

The [UCLA La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science](#) invites applications for its 2021 Postdoctoral Fellowship in California Conservation Science. We seek a postdoctoral scholar who conducts innovative biological research to work with the La Kretz Center and partner agencies to achieve outcomes that will direct and lead California conservation efforts.

Candidates may work in any discipline that provides the scientific underpinnings for the preservation, protection, management, or restoration of at-risk species, environments, or ecological communities in California. Our current research directions include, but are not limited to:

- (i) conservation science at the urban/wildland interface, particularly invasions at the urban/wildland interface, behavioral attributes of introduced species, and the ecological and evolutionary effects of urbanization;
- (ii) urban biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services with an emphasis on comparative assessments of urban biodiversity (phylogenetic, richness, genetic diversity, etc.), evaluations of ecosystem services in the urban environment, and ecosystem ecology;
- (iii) California conservation science that leverages networks of protected areas to answer questions about speciation, adaptive evolution, and species delimitation or uses these lands to understand the impact(s) of disturbance on species ecology, conservation, or behavior; or
- (iv) The [California Conservation Genomics Project](#) (CCGP), a large, multi-campus initiative led by the La Kretz Center that is delivering genomic resources to California to enhance species and habitat management.

We seek Fellows whose research overlaps with a minimum of one UCLA faculty member who is a [La Kretz affiliate](#) and one agency partner in California (see below). Applicants should identify in their cover letter potential faculty and agency partners to collaborate with on their proposed project. The Fellow is expected to work closely with their UCLA faculty mentor and agency partner(s) as project timelines require. Our current list of possible agency partners includes, but is not limited to:

The Nature Conservancy: Sophie Parker (restoration; urban conservation; invasive species)
LA Natural History Museum: Jann Vendetti (mollusk ecology and evolution; species natural history)
US Geological Survey: Robert Fisher (applied conservation; biodiversity; ecology and evolution)
US Bureau of Land Management: Mike Westphal (applied conservation, climate change)
US Fish and Wildlife Service: Cat Darst (endangered species management)
Natural Communities Coalition: James Sulentic (protection and recovery of sensitive species)
National Park Service: Katy Delaney (amphibian and avian ecology, evolution, and conservation)
National Park Service: Seth Riley (mammalian ecology, evolution, and conservation)

Department of Defense: Robert Lovich (conservation on Dept. of Defense lands)

The La Kretz Fellowship is for two years, subject to review after the first year. The target start date is September 2021, and is flexible. The position offers full benefits, and an annual research/travel allowance. Candidates who have recently completed their Ph.D. or will have completed it by August 2021 are encouraged to apply.

To apply, please send applications to lakretz@ioes.ucla.edu as a single PDF file that includes (i) a cover letter, (ii) your CV, (iii) a research and management accomplishments statement (maximum two pages), (iv) a project proposal that includes potential La Kretz affiliates and agency partners of interest (maximum three pages, including references), and (v) two of your relevant publications. We also ask that you have (vi) two letters of reference sent, one of which must be from your Ph.D. advisor. Please arrange to have reference letters emailed to the same address with the subject line "La Kretz Postdoc letter for (your last name)". The deadline for completed applications is December 20, 2020. Please e-mail questions to Brad Shaffer, Director of the La Kretz Center, at brad.shaffer@ucla.edu.