



## THE WOODS HOLE RESEARCH CENTER

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28 March 2010

Search Committee  
c/o Connie Woodhouse  
School of Geography and Development  
412 Harvill Building, Box #2  
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Tucson, Arizona 85721-0076

Connie and committee members,

It is with pleasure that I recommend Andy Bunn for a position studying the interactions of climate, wildfire, forest growth and carbon dynamics at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research. Andy is an extremely conscientious and productive person who has worked in this subject area, initially under my guidance as a post-doctoral researcher over 5 years ago at the Woods Hole Research Center. I have maintained a professional relationship with Andy through joint research projects and can assure you that he is very well suited to a position focused on this topic – bringing with him extensive knowledge of dendrochronology, climate-ecosystem interactions, and geospatial analysis tools and techniques (broadly including GIS and remote sensing).

As you may already know, Andy is extremely and genuinely bright, has exceptional motivation, great technical experience, and is highly productive. His research position at WHRC required him to make use of a wide range of skills, analytical problem solving abilities, creative thought, and perseverance. During that time he contributed to several publications that we co-authored in quality refereed journals (PNAS, GRL and Earth Interactions), in addition to others he co-authored on his (at the time) unrelated tree-ring work. His *Geophysical Research Letters* paper was accepted essentially “as is” and generated some press coverage as it addressed important climate links with vegetation change at high latitudes. I had absolutely no qualms sending him to several conferences to deliver presentations on this and related work, which by all accounts he represented very well. In addition to these activities he helped develop research proposals (successful ones), reviewed manuscripts and proposals, and contributed to numerous other projects and WHRC-related activities. In short, he was a stellar post-doc, the very definition of “self-starting” and “motivated” – and that was just a stage for what he has done since.

In terms of his academic experience at WWU I will have to defer to his other references, but from what I hear he has done extremely well (already tenured inside 5 years) and his students are very fond of him (including his graduate students and research assistants). In terms of our joint projects, these have included modeling forest