

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Postdoctoral researcher at UC-Davis in wildfire, vegetation treatment, prescribed fire monitoring and forest resilience

As part of a 3-year contract with California State Parks (CSP), the Safford Lab at UC Davis (<https://safford.faculty.ucdavis.edu/research/>) will be hiring a postdoc to: (1) help administer and coordinate the implementation of a new vegetation treatment monitoring program on CSP lands; (2) collaborate with other Safford Lab researchers and CSP environmental scientists to use the data collected to assess wildfire risks, impacts and resilience on CSP and adjoining forests; (3) organize trainings and knowledge transfer to build CSP monitoring capacity.

The position has two main duties:

1. Approximately 50% of the job will be serving as technical coordinator for the launch and implementation of a vegetation treatment monitoring program within the network of State Parks that harbor significant areas of fire-adapted vegetation. Much of the program will be focused on prescribed burning and be modeled on the California Prescribed Fire Monitoring Program, implemented across the State by the Safford Lab in collaboration with CAL FIRE. The position will involve: hiring, training and managing field crews; working with CSP counterparts to identify and address geographic and ecological priorities with respect to monitoring fire-adapted vegetation; and setting up a data collection protocol and an associated queryable database for use by CSP managers, fire practitioners and researchers; writing reports, scoping and identifying management-relevant research topics, and drafting follow-up funding proposals. The postdoc will be supervised by and work closely with the project scientist who coordinates prescribed fire monitoring and related research for the Safford Lab.
2. Approximately 50% of the job will involve analyzing the growing body of monitoring data collected in part I and conducting research on the applications, limitations and impacts of prescribed fire and other vegetation treatment interventions to achieve management-oriented goals and to restore the integrity of the fire-adapted ecosystems represented in the CSP system. The position will work closely with the project scientist and other Safford Lab members to identify pressing research needs using the monitoring data where possible and will carry out novel, cutting-edge research to answer pressing scientific questions with direct application to management of fire, fuels, vegetation and protected areas. Candidates with backgrounds and interests in prescribed fire, forest management, wildfire, fire/disturbance ecology, and/or fire modeling are especially encouraged to apply.

Relevant skills for this position include: strong interpersonal skills and leadership qualities; demonstrated abilities in both teamwork and independent work; interest in applying science to management-related questions; strong background in ecological science, especially in fire and vegetation ecology; familiarity with California flora and plant communities; experience in geospatial analysis, R and complex statistics; and experience conducting trainings and workshops. Firefighter Type II qualifications (e.g., federal red card) will be required for the position; current possession of such qualifications is ideal, but the successful candidate can also

obtain certification after hire. Contact John Williams if you have questions about this. Familiarity with the State Parks system and/or protected areas management is also a plus.

Starting salary is \$60,000-\$65,000 with benefits, subject to the candidate's qualifications. Duty station is the Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of California, Davis.

UC-Davis is one of the top ecological research institutions in the world, and there will be many opportunities for collaboration and networking with world-class scientists as well as with multiple federal and state management agencies, NGOs and industry groups. Candidates must be prepared to travel, sometimes for multiple days; travel funds are provided.

If you are qualified and interested, please send your CV, the names and contact info of three references, and a statement of interest, including a summary of your skills and background, to:

Dr. John Williams
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