives 50% or more support from NOAA. CIIASTA is primarily a funding tool for research in the UCCSN rather than an employer. CIIASTA receives funding for partial support of its Director and Administrator. Employees are paid salaries that are derived from a variety of sources, most of which are from research projects, some of which are funded through and administered by CIIASTA.

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