

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Postdoctoral researcher at UC-Davis in prescribed fire monitoring and fire ecology

As part of a 3-year contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the Safford Lab at UC Davis (<https://safford.faculty.ucdavis.edu/research/>) is hiring a postdoc to: (1) administer and coordinate the implementation of the California Prescribed Fire Monitoring Program; (2) help design and operationalize a queryable database (currently under construction) that will be used by the postdoc, and other scientists and land managers to address pressing research questions and inform decision-making related to wildfire risk, fire ecology and forest resilience across the State; and (3) conduct original research on the role of prescribed fire in California's fire-adapted ecosystems.

The position has two main duties:

1. Approximately 50% of the job will be serving as technical coordinator to implement the California Prescribed Fire Monitoring Program (CPFMP). Entering its fifth year, the CPFMP comprises a network of almost 800 plots across 30 sites in forests across northern and central California. Located mostly in conifer forests and woodlands, our monitoring plots span a range of land uses and ownership regimes, including national forests, state parks, irrigation districts, private landowners, NGOs and other types of reserves. The position will involve the following tasks: identifying and organizing pre- and post-fire monitoring activities; developing and maintaining partnerships with land managers/owners; hiring, training and managing of field crews; working with partners to identify and address geographic and ecological priorities with respect to monitoring fire-adapted vegetation. The postdoc will also work with Safford Lab scientists, CAL FIRE counterparts and other partners to adapt the monitoring protocol to fire-adapted ecosystems not currently covered by the program (e.g., coastal prairie, sage scrub, chaparral). Additionally, the postdoc will work with a database technician to design and populate an Access database for use by land managers, fire practitioners and researchers. Other tasks include writing reports and related publications, scoping and identifying management-relevant research topics, and drafting follow-up funding proposals. The postdoc will be supervised by Dr. Safford, but will also work closely with Dr. John Williams, who helped implement the CPFMP during its initial phase.
2. Approximately 50% of the job will involve conducting research and analyzing the growing body of prescribed fire monitoring data collected in part I. The postdoc will also have opportunities to lead research and collaborate with other scientists and graduate students on the applications, limitations and impacts of prescribed fire and other vegetation treatment interventions to address the urgent fire and fire-related management issues facing California ecosystems. The position will work closely with Drs. Safford and Williams and other lab scientists, postdocs, and students.

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. Possession of an active Firefighter Type II qualification (“red card”) is ideal and will be required, but can be obtained after hire.

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.

For questions or 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  
[jnwill@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jnwill@ucdavis.edu)