USDA California Climate Hub
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UCDAVIS John Muir Institute of the Environment

Postdoctoral Researcher positions in (1) Applications in Forest Resilience and (2) Human-environmental (social) Systems

The Challenge: The management of the broad ecological and societal benefits of forests in California has become a vexing and challenging issue. From increasing fire size, frequency, and intensity to beetle outbreaks and drought-driven mortality, forest composition is changing rapidly. These changes in forest structure affect the management of biodiversity, groundwater, forestry, recreation, and human safety. Significant investment in research has resulted in emerging strategies for increasing forest resilience and maintaining the complex suite of values people place on California forests. However, successful forest management in this time of change is limited by the ability to translate these emerging research findings into approaches and strategies that managers can implement. Thus, a limiting constraint in taking knowledge to action is the translation of research findings into tools, databases, and other information sources that are available to and resonate with, forest managers and landowners. These postdoctoral researcher positions will support and help facilitate knowledge exchange to improve the management of resilient forest resources in California.

Position Summary:
The USDA California Climate Hub at The John Muir Institute of the Environment at the University of California Davis has two openings for postdoctoral fellows.

Position 1: **Applications in Forest Resilience**: *this position will focus on applied forest ecology and management; here we are seeking an individual interested and with training in reforestation and applied climate adaptation science, and with programming and/or remote sensing skills*. The core functions of this position are to contribute to the development of an online platform integrating multiple decision-support tools for post-disturbance forest management, support remote sensing and GIS analyses to inform a statewide reforestation needs assessment, lead or co-lead the development of peer-reviewed publications and or grey literature related to the aforementioned and additional activities. Design, collaborate, or support additional research and/or publication opportunities as they align with the core function of the USDA California Climate Hub.

Position 2: **Human-Environmental (Social) Systems**: *this position will be interdisciplinary in nature, with a focus on forest management and social systems. For this position we are seeking an individual with an interest and skills in the interface of ecology, human dimensions of natural resources, and policy.* The core functions of the position are to assess regional stakeholder priorities and contribute to ecoregional conditions and needs assessments to support and guide investments in the prioritization, planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of forest resilience and/or reforestation efforts; lead or co-lead the development of peer-reviewed publications and or grey literature and products that summarize the results from the aforementioned activities. Design, collaborate, or support additional research and/or publication opportunities as they align with the core function of the USDA California Climate Hub.

The ideal candidates for both positions will possess excellent organizational, written and oral communication skills, analytical expertise, and the ability to work as part of a large interdisciplinary team. The applicant should have training in and demonstrated experience to integrate a variety of climate, ecosystem, and forest science findings. The successful candidate will work with a diverse team of leading scientists and administrators at the USDA California Climate Hub, UC Davis and Berkeley as well as senior managers and policy experts at several State of California agencies (e.g. CNRA, CAL FIRE, CA EPA).

What is Required
Disciplinary expertise
- PhD in ecology, plant sciences, forestry, sociology, human dimensions of natural resources, environmental policy or closely related fields.

- Understanding of forest management, climate impacts to forests, effects of wildfire in California and some appreciation for the diversity of forested ecosystems in the state.
- Familiarity with state, federal, private policy and similar management frameworks and investments such as the California forest carbon plan and regional forest and fire capacity program.

Communication and Extension

- Excellent interpersonal skills, strong written and verbal communication skills, ability to work under pressure with tight deadlines.
- Skilled in analyzing information and activities to identify gaps between the needs of stakeholders and available science and tools.
- Demonstrated publication record

Additional Valued Skills

- Research experience and knowledge in remote sensing, computing, web-based tool and/or code development for forest management applications - Position 1
- Research experience and knowledge in qualitative methods and analyses - Position 2

To Apply

Please send (1) a cover letter describing: experience, interest in the selected position, professional/research interests, and general career goals (no more than a single page), (2) a CV, (3) copies of unofficial transcripts and (4) contact information for 3 professional references (one being your dissertation advisor) in a single PDF. Materials received by Sept 15, 2021 will receive full consideration - but would appreciate sooner. Send the complete package of materials to Steven Ostoja (steven.ostoja@usda.gov) for full consideration.

Salary: Begins at $54,540; but is commensurate with experience.
Start date: negotiable – duration of position is 1 year with the possibility of an extension.
Candidates interested in more information on this position can contact: Steven Ostoja (steven.ostoja@usda.gov), Director, USDA California Climate Hub,

NOTE: To be appointed at the Postdoctoral Researcher title, it is necessary to have the PhD in hand at time of appointment. Appointments made without a diploma or certified transcript indicating an earned doctorate are conditional hires and are appointed on an acting basis not to exceed six months. Upon verification of degree the appointment will be extended to its full duration.