

**Opportunity Title:** Climate and megafires

**Opportunity Reference Code:** 0119-NPP-MAR26-JPL-EarthSci

**Organization** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**Reference Code** 0119-NPP-MAR26-JPL-EarthSci

**How to Apply** All applications must be submitted in [Zintellect](#)

Please visit the NASA Postdoctoral Program website for application instructions and requirements: [How to Apply | NASA Postdoctoral Program \(oraу.org\)](#).

A complete application to the NASA Postdoctoral Program includes:

1. Research proposal
2. Three letters of recommendation
3. Official doctoral transcript documents

**Application Deadline** 4/2/2026 6:00:59 PM Eastern Time Zone

**Description** About the [NASA Postdoctoral Program](#)

The [NASA Postdoctoral Program \(NPP\)](#) offers unique research opportunities to highly-talented scientists to engage in ongoing NASA research projects at a NASA Center, NASA Headquarters, or at a NASA-affiliated research institute. These one- to three-year fellowships are competitive and are designed to advance NASA's missions in space science, Earth science, aeronautics, space operations, exploration systems, and astrobiology.

**Description:**

This project proposes to study the King fire in California, the latest example of an emerging class of megafires changing the landscape of the Western US. Megafires may represent a tipping point transition to a new fire regime, one that could reshape US landscapes. Much of the King Fire burn area was surveyed shortly pre-burn (serendipitously) and was observed comprehensively by the pre-HysPIRI campaign during active burning. We propose to complement these observations with immediate post-fire observations of forest structure change (LiDAR), topography, and burn severity (imaging spectroscopy) before snowfall 2014, to obtain baseline science data, and for use in immediate post-fire mitigation activities with our agency partners. In recent years there has been an increase in the occurrence of extremely large wildfires (megafires) that have been subject of societal concern and scientific interest because of their size, cost, growing frequency and long-term ecological and hydrological impacts. Megafires exhibit extreme behavior and are poorly understood. Large fires create their own meteorology, thus traditional fire behavior models, used in active fire management, may fail to represent how localized fire weather affects fire behavior. This project will provide data critical to understanding the behavior and post-fire ecological recovery for extreme megafires and informing postfire and longterm management responses. The project will address NASA Applied Sciences goals to



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NASA's capabilities and higherlevel derived data products to improve natural disaster forecasting, mitigation and response, as well as aiding to understand the natural processes that produce wildfire hazard, and developing appropriate hazard mitigation approaches. The project will also address NASA Terrestrial Ecology goals of improving understanding of the wildfire as a factor in the structure and function of global terrestrial ecosystems. This project will provide aid in determining whether California's two recent megafires represent a 'tipping point" to a new fire regime.

**Location:**

Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
Pasadena, California

**Field of Science:**Earth Science

**Advisors:**

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626-773-0943

**Applications with citizens from Designated Countries will not be accepted at this time, unless they are Legal Permanent Residents of the United States.** A complete list of Designated Countries can be found at: <https://www.nasa.gov/oiir/export-control>.

Eligibility is currently open to:

- U.S. Citizens;
- U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR);
- Foreign Nationals eligible for an Exchange Visitor J-1 visa status; and,
- Applicants for LPR, asylees, or refugees in the U.S. at the time of application with 1) a valid EAD card and 2) I-485 or I-589 forms in pending status

**Questions about this opportunity?** Please email [npp@orau.org](mailto:npp@orau.org)

**Point of Contact** [Mikeala](#)

**Eligibility Requirements** • **Degree:** Doctoral Degree.