

ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

***Ecological Applications* Editor-in-Chief Job Description – Nov. 2019**

About *Ecological Applications*

[*Ecological Applications*](#) focuses on the applications of ecological science to environmental problems. It publishes papers that develop scientific principles to support environmental decision-making, as well as papers that discuss the application of ecological concepts to environmental issues, policy, and management. Papers report on experimental tests, actual applications, scientific decision support techniques, economic analyses, social implications of environmental issues, and other relevant topics. Statistical or experimental methods papers that support research and applications are encouraged. Papers submitted to *Ecological Applications* should be accessible to both scholars and practitioners.

Ecological Applications was established in 1991 and publishes 8 issues per year. The journal receives approximately 800 submissions per year and publishes approximately 200 articles per year. Its 2018 impact factor was 4.378, ranking 23 of 164 journals in the Ecology category, and 49 of 250 in Environmental Science.

Position Summary

The Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of *Ecological Applications* sets the editorial strategy and is responsible for implementing the editorial policies of the journal. As the most visible representative of the journal, the EIC should serve as the chief ambassador for *Ecological Applications* through personal outreach and attendance at meetings and conferences. The EIC is expected to uphold the Ecological Society of America (ESA) [Code of Ethics](#). A core value of the ESA is to foster diversity in all its programs, and the EIC will embody this core value of the Society and reinforce the ESA's commitment to fairness and inclusion in the peer review process. All Editors-in-Chief of ESA journals serve at the pleasure of the Governing Board, and all EICs must maintain membership in the ESA.

Responsibilities

The EIC is expected to possess a core expertise in applied ecology and, as such, will drive the editorial strategy and development of the journal. The EIC will be responsible for cultivating and overseeing the performance of a diverse and global Editorial Board, including Associate Editors-in-Chief and Subject Matter Editors. The EIC will serve as an arbiter in cases of controversy between authors, reviewers, or editors. In collaboration with the ESA Governing Board and Publications Committee, the EIC will regularly revisit and update the journal's aims and scope as needed to uphold and further enhance *Ecological Applications'* editorial quality, relevance, online usage, and Impact Factor. The EIC will be committed to equity and inclusion in all aspects of the publications process and is responsible for:

- Attracting submissions from authors representing the diversity of ESA membership and the ecology community
- Establishing the journal's standards for manuscript acceptance
- Setting standards for desk rejections and/or referrals to a more appropriate ESA journal
- Maintaining oversight of a well-defined peer-review process
- Maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of each author's work while that work is under peer review

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- Corresponding with authors, editors, reviewers and readers regarding peer review and/or manuscript decisions
- Handling incidences of error and allegations of misconduct, while keeping the ESA and Publisher informed, as appropriate
- Be conversant with issues and approaches around avoiding bias in evaluation and editorial processes
- Delivering adequate inventory of high-quality manuscripts to complete issues per the agreed-upon schedule

Additional Duties

All Editors-in-Chief participate in an annual Publications Strategy Meeting. Each EIC chairs an annual Editorial Board Meeting for their journal at the ESA Annual Meeting. Additionally, the EIC will report annually to the Governing Board and Publications Committee regarding the editorial performance of *Ecological Applications*, including key publishing statistics such as time to first decision, time to publication, and Impact Factor, as well as notable editorial activities, significant publishing events, or articles that made a significant impact on the field.

The EIC serves as an ex-officio member of the ESA Publications Committee and is expected to work in a collegial manner with the Governing Board, Publications Committee, Editorial Board, Executive Director, Society staff, and the publisher. The EIC is supported by ESA staff: the ESA's Peer Review Manager and support staff administer the submissions and peer-review processes and assist authors and reviewers as required; the ESA's Publishing Director is a key resource for the EIC and will provide requested reports, discuss new ideas, respond to requests for policy and procedural changes, and serve as liaison with the publisher Wiley.

Qualifications and Required Skills

The ESA seeks a creative, dynamic editor to lead *Ecological Applications* into the future. The Editor-in-Chief must possess the energy and vision to sustain and further develop the journal as a leading voice in the field of applied ecology. The new editor will:

- Be an active researcher and recognized expert in the field of applied ecology
- Have a background that reflects high standards in research and publication
- Be in a position to attract respected experts to serve on *Ecological Application's* Editorial Board
- Possess significant editorial experience with a scholarly journal
- Be fair and trustworthy, while possessing the ability to make difficult decisions
- Be interested in the evolving business models and relevant technological advances in publishing
- Have a willingness to explore the use of social media and technology tools as a means of enhancing journal usage and author interest
- Demonstrate strong leadership, organizational and communication skills, with a focus on service and positive author experiences.
- Be conversant with issues and approaches around avoiding bias in evaluation and editorial processes.

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- Be a member of the ESA

The ESA expects that the EIC will perform the editorial obligations in a manner consistent with the highest standards of professionalism, competence, integrity, and ethics, and not engage in any conduct that may bring harm or disrepute upon the journal or the Society. This position will involve travel to the annual Publications Strategy Meeting, as well as the ESA Annual Meeting.

Term and Compensation

The Editor-in-Chief will serve an initial 3-year term, assuming full responsibility as EIC of *Ecological Applications* on January 1, 2021. At the discretion of the ESA Governing Board, the EIC's contract may be renewed. During a 6-month transition period that will begin in July 2020, the incoming EIC will work with ESA staff and the current editor to learn about the journal, its processes and workflows. The ESA offers part-time compensation for this position.

How to Apply

The ESA encourages individuals with diverse and global backgrounds to apply for this position. Interested parties should submit the following materials to the ESA's Search Committee:

- A current curriculum vitae
- A letter of interest that summarizes the candidate's qualifications, including relevant journal experience; candidates will be assessed on their track record in academic publishing, leadership experience, overall strength of their CV, specific knowledge of ecological applications, their connectivity to the ecological applications community, their available time commitment, and their vision for the journal
- A vision statement (1-2 pages) describing the applicant's goals for *Ecological Applications*, including any areas for growth or improvement across peer review, inclusivity, and breadth and scope of research

Application materials should be sent to editorsearch@esa.org no later than **Monday, January 6, 2020.** All application materials will be kept confidential. The ESA will acknowledge receipt of applications. No late applications will be considered.

Questions about the position may be sent, in confidence, to editorsearch@esa.org. An ESA representative will respond to your inquiries. No phone calls and no recruiters, please.