Job description
We are seeking a postdoctoral fellow to lead the development of a prioritization-based decision support framework for assessing potential risk from exposure to pesticides for species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This is a full-time, benefits eligible, fiscal-year position for a Postdoctoral Research Scholar located on Arizona State University’s Tempe campus. This is a grant-funded position. Continuation is contingent on future grant funding. This position is expected to run for two consecutive years. The second year renewal is contingent upon satisfactory progress and contribution to the collective program. The ESA requires explicit consideration of the potential pesticide impacts on threatened and endangered species, however this process is currently hindered by agency limitations on resources, data, and interagency coordination. The postdoctoral fellow will work with the stakeholders to bring a decision theoretic approach to the problem and identify potential bottlenecks that can be enhanced by explicitly incorporating efficiency and developing robust and transparent decision support techniques to achieve efficiency both now and into the future.

Department and project information
The mission of the Center for Biodiversity Outcomes is to enable the discoveries and solutions needed to sustain Earth’s biodiversity in a time of rapid biophysical, institutional and cultural change. We draw on the innovative power of ASU, over 40 years of conservation biology research, to create path-breaking, practical solutions to achieve common goals of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in the 21st century. We partner with NGOs, corporations, governments and other academic institutions while training the next generation of conservation leaders. Our innovative approach is at the intersection of research, partnerships and education. As we implement this actionable science model, we study ourselves to improve this approach, increasing its success rate and serving as a scalable model other institutions can apply across the globe.

The Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability is a research institute with a trans-disciplinary focus on finding real-world solutions to environmental, economic, and social challenges. It brings together academics from varied disciplines with leaders from business, government, and the nonprofit sector to solve some of the most pressing environmental, economic, and social challenges of sustainability, to create and share knowledge, and to develop a global network of practitioners and scholars. Examples of specific problem domains include water quality and scarcity; adaptation to changes in climate and environment; sustainable development; urban sustainability; energy, materials, and technology; food and food systems; and policy, governance, and social transformation. The Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability actively encourages diversity among its applicants and workforce.

Essential duties
1. Work with stakeholders (US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Bayer) to identify a viable decision support process.
2. Collaborate with research team in formulating a prioritization algorithm and developing a prototype decision support tool, starting with changes to the endangered species risk assessment ‘interim approach’ proposed by the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs.
3. Write scientific papers associated with the research.
4. Travel to meetings to perform the work and present results.
5. Be an active member in research group activities (e.g., participate in lab meetings, mentor students).

Minimum qualifications
Successful candidates must have at the time of appointment an earned doctorate in a relevant field such as ecology, conservation, agroecology, environmental studies, sustainability science, or the equivalent terminal degree in their field, and must demonstrate their dedication to solving decision support problems through research and scholarship. They must also have the capacity to work effectively in interdisciplinary teams, a strong record of scholarly achievement, and excellent communication skills.

Desired qualifications
Special emphasis will be placed on candidates who explain how their research would both benefit from and advance ongoing activities in conservation decision support, and who strongly integrate the pursuit of knowledge about threatened species issues with a firm commitment to applied work with federal agencies and conservation stakeholders. We are particularly interested in applicants with experience in stakeholder engagement around politically sensitive topics, an interest in/knowledge of agricultural needs and policy, and/or interest in formulating prioritization or other types of decision theoretic decision support algorithms.

Instructions to apply
To review and apply for this position, please visit http://apply.interfolio.com/73855. Applicants must submit:

1. Cover letter and research interests. Applicants should describe experience and suitability for the position. Unlike a standard cover letter, this proposal should highlight the strengths of the applicant’s experience towards developing and implementing proposed research. Applicants are encouraged to discuss relevant research questions, approaches, scientific significance, and significance to action-oriented research.
2. Curriculum vitae or resume.
3. Contact information (name, email and phone) for two or three references.

Application close date
The deadline will be Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. AZ time.

A background check is required for employment.

Arizona State University is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. ASU’s full non-discrimination statement (ACD 401) is located on the ASU website at https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401 and https://www.asu.edu/titleIX

In compliance with federal law, ASU prepares an annual report on campus security and fire safety programs and resources. ASU’s Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is available online at https://www.asu.edu/police/PDFs/ASU-Clery-Report.pdf You may request a hard copy of the report by contacting the ASU Police Department at 480-965-3456.