**USFS Fellowships in Applied Fire and Forest Ecology (Wildland Fire & Fuels Treatment Outcomes) – Research Fellow (post-doc) and Analyst (two positions)**

Opportunity Code: USDA-USFS-PSWRS-2023-0370

**Description**

**USFS Office/Lab and Location:** Two research opportunities (postdoctoral Research Fellow and Analyst) are available with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) located in Redding, California.

**Research Project:**The USDA Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) is seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow and an Analyst, both preferably with experience in fire ecology/fire science, to work with scientists at all USFS research stations on a National research effort to evaluate the effectiveness of fuel reduction treatments including mechanical thinning and prescribed fire through case studies of wildfires interacting with those treatments. The objective of the project is to better understand the conditions under which treatments produce desirable outcomes, including reduction in fire severity, successful containment of fire spread by suppression operations, and well as reduction in wildfire impacts to homes and other infrastructure, to inform future adaptive management in a changing climate. The project involves both methodological development that will allow for future comparisons across geographic regions, and analysis of case studies. The postdoc and analyst will take on different roles (flexible and to be determined, based on strengths and interests), but each will gain experience with data acquisition and data analysis, as well as collaborating in the writing of manuscripts. The position is currently funded through Sept 30, 2025, and possibly longer with good performance and if additional funding is identified. Duty station for this position will be Redding, CA, but remote options may be considered.

**Learning Objectives:**

• To better understand how fuel treatments including mechanical thinning and prescribed fire influence wildfire outcomes

• To enhance collaborative skills as a member of a scientific team by helping to formulate research questions that meet needs of resource and fire managers, and plan data acquisition, collection, and analysis

• To gain experience analyzing large datasets, and translating quantitative scientific results into products that enhance forest and fire management capabilities

• To extend natural resource information-sharing capabilities by collaborating on the preparation of manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals and communicating study results to scientists and forest managers via meetings, presentations, webinars, and field tours

**Anticipated Appointment Start Date:**target date isOct 1, 2023 (negotiable).

**Appointment Length:**Two years of funding is currently available. Appointment could possibly be extended with additional funding.

**Level of Participation:**The appointment is full-time.

**Participant Stipend:**The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience but anticipated to be in the range of $85,000 annually for the Postdoctoral Research Fellow and $66,500 for the Analyst. A stipend to purchase health insurance is also included. Both will be provided a travel allowance, supplies budget, and a USFS computer.

**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 USFS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, USFS, 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.

**Qualifications**

The qualified candidate should have received a master's (Data Analyst) or doctoral

degree (Research Fellow) in Forestry, Natural Resources, Ecology, Forest Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Fire Science, or a related field, or be currently pursuing one of the degrees with completion by the start of their appointment. Applicants in the latter stages of completing a degree might also be considered in some circumstances.

Preferred skills:

* Demonstrated experience in data management and statistical analysis of ecological and/or fire-science related datasets. Quantitative skills in developing workflows in languages such as R, Google Earth Engine or Python, are desirable
* Evidence of scientific and technical writing for peer-reviewed publication (more so for Research Fellow than Analyst)
* Demonstrated understanding of fire ecology and/or fire science
* Experience presenting on natural resource topics to both scientific and general/manager audiences
* Capacity to perform both independently and as part of a team
* Ability to prioritize multiple projects and activities within project deadlines
* Interest in science applied to management questions
* Some background or training in fire management, including basic NWCG (National Wildfire Coordinating Group) firefighter training (S-130, Firefighter Training and S-190, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior) a plus, but not necessary

**Opportunity ZORF Title:** Wildland Fire & Fuels Treatment Outcome Research - Researcher (post-doc) and Analyst (two internships)

**Eligibility Requirements/Citizenship:**LPR or U.S. Citizen

If you have any questions about these opportunities, please contact Eric Knapp ([eric.e.knapp@usda.gov](mailto:eric.e.knapp@usda.gov))

To apply:

<https://www.zintellect.com/Opportunity/Details/USDA-USFS-PSWRS-2023-0370>

A complete application package 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.  Selected candidate must provide proof of completion of the degree before the appointment can start.  All transcripts must be in English or include an official English translation.
* A current resume/CV
* Two educational or professional recommendations. Applications need at least one recommendation submitted in order to be viewed by the mentor.

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

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be reviewed on a rolling-basis, starting 8/30/2023, and continuing until the opportunities are filled.