Postdoctoral Opportunity in Forest Ecology

A postdoctoral fellow is sought to work with Hall Cushman (University of Nevada, Reno), Stephanie Yelenik (Rocky Mountain Research Station, USFS) and their graduate students on research exploring the population ecology of whitebark pine (WBP, *Pinus albicaulis*). This high-elevation conifer in western North America has undergone high levels of mortality over the past few decades and in December of 2022 was listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Working in montane ecosystems in California and Nevada, this project is funded by grants from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), Nevada Division of State Lands, the Tahoe Fund, and USFS (Forest Health Protection). The overarching objective of this research is to determine the climatic, topographic and forest structure variables that best predict WBP mortality and recruitment across landscapes of varying aridity and wildfire history. The project also hopes to evaluate how current forest-thinning practices influence recruitment of this imperiled conifer.

The postdoctoral fellow will be heavily involved with all phases of this project and will lead many of them. They will also have abundant opportunity to explore additional questions within the WBP system and topics more generally relating to forest health and dynamics in the face of anthropogenic climate change.

The postdoctoral fellow will be part of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science at UNR and the Reno Office of the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station (on the UNR campus). They will also be able to engage with the Interdisciplinary Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology (EECB) and the Global Water Center at UNR.

Qualifications. The Postdoctoral Fellow must be an experienced forest ecologist with well-developed abilities in the design and sampling of field studies, scientific writing, and statistical analyses using R. The successful candidate must have a strong publication record and extensive knowledge of the ecology and natural history of trees and forests. Interest in remote sensing approaches, GIS, and working with large climate data sets is also desired.

Salary. $56,484/year plus benefits.

Desired Start Date. January 15, 2024. Earlier start dates will be considered.

Position Duration. This project has three years of funding for a postdoctoral researcher. The initial appointment will be for one year, with the option for additional years based on performance and productivity.

Applications. To apply for this position, send a detailed letter of interest, CV and the names and contact information of at least three referees to Hall Cushman (jhcushman@unr.edu) and Stephanie Yelenik (stephanie.yelenik@usda.gov). Please group these documents into a single pdf file. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

About UNR. Founded in 1874, the University of Nevada, Reno is a land-grant public institution with ~20,000 students. The university is classified as an R1 institution by Carnegie, in recognition of its "very high research activity."

About Reno. Reno is located on the western edge of the Great Basin and the eastern slope of Sierra Nevada Mountains. With its elevation ranging from 4,400 to 6,000 feet, the city has a population size of ~270,000 and is home to a diverse cultural and artistic community. Reno offers exceptional access to outdoor activities including skiing, climbing, hiking, and mountain biking. It is located ~45 minutes from Lake Tahoe, 3 hours from Yosemite National Park, and 3.5 hours from San Francisco. Outside Magazine included Reno in its list of 12 Best Places to Live in the U.S. (2019) and 15 Happiest Places to Live in the U.S. (2023).