Postdoctoral Researchers

Reducing risks to biodiversity and human well-being from ecological effects of drought

We are seeking two postdoctoral researchers to participate in the project “Landscape Sensitivity to Ecological Drought: The Knowns, Needs, and Solutions for the Real World”. Funded by the US Geological Survey (USGS) National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center in partnership with Science for Nature and People (SNAP), the project will assess the state of understanding of current and future drought impacts across a range of ecological systems in the United States, and connect those impacts with actionable strategies for reducing risks to biodiversity and human well-being.

SNAP (www.snap.is) is a collaborative venture of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) to create a fundamentally different way to identify and tackle large-scale ecological challenges that threaten the integrity of nature and human well-being.

The project is led by Dr. Shawn Carter (USGS), Dr. Kim Hall (TNC) and Dr. Molly Cross (WCS), and involves a multi-disciplinary Working Group of experts in the ecological, social, and economic impacts of drought across the United States. For more information about this SNAP project see http://www.snap.is/groups/ecological-drought/.

We are hiring two postdoctoral researchers to support the project. We envision that one researcher will focus primarily on the effects of current and future droughts on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and cataloging ecosystem-based strategies for preparing for and coping with drought. The second researcher will focus primarily on human vulnerabilities to ecological impacts of drought, and the extent to which drought management plans consider climate change, the ecological effects of drought, and ecosystem-based strategies for drought preparedness.

Both positions will work within the group to: 1) synthesize, analyze and communicate available research on the ecological effects of drought and strategies for reducing risks to biodiversity and human well-being, 2) assess information needs among natural resource managers and drought planners on the ecological effects of drought, 3) organize the content of and help to facilitate working group meetings, and 4) write research papers. Successful applicants will also interact and liaise with: working group participants representing diverse disciplines and institutions, directors and staff of the eight regional Department of Interior Climate Science Centers, and entities involved in drought planning and natural resource conservation in the Upper Missouri Headwaters of southwest Montana (e.g., state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, local watershed groups and conservation districts, and University researchers).
**Location and Supervisor/Mentor**
The preferred location for both postdoctoral positions is at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) in Santa Barbara, CA, but there may be some flexibility to be co-located with one of the Project PI’s (listed above) or core Working Group members. Each position will be supervised by one or more of the Project PI’s; additional mentoring from an academic advisor can also be arranged.

**Required Qualifications**
- PhD in ecology, hydrology, human dimensions of natural resource management, economics, geography or other relevant field
- Demonstrated ability to review, synthesize and analyze large amounts of scientific literature and complex information/data
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Demonstrated ability to publish research in peer-reviewed journals
- Ability to take initiative and work independently as well as part of a team

**Desired Qualifications**
- Experience researching the effects of drought on human and/or natural systems
- Familiarity with literature on climate change vulnerability and adaptation
- Experience creating and managing complex databases
- Experience conducting surveys and interviews
- Experience with data analysis, integration and visualization

**TERM OF APPOINTMENT:** 18 months with the possibility of an additional 6 months.

**SALARY RANGE:** $45,000/year - $58,000/year, commensurate with qualifications, experience, and location.

**POSITION AVAILABLE:** Anticipated start date is September 1, 2015

**TO APPLY:** Please send a single, merged PDF file to ecologicaldrought@gmail.com that includes your curriculum vitae, a one-page statement of research interests, and a list of three references. Note that this email address is only used to accept applications. If you have inquires about the positions, please see below for contact information.

**INQUIRIES:** If you have any questions about the postdoctoral research positions or the Ecological Drought Working Group project, please contact Shawn Carter (scarter@usgs.gov), Molly Cross (mcross@wcs.org) and Kimberly Hall (kimberly.hall@tnc.org).

**CLOSING DATE:** Position is open until filled.