

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT, USDA-ARS

POSITION: Research Entomologist (Postdoctoral)

SALARY AND BENEFITS: This full-time postdoctoral position will be filled at the Federal GS-11 level (currently \$78,861 annual salary for the Albany, CA location). The position is funded for one year, with possible extension for a second year contingent upon progress and funding. The position earns annual and sick leave, and the incumbent can enroll in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. For more information on benefits, see <https://www.usa.gov/benefits-for-federal-employees#item-36407>

LOCATION: USDA-ARS, Western Regional Research Center, Albany, California

POSITION OPENING: One position, open immediately. Target start date of January 2022.

DESCRIPTION OF POSITION: The position is located at the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) Invasive Species and Pollinator Health (ISPH) Research Unit, Albany, California. The mission of the ISPH is focused on national leadership in the development and transfer of integrated, biologically-based approaches for the management of invasive weeds and insect pests, and for improvement of pollinator health. The research assignment focuses on the laboratory characterization and rearing, as well as field release and evaluation, of new biological control agents of yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) and French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), which are all major invasive weeds of rangelands and forests in California and other states in the far western U.S. For more information about the ISPH, see <https://www.ars.usda.gov/pacific-west-area/albany-ca/wrrc/isph>

TYPICAL JOB DUTIES: The incumbent is responsible for planning, conducting, interpreting and reporting research on the life cycle, rearing, host plant specificity and potential impact of prospective biological control agents already under study in a quarantine laboratory, and on evaluating the establishment and impact of previously-permitted biological control agents in the field. The incumbent will present results in publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals and at scientific meetings. The incumbent functions both independently and as a team member. Work is conducted in quarantine and non-quarantine laboratories and greenhouses and at field sites.

WORK SCHEDULE: Full-time (40 hours per week, Monday through Friday). Field work and some experiments may involve more than 8 hours of work in one work day.

BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: Recent (prefer within last five years) doctoral degree in entomology, ecology, plant sciences or related discipline; or equivalent training and experience. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES: Research experience in insect ecology, especially insect-plant interactions, is required, as well as in insect

biology, demography, behavior and/or rearing. Skill in rearing of plants and of plant-feeding insects or other arthropods is required. Ability to plan and conduct field and laboratory experiments, collect, summarize, analyze and interpret scientific data, and to publish results in peer-reviewed scientific journals and other outlets is required. Ability to work in a multidisciplinary team environment in quarantine and non-quarantine laboratory environments, and to interact directly with cooperating agencies, land managers and other stakeholders, is required.

DESIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES: Knowledge and skills to conduct research involving biological control of weeds with plant-feeding insects.

WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS: Research is performed in laboratories, greenhouses and at field sites. In laboratory environments the employee is required to wear long pants, close-toed shoes and, at times, personal protective equipment (PPE), including but not limited to a lab coat and gloves. The work may involve occasional exposure to adverse conditions (hot/cold/damp) and/or require long periods of standing or walking.

CONTACT PERSON AND HOW TO APPLY: For more information, contact Dr. Patrick J. Moran, Research Entomologist, USDA-ARS, Invasive Species and Pollinator Health Research Unit, 800 Buchanan St., Albany, CA 94710. Email: Patrick.Moran@usda.gov Phone: 510-559-6393 (o); 510-323-5962 (m) (preferred); Fax: 510-559-5963. Applicants must submit a resume/CV, cover letter indicating interest in the position, unofficial copies of transcripts (e.g., pdf scans), and contact information for two references. Once a tentative offer is made, the applicant must provide fingerprints and submit to a background check. A final offer of employment is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the background check, which can take up to 30 days.

Equal Opportunity Employment Statement: The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Reasonable Accommodation Statement: Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests

for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job; An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace; An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events. You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.