



Oregon State University
**College of Agricultural
Sciences**

Department of Applied Economics

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Postdoctoral Scholar at Oregon State University to evaluate the economic impacts of wildfire smoke events on West Coast wine industries, with an emphasis on Oregon vineyards and wineries.

Project Overview – This timely, highly applicable research project addresses a major concern for industry stakeholders, and its findings have the potential to directly impact a broad range of policy and managerial decisions. To this end, this USDA ARS-funded project has three main objectives: (1) investigate and quantify the direct economic impacts of recent wildfire smoke exposure events on West Coast wine grape growers and wineries; (2) analyze the economic trade-offs (i.e., costs and benefits) of different management choices to mitigate future smoke exposure risk; and, (3) assess long-term impacts on wine grape and wine production, marketing and management caused by a changing climate and its associated risks, including smoke exposure.

Position Description – The postdoctoral scholar, working collaboratively with a faculty mentor (i.e., James Sterns), will have the responsibility of designing and implementing IRB-approved questionnaires that will be used to conduct on-site interviews of vineyard and winery managers and other industry stakeholders. (Note, these respondents will be a representative sample and not a census of Oregon’s approximately 1,400 vineyards and 1,000 wineries). The postdoctoral scholar also will assist in the statistical analysis and writing of publications that report the results of this study. Additional duties and activities may be assigned as the project progresses, as the duration of the appointment is extended, and/or as specific needs for advancing the postdoctoral scholar’s professional development are identified over time.

At Oregon State University, an appointment as a postdoctoral scholar is done within a context of a structured, full-time program of advanced academic preparation and research training under the guidance of a faculty mentor, with significant attention on personal professional development as specified by an Individual Development Plan. Details about this program are provided in the OSU’s [Postdoc Handbook](#).

This research project directly supports the mission of [the Oregon Wine Research Institute](#) at Oregon State University. The postdoctoral scholar will be granted affiliation with the Institute and will have a range of opportunities to engage in the OWRI’s collaborative, multi-disciplinary research and outreach activities.

Required Qualifications – Applicants must have a completed doctoral degree in applied economics or closely related academic discipline, with a degree-completion date not more than three years prior to the start date of this appointment. Applicants must be familiar with standard methods of primary data collection, of interviewing respondents, and for the curating and statistical analysis of data. Applicants must have a valid driver’s license, be fluent in spoken English, and be able to relocate to Corvallis, Oregon for the duration of the project. Applicants must have a strong commitment to working collaboratively in a research setting composed of diverse participants who will have differing areas of scholarly expertise and may be members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, among others.

Preferred Qualifications – PhD degree-completion date no more than one year prior to the start date of this appointment. Demonstrated experience in designing questionnaires and conducting personal interviews to collect primary data. Prior work, research and/or personal experiences with commercial viticulture and enology industries.

Academic Unit – The postdoctoral scholar will be hosted by the [Department of Applied Economics, College of Agricultural Sciences](#) at Oregon State University.

Location – The postdoctoral scholar will be required to work regularly in an assigned office on the OSU Corvallis campus. This position also will require field work and overnight travel that includes site visits to conduct personal interviews of stakeholders within all major wine growing regions in Oregon.

Compensation – This appointment is for a [Postdoctoral Scholar](#), as defined by the OSU Office of Postdoctoral Programs. This position is a 1.0 FTE for a 12-month period. This position has a stipend of \$6,000 per month (minimum) and includes health insurance benefits as specified by university [policy](#). This appointment may be extended annually for up to three years, pending performance and continued availability of funding.

Application Process – If you have specific questions about this opportunity, call James Sterns at 541.737.1406. Interested candidates should send their application in PDF format, including: curriculum vitae, cover letter with brief description of research interests and interest in the position, and contact information for two professional references to James A. Sterns at jasterns@oregonstate.edu

Full Consideration Date – Appointment remains open until filled.

Start Date – November 1, 2023 or as negotiated at time of hire.

End Date – One year from start date with the possibility of annual renewal for two additional years, subject to performance and funding availability.