

Postdoctoral Scholar in WUI Wildfire Community Recovery Oregon State University

Position Summary

The College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences is seeking a Postdoctoral Scholar (within 4 years of receiving PhD or equivalent degree) to investigate the recovery trajectories Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities that have experienced recent wildfires. This is a full-time (1.00 FTE) one-year fixed term academic faculty position. Reappointment for one additional year is possible depending upon annual review.

The Postdoctoral Scholar, under the direction of their mentor, Dr. Jenna Tilt, will engage with WUI community members to co-produce qualitative and quantitative social science data examining the socio-economic, ecological, and built factors that impact WUI communities recovering from wildfire. Three to six WUI communities from Washington, Oregon, and/or California will be selected for this research depending upon the successful applicant's prior experience and networks in WUI communities. The Postdoctoral Scholar will have a lot of latitude in refining pertinent research questions and will lead the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data to accomplish the overarching research goals of 1) Identifying socio-ecological-built factors that impact WUI communities; 2) Assessing how these factors contribute to different trajectories of community resilience (e.g., persist, adapt, or transform); and 3) Analyzing the individual trade-offs involved between different resilience trajectories. Specific data collection methods may include, but are not limited to: semi-structured interviews and focus groups, participatory mapping, photovoice, cognitive mapping, and social network analysis.

As part of their responsibilities, the Postdoctoral Scholar will engage in project management, administrative and logistical support, and professional development activities. The Postdoctoral Scholar will create and implement an Individual Development Plan (IDP) in consultation with primary mentor and other research team members. The IDP will serve as a platform for discussion of possible improvement and areas for growth and includes specific research and professional goals for the Postdoctoral Scholar and task timeline.

Position Duties:

100%: Conduct social science research regarding wildfire recovery trajectories Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities and present results in written and oral scientific and outreach communications. This research will take place in Oregon, Washington, and/or California. The Postdoctoral Scholar will assist with IRB related activities including submissions, approvals, modifications, and renewals. The Postdoctoral Scholar will contribute to manuscript development and report writing. They will prepare meeting summaries, progress reports, study deliverables, journal articles, and other written materials, and present study findings at meetings as needed. Publication in appropriate scientific journals is expected. Participation in grant-writing with PIs to fund the next stage and future expansion of project topics is expected.

Minimum Qualifications

- Candidate must have earned a PhD in Social Sciences or a closely related field by the start date of the appointment and must be within four years of receiving PhD or equivalent degree
- Demonstrated life experience or education related to the social and other aspects (e.g., ecological, operations, built) of wildfire
- Demonstrated research accomplishments and publications in the primary research area literature

- Demonstrated strong social science qualitative and quantitative research skills including working knowledge of software such as SPSS, R, NVivo, and/or ArcMap/ArcPro
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in community outreach and engagement with local community members and groups, particularly with marginalized or underrepresented populations
- Demonstrated experience with IRB compliance
- Demonstrated excellence in (English) written and verbal communication skills

Preferred Qualifications

- Demonstrated experience conducting social science research in WUI communities
- Demonstrated knowledge and application of key theoretical frameworks including adaptive capacity, community capitals framework, social vulnerability, and equitable resilience
- Demonstrated success in working both independently and constructively in interdisciplinary research teams.
- Oral and written proficiency in Spanish
- A demonstrable commitment to promoting and enhancing diversity and inclusion. This might include engagement with personal and professional development or be woven into the practice of any traditional professional duties (e.g., research, mentoring, education, scholarship, service).
- Preference will be given to candidates with a strong publication record, a demonstrable commitment to seeking external funding, and research interests that aligned with the research team.

Work Conditions: The Postdoctoral Scholar will primarily work in an office setting in Corvallis, Oregon with frequent travel to WUI communities in Oregon, Washington, and/or California.

Salary and Benefits: Stipends and Benefits for Postdoctoral Scholars are found here:

<https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/postdocs/stipends-and-benefits>

Timeline and Application: While applications will be considered until the position is filled, we will start reviewing applications on August 7, 2023. A complete application will be a single PDF document containing:

- Letter of interest describing how your qualifications and experience have prepared you for this postdoctoral position (1 – 2 pages).
- Research statement that highlights your research accomplishments and describes your next steps (1 – 2 pages).
- Curriculum Vitae (no length restriction).
- Names and contact information of three references (1 page).

Please send direct inquiries to Jenna Tilt: tiltj@oregonstate.edu To apply for this opportunity, submit a complete application via e-mail to Jenna Tilt.

Oregon State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Centrally located in the Willamette Valley, the OSU campus in Corvallis is in close proximity to the Pacific Coast and Cascade Range and offers excellent opportunity for work-life balance. We foster a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment with many opportunities for postdocs and students to engage with a rich campus life.