

# Climate Hub Fellow

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Research Service

Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Research Unit (SAWS)

## Summary

This position is located with the USDA, ARS, PWA, SAWS, California Climate Hub in Davis, CA. and will be working with the Director of the Climate Hub supporting climate informed decision making across natural and working lands in California.

**\*\*ANNOUNCEMENT IS OPEN UNTIL FILLED OR DECEMBER 31, 2024\*\***

## Overview

Accepting applications

### Open & closing dates

🕒 10/08/2024 to 12/31/2024

### Salary

\$80,217 - \$124,988 per year

### Pay scale & grade

GS 11 - 12

### Location

2 vacancies in the following location:

📍 Davis, CA

### Remote job

No

### Telework eligible

Yes—as determined by the agency policy.

### Travel Required

25% or less - You may be expected to travel for this position.

### Relocation expenses reimbursed

No

**Appointment type**

Term - 2 yrs

**Work schedule**

Full-time

**Service**

Excepted

**Promotion potential**

12

**Job family (Series)**

[0101 Social Science](#)

[0408 Ecology](#)

[0470 Soil Science](#)

[0471 Agronomy](#)

**Supervisory status**

No

**Security clearance**

[Not Required](#)

**Drug test**

No

**Position sensitivity and risk**

[Non-sensitive \(NS\)/Low Risk](#)

**Trust determination process**

[Suitability/Fitness](#)

**Financial disclosure**

No

**Bargaining unit status**

[No](#)

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**Announcement number**

RA-25PWA-12572157-mds

**Control number**

813326900

# This job is open to



[Career transition \(CTAP, ICTAP, RPL\)](#)

Federal employees who meet the definition of a "surplus" or "displaced" employee.



## **The public**

U.S. Citizens, Nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

## **Clarification from the agency**

US Citizens and Nationals; no prior Federal experience is required.

## **Duties**

- The Climate Hub in Davis, CA is a cross-agency and multi-institutional effort to develop and deliver science-based, region-specific information and technologies,
- with USDA agencies and partners, to agricultural, forestry and natural resource managers that enable climate-informed decision-making.
- Climate change and weather variability impact crop production, forest health, and rangeland management, and the objectives of this position are to:
  - 1) evaluate the effects of climate change on specialty crops or forests across California;
  - 2) quantify the effect of weather variability on growth and productivity of specialty crops or forests;
  - 3) evaluate potential adaptation strategies for specialty crops or forests and
  - 4) develop and provide decision tools, programing and education to agricultural and forestry stakeholders.

## **Requirements**

### **Conditions of Employment**

- Males born after 12/31/1959 must be Selective Service registered or exempt
- Subject to satisfactory adjudication of background investigation and/or fingerprint check
- Direct Deposit: Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to their financial institution
- Successfully pass the E-Verify employment verification check. To learn more about E-Verify, including your rights and responsibilities, visit E-Verify at <https://www.e-verify.gov/>
- Appropriations Law and Immigration Law requirements must be met

### **Qualifications**

This position requires a Ph.D in Agronomy, Ecology, Forestry, Plant Sciences, Soil Science, Hydrology, Engineering, Irrigation management, Information Technology Management, Social Science or a related field of study that has equipped the applicant with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position.

Candidates will need to meet the Basic Requirements set by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

#### **GS-0101 - Social Scientist**

**Degree:** behavioral or social science; or related disciplines appropriate to the position.

**OR**

**Combination of education and experience** that provided the applicant with knowledge of one or more of the behavioral or social sciences equivalent to a major in the field.

**OR**

**Four years of appropriate experience** that demonstrated that the applicant has acquired knowledge of one or more of the behavioral or social sciences equivalent to a major in the field.

#### **GS-0408 - Ecologist**

**Degree:** biology, or a related field of science underlying ecological research that included at least 30 semester hours in basic and applied biological sciences. These hours must have included at least 9 semester hours in ecology, and 12 semester hours in physical and mathematical sciences.

#### **GS-0470 - Soil Scientist**

**Degree:** soil science or a closely related discipline that included 30 semester hours or equivalent in biological, physical, or earth science, with a minimum of 15 semester hours in such subjects as soil genesis, pedology, soil chemistry, soil physics, and soil fertility.

**OR**

**Combination of education and experience:** courses equivalent to a major in soil science or a related discipline that included at least 30 semester hours in the biological, physical, or earth sciences. At least 15 of these semester hours must have been in the areas specified in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

#### **GS-0471 - Agronomist**

**Degree:** agronomy; or related discipline of science that included at least 30 semester hours of course work in the basic plant sciences, including at least 15 semester hours in agronomic subjects, such as those dealing with plant breeding, crop production, and soil and crop management.

**OR**

**Combination of education and experience:** at least 30 semester hours in the basic plant sciences, including a minimum of 15 semester hours in agronomic subjects, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

In addition to the OPM requirements listed above, this position requires:

1. Knowledge of basic crop science or forest ecology and management and extensive outreach experience is required.
2. Strong demonstrated communication skills, both written and verbal are desirable.
3. Demonstrated ability to work both collaboratively and independently is desirable.

Applicants must meet basic Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Qualification Standard's requirements of the scientific discipline necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position.

## **Education**

**This position has a positive education requirement. You must submit a copy of your academic transcripts OR a list of college courses with credit hours, dates completed, and grades received to verify education when applying for this position. If this information is not provided, your education may not be appropriately evaluated and you may lose consideration for this position. If you are selected for this position, you will have to provide an official copy of your transcripts prior to entering on duty. Application materials will not be returned.**

## **Additional information**

Recruitment or Relocation Incentive may be authorized. Final determination to pay an incentive will be made by the hiring official at time of job offer.

