



*“The premier food and agricultural research agency of USDA”*

**Position:** Research Biologist - Research Associate

**Salary Range:** \$69,107 – \$89,835

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The ***Pollinating Insect Research Unit (PIRU) of the Agricultural Research Service*** is searching for a postdoctoral researcher in Entomology. This is a full-time, ***time-limited appointment initially for 13 months***, with possible extension(s) of appointment to a total of 4 years contingent on performance and funding availability. The researcher will be working directly with Jonathan Koch and Michael Branstetter in ***Logan, UT***. The assignment is to develop and test non-lethal, low impact survey methods to obtain as much information as possible on wild bees (e.g., Family, Genus, Species, as applicable) and plant visitation on USFWS refuges in California. The incumbent will be required to conduct field work on USFWS refuges in California during the bee flight season. To achieve non-lethal methods for species identification, the incumbent will use and develop molecular methods, computational skills, high quality photographic imaging methods, and metabarcoding approaches to 1) assemble and analyze new genomic data from eDNA samples and museum specimens to make species-identifications; eDNA samples will be achieved through non-lethal swabbing of bees, collection of flowering plants, and deployment of artificial flowers to attract bee visitors, 2) conduct plant-pollinator interaction assessments and vegetation surveys in the field using high-quality photography; 3) develop a framework for high-quality image and DNA capture of museum specimens to support a reference library for image and DNA-based approaches for species-identification, 4) develop and integrate novel bioinformatics pipelines for genomics, including the use of artificial intelligence methods. The knowledge required for this position is the following: bee ecology, metabarcoding knowledge, conservation genomics, next-generation sequencing, field safety, computer programming (Linux, python, R), and photography. ***Qualification Requirements:*** Ph.D. in biological sciences or related disciplines appropriate to this position. 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 this position. Applicants must also meet ***U.S. citizenship or permanent residents who meet certain eligibility requirements may apply***. Additional information on the employment of non-citizens can be found at: <https://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/hrd/employforeignnationals/>. To apply for the position please send 1) cover letter detailing your interest and fit for the position, 2) curriculum vitae, 3) contact information for three professional references, and 4) unofficial transcripts to [Jonathan.Koch@usda.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Koch@usda.gov). Review of applications begin on **Friday, December 29, 2023**.

**\*\* ARS is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider \*\***