Post-doctoral Scholar position, Oregon State University

Extending Forest Restoration to Post-Fire Forest Management

We are seeking a creative and self-motivated post-doctoral fellow interested in forest restoration and fire ecology to work with Oregon State University and U.S. Forest Service scientists. The work bridges the fields of restoration ecology and post-fire management. Aspects include to 1) develop a set of forest restoration “principles,” specifically oriented toward identifying, highlighting, and managing for the restoration benefits of wildfires and 2) implementing science-based post-fire forest management that integrates threat mitigation with provision of a variety of ecosystem services in coniferous forests and landscapes of the Pacific Northwest and other parts of western North America. The project involves reviewing and synthesizing published literature describing goals and objectives for ecological restoration, principles for restoring fire-prone forest ecosystems, wildfire effects on forest structure and composition, post-fire vegetation and fuel dynamics, and post-fire treatment effects. The research team will use this information to develop a set of principles for post-fire forest restoration on public forest lands in western North America that complement and are consistent with forest restoration goals and objectives for unburned, green forest stands and landscapes.

The position is based in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, USA, and is currently funded for 15 months, starting in Fall 2020. The salary varies with experience. For more information about being a post-doctoral scholar, please see https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/post-docs/appointment-and-recruitment and https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/post-docs/stipends-and-benefits.

The post-doctoral scholar will lead the literature review effort, coordinate the activities and contributions of OSU and Forest Service collaborators, contribute to research syntheses and development of post-fire restoration principles, publish results in peer-reviewed journals, present results at scientific conferences, and participate in stakeholder engagement and collaboration efforts.

Applicants must have completed a Ph.D. in forestry, ecology, or a closely related field less than 3 years prior to the start of the appointment and demonstrate a strong record of refereed research publications and scientific presentations. The successful candidate will have extensive knowledge and past research experience in one or more of the following
areas: restoration ecology, silviculture, fire ecology, forest management, and plant ecology. Strong critical thinking, scientific writing, and oral communication skills are required. Preferred qualifications include a demonstrable commitment to promoting and enhancing diversity. Skills and experience with statistical analyses, GIS, and scientific programming would also be helpful.

Oregon State University (OSU) is a world-class academic institution and the OSU Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society is recognized as a leader in Forest Ecosystem Management research. Project PI Klaus J Puettmann, the Edmund Hayes Professor in Silviculture Alternatives, leads research to better understand forest ecosystems and to design silvicultural practices that help to ensure that forests are resilient and adaptable to changing environmental and biological conditions. Co-PI David W Peterson, a Research Forester with the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, leads research in fire ecology and post-fire forest management in the Pacific Northwest.

To apply, applicants should send a cover letter, CV, and the names and contact information of three references as a single pdf document to Klaus Puettmann (klaus.puettmann@oregonstate.edu). We hope to select a candidate by September 30, 2020, but the posting will remain open until the position is filled.