July 8, 2024

Postdoc: Climate and weather influences on dryland restoration outcomes

A postdoctoral position is available with the USGS Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center and Ecosystems Mission Area. The successful applicant will work with a collaborative team of researchers from USGS and resource managers from the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs to investigate the role of climate and weather in shaping outcomes of dryland restoration treatments.

Opportunity: This position is part of a broader effort by the US Department of Interior to understand the impact of recent widespread ecosystem restoration investments. Working within that larger effort, this postdoc will have the opportunity to lead analysis to understand the role of climate and weather on outcomes from ecosystem restoration (e.g. revegetation) in water-limited, dryland environments. The postdoc will generate insight about questions like:

- How do climate and weather variability influence dryland restoration outcomes?
- Given those influences, how will future climate change alter expectations for dryland restoration outcomes?
- Are there opportunities adapt to these changes and enhance long-term dryland restoration success?

Tasks: Primary duties include engaging with researchers in the larger DOI effort and relevant resource managers, synthesizing data and information from a variety of sources (including existing data about restoration outcomes), conducting statistical and geospatial analysis, and disseminating results via scientific publications, presentations, and engagement events with natural resource managers. This research will utilize existing data sources and fieldwork to collect new data is not required.

Qualifications: A Ph.D. in ecology, ecosystem ecology, biology, soil science, ecohydrology, or a closely related field is required. The ideal candidate will have a record of scientific productivity and publications, demonstrated oral and written communication skills, well-developed data synthesis and quantitative analysis capabilities, a strong work ethic, and a proven ability to work independently as well as in a team.

Work environment: This postdoc will join the Dryland Ecohydrology Team, who conduct applied research to understand the impact of climate change on dryland ecosystems and develop adaptive strategies for dryland resource managers. Ideal location is Flagstaff, Arizona, although remote telework may be possible for exceptionally qualified candidates.

Application process: To apply, email a cover letter, CV and contacts for three references to the John Bradford (jbradford@usgs.gov) with subject line “restoration outcomes postdoc: your name”. For more information, contact John Bradford (jbradford@usgs.gov). Applicant review will begin on August 1 and continue until the position is filled. This is a full-time position funded for at least two years. Start date is as soon as possible.