This position may be eligible to telework up to four days per week, based upon the duties of the position. This position may also be eligible for flexible work arrangements as determined by agency policy and any applicable collective bargaining agreements.

## Benefits

A career with the U.S. government provides employees with a comprehensive benefits package. As a federal employee, you and your family will have access to a range of benefits that are designed to make your federal career very rewarding. [Learn more about federal benefits.](#)

Eligibility for benefits depends on the type of position you hold and whether your position is full-time, part-time or intermittent. Contact the hiring agency for more information on the specific benefits offered.

## How You Will Be Evaluated

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

Your application will be evaluated to determine if you meet eligibility and minimum qualification requirements, and on the extent to which your application shows that you possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) associated with the position as defined above under "Qualifications".

Note: If, after reviewing your resume and/or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and or experience, your score may be adjusted to more accurately reflect your abilities, or you may be found ineligible. Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your rating. Providing inaccurate information on Federal documents could be grounds for non-selection or disciplinary action up to including removal from the Federal service.

## Required Documents

The following documents are required for your applicant package to be complete. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, your system failure, etc. Encrypted documents will not be accepted. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

- Resume that includes: 1) personal information such as name, address, contact information; 2) education; 3) detailed work experience related to this position as described in the major duties including work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment; title, series, grade (if applicable); 4) other qualifications.
- If education is required or you are using education to qualify, you must submit a copy of your college transcripts. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application if it includes your name and the necessary course information; however, if you are selected, you will be required to submit official transcripts prior to entering on duty. Education must have been successfully obtained from an accredited school, college or university. If any education was completed at a foreign institute, you must submit with your application evidence that the institute was appropriately accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as equivalent to U.S. education standards. There are private organizations that specialize in this evaluation and a fee is normally associated with this service. For a list of private organizations that evaluate education, visit the [NACES](#) website. All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.
- If claiming veteran's preference, you must submit a DD214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty, which shows dates of service and discharge under honorable conditions. If currently on active duty you must submit a certification of expected discharge or release from active duty service under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification

is submitted. Veteran's preference must be verified prior to appointment. Without this documentation, you will not receive veteran's preference and your application will be evaluated based on the material(s) submitted.

- If claiming 10-point veteran's preference you must provide the DD214 or certification requirements (see above bullet), plus the proof of entitlement of this preference as listed on the SF-15 Application for 10-point Veterans' Preference. The SF-15 should be included but is not required. Failure to submit these documents could result in the determination that there is insufficient documentation to support your claim for 10-point preference. For more information on veterans' preference visit [FEDSHIREVETS](#)
- Surplus or displaced employees eligible for CTAP, RPL, or ICTAP priority must provide: proof of eligibility (RIF separation notice, notice of proposed removal for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment to another commuting area, notice of disability annuity termination), SF-50 documenting separation (as applicable), and your most recent SF-50 noting position, grade level, and duty location with your application per 5 CFR 330.

**If application packages do not contain all of the requested information, you may lose consideration for the job. To help you ensure your application fully outlines your qualifications and eligibility for this position, please submit the following documentation as appropriate. Some of the items listed may not apply to you. NOTE: Applications received in postage paid government envelopes will not be considered.**

**As an Applicant for a Postdoctoral Research Associate Position, you must also submit the following:**

\_\_\_ A one-page abstract of Ph.D. dissertation

\_\_\_ A resume of any honors or awards received; memberships in professional or honor societies; invitations to make presentations at scientific/technical meetings; scientific society office and committee assignments; presentations (other than invitations); and publications.

\_\_\_ A list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of persons familiar with your stature, contributions, and recognition.

## How to Apply

Applications may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the appropriate address and/or facsimile number listed below:

**Dr. Steven Ostoja**

**Mail: Institute of the Environment, UC Davis**

**One Shields Ave.**

**Davis CA 95616**

**E-mail: [steven.ostoja@usda.gov](mailto:steven.ostoja@usda.gov)**

**Phone: 530.752.3092**

If sending your application as an attachment to an email, do not send zipped files. They will be removed in accordance with standard electronic security procedures.

## Agency contact information



Melissa Smith

Phone

[510-559-6312](tel:510-559-6312)

Email

[melissa.smith2@usda.gov](mailto:melissa.smith2@usda.gov)

Address

Agricultural Research Service  
800 Buchanan Street  
Albany, CA 94710  
US

[Learn more about this agency.](#)

## Next steps

Applications will be received and reviewed for consideration until a selection has been made.

Under the [Fair Chance Act](#), agencies are not allowed to request information about an applicant's criminal history until a conditional offer of employment has been made, except as allowed for access to classified information; assignment to national security duties or positions; acceptance or retention in the armed forces; or recruitment of a Federal law enforcement officer. An applicant may submit a complaint or any other information related to an organization's alleged noncompliance with the Fair Chance Act. The complaint must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the date of the alleged noncompliance. To make a Fair Chance Act inquiry or complaint, send an email with the appropriate information to [lynda.smith@usda.gov](mailto:lynda.smith@usda.gov), subject line: Fair Chance Act.

## Fair & Transparent

The Federal hiring process is set up to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

[Criminal history inquiries](#)

[Financial suitability](#)

[Privacy Act](#)

[Selective Service](#)

[Social security number request](#)

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) Policy](#)

[New employee probationary period](#)

[Reasonable accommodation policy](#)

[Signature and false statements](#)