

**Opportunity Title:** USDA-FS Summer Research Fellow: Post-Fire Hydrology

**Opportunity Reference Code:** USDA-FS-PSWRS-2026-0167

**Organization** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

**Reference Code** USDA-FS-PSWRS-2026-0167

**How to Apply** *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click APPLY.*

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations. At least one recommendation must be submitted in order for the mentor to view your application.

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

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**Application Deadline** 6/19/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

**Description** *\*Applications will be reviewed on a rolling-basis.*

**USDA Forest Service Office/Lab and Location:** A fellowship opportunity is available with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS) within the Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSWRS) located in Sacramento, California.

At the heart of the USDA Forest Service's mission is their purpose. Everything they do is intended to help sustain forests and grasslands for present and future generations. Why? Because their stewardship work supports nature in sustaining life. This is the purpose that drives the agency's mission and motivates their work across the agency. It's been there from the agency's very beginning, and it still drives them. To advance the mission and serve their purpose, the USDA Forest Service balances the short and long-term needs of people and nature by: working in collaboration with communities and our partners; providing access to resources and experiences that promote economic, ecological, and social vitality; connecting people to the land and one another; and delivering world-class science, technology and land management.

**Research Project:** Through the mentorship of Forest Service technical staff and project leads, fellows will participate in an immersive field and laboratory experience investigating watershed and subsurface responses to environmental disturbances. Fellows will practice a variety of data

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collection, monitoring, and analysis techniques by collaborating on the following research track:

- **Post-Fire Hydrology and Vadose Zone Processes:** Fellows will gain hands-on experience monitoring root-zone moisture and subsurface flow dynamics. Fellows will practice downloading water level data, performing geophysical logging of boreholes, and utilizing instrumentation to observe how fire impacts water movement through the vadose zone.

**Learning Objectives:** This summer program provides an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with Forest Service monitoring protocols and research methodologies regarding the dynamics of root-zone moisture and gases. Through these projects, you will gain an understanding of how the agency approaches quantifying subsurface processes and evaluating post-fire landscape dynamics and hazards. You will also receive dedicated mentorship in data analysis, scientific communication, and field safety.

**Mentor:** The mentor for this opportunity is David Dralle ([david.dralle@usda.gov](mailto:david.dralle@usda.gov)). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor.

**Anticipated Appointment Start Date: June 2026.** Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

**Appointment Length:** The appointment will initially be for 45 days but may be extended upon recommendation of USDA Forest Service and is contingent on the availability of funds.

**Level of Participation:** The appointment is full time.

**Participant Stipend:** The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The anticipated stipend is \$4,000 monthly.**

**Citizenship Requirements:** This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR), and foreign nationals. Non-U.S. citizen applicants should refer to the [Guidelines for Non-U.S. Citizens Details page](#) of the program website for information about the valid immigration statuses that are acceptable for program participation. Foreign national candidates may have a mandatory in-person requirement depending on visa status.

**ORISE Information:** This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and USDA Forest Service. Participants do not become employees of USDA, USDA Forest Service, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

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**Questions:** Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process please email [ORISE.USFS.PSWRS@orau.org](mailto:ORISE.USFS.PSWRS@orau.org) and include the reference code for this opportunity.

**Qualifications** The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing or have received a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in the one of the relevant fields. Degree must have been received within the past five years, or be currently pursuing.

**Stipend** \$4,000.00 Monthly

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

- Eligibility Requirements**
- **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or currently pursuing.
  - **Discipline(s):**
    - **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([12](#) )
    - **Communications and Graphics Design** ([2](#) )
    - **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** ([17](#) )
    - **Earth and Geosciences** ([21](#) )
    - **Engineering** ([29](#) )
    - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([14](#) )
    - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([51](#) )
    - **Mathematics and Statistics** ([11](#) )
    - **Physics** ([16](#) )
    - **Science & Engineering-related** ([2](#) )
    - **Social and Behavioral Sciences** ([29](#) )
  - **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).