

ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

***Ecology* Editor-in-Chief Job Description – Oct. 2018**

Position Summary

The Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of *Ecology* sets the editorial direction and is responsible for implementing the editorial policies of the journal *Ecology*, which is owned by the Ecological Society of America (ESA). The EiC is expected to have a broad knowledge of ecology and a clearly articulated vision for the journal. This individual will be expected to uphold the Society's Code of Ethics. A core value of the ESA is to foster diversity in all of 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 Ecological Society of America's Governing Board and must be members of the Society.

Responsibilities

The EiC of *Ecology* will maintain oversight of the submission and review of manuscripts and will set the journal's standards for manuscript acceptance, while ensuring a rapid and fair peer-review process.

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. With the input of the Editorial Board, the Editor-in-Chief will develop a pool of reviewers representing the broad scope of the specialty. Additionally, the EiC will serve as an arbiter in cases of controversy between authors, reviewers, or editors. In collaboration with the ESA Governing Board, the EiC will regularly revisit and update the journal's aims and scope as needed to uphold and further enhance *Ecology's* 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 appropriate and well-defined peer-review procedures and ensuring an unbiased and faithfully executed review process
- Setting standards for desk rejections and/or referrals to a more appropriate ESA journal
- Delivering adequate inventory of high quality manuscripts to complete issues per the agreed-upon schedule
- Maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of each author's work while that work is under peer review
- 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 Society and Publisher informed, as appropriate
- Be conversant with issues and approaches around avoiding bias in evaluation and editorial processes.

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All Editors-in-Chief participate in an annual Publications Strategy Meeting, and they chair 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 *Ecology*, 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 will serve 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 Editor-in-Chief is supported by the ESA publications team in Ithaca, NY. *Ecology's* Peer Review Manager and support staff will manage the administrative aspects of the peer-review process and will assist authors and reviewers as required. The ESA's Publishing Director will serve as a key resource for the EiC and will provide requested reports, discuss new ideas, respond to requests for policy and procedural changes and enhancements, and serve as liaison with the publisher Wiley.

Qualifications and Required Skills

ESA is seeking a dynamic individual interested in innovations in publishing to lead *Ecology* into the future. The Editor-in-Chief must possess the energy and vision to sustain and further develop the journal as the leading voice in ecology. The new EiC of *Ecology* will:

- Be a member of ESA
- Be an active researcher and recognized expert in the ecological sciences with a broad knowledge of the field
- Have a background that reflects high standards in research and publication
- Be in a position to attract respected experts to serve on *Ecology's* Editorial Board
- Possess significant editorial experience with a scholarly journal and an understanding of the online editorial process
- 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.

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

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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 *Ecology* on January 1, 2020. 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 2019, the incoming EiC will work with ESA staff and the current editor to learn about the journal, its processes and workflows. This position is compensated at the equivalent of approximately 25% of a full-time professor's salary.

How to Apply

Interested candidates 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
- A vision statement describing the applicant's goals for *Ecology*

Application materials should be sent to editorsearch@esa.org no later than **Monday, December 3, 2018**. All application materials will be kept confidential. The ESA will acknowledge and receipt of applications.

Please send questions about the position to editorsearch@esa.org. An ESA representative will respond to your inquiries. No phone calls and no recruiters, please.

About *Ecology*

Ecology is the oldest journal of the Ecological Society of America, celebrating its 100th year of publication in 2019. Published monthly in partnership with Wiley, the journal's 2017 impact factor is 4.617, ranking 20th of 158 ecology journals. In 2017, *Ecology* was the most frequently cited journal in the Journal Citation Reports ecology category. The journal is published online and is accessible by all members of ESA and by institutional subscribers worldwide.

Ecology publishes articles that report on the basic elements of ecological research. Emphasis is placed on concise, clear articles documenting important ecological phenomena. The journal publishes a broad array of research that includes a rapidly expanding envelope of subject matter, techniques, approaches and concepts: paleoecology through present-day phenomena, evolutionary, population, physiological, community, and ecosystem ecology, as well as biogeochemistry; inclusive of descriptive, comparative, experimental, mathematical, statistical, and interdisciplinary approaches. For more information about the journal, see www.wiley.com/go/ecologyjournal.