

## **Postdoctoral Scholar in WUI Risk Evaluation Oregon State University**

### **Position Summary**

The College of Engineering is seeking a Postdoctoral Scholar (within 4 years of receiving PhD or equivalent degree) to investigate risk within Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities. This is a full-time (1.00 FTE) one-year fixed term academic faculty position.

The Postdoctoral Scholar, under the director of their mentor, Dr. Erica Fischer, will perform fire propagation models through the wildland and through the Ashland community. The Postdoctoral Scholar will have a lot of latitude in refining pertinent research question and will lead the analysis of effective mitigation strategies to accomplish the overarching research goals of

1. Evaluating a community in Oregon for home ignitability considering: the influence of proximity to the intermix and interface WUI boundaries, spatial considerations within a community, and presence of high wind events at the time of fire encroaches on the community;
2. Evaluating a community in Oregon for the influence of individual mitigation techniques on home ignitability;
3. Comparing the results from the analysis to previous post-fire investigations in varying landscapes and types of communities (e.g. suburban, rural),

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.

### **Position duties:**

100%: Conduct engineering and forest science research regarding evaluating effective mitigation strategies within WUI communities. This research will take place in Oregon. 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 the project may occur.

### **Minimum Qualifications:**

- Candidate must have earned a PhD in Civil Engineering or Forest Management 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 community resilience or other aspects (e.g., ecological, operations, built) of wildfire
- Demonstrated research accomplishments and publications in the primary research area literature
- Demonstrated strong research skills including working knowledge of software such as FlamMap or FARSite
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in community engagement with local community members and groups

- Demonstrated excellence in (English) written and verbal communication skills

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Demonstrated experience conducting research in WUI communities
- Demonstrated knowledge and application of key risk analysis frameworks, even if outside of wildfires
- Demonstrated success in working both independently and constructively in interdisciplinary research teams.
- 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 June 30, 2025. 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 Erica Fischer: [erica.fischer@oregonstate.edu](mailto:erica.fischer@oregonstate.edu). To apply for this opportunity, submit a complete application via e-mail to Erica Fischer.

Oregon State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer, including disability, protected veteran, and other protected status

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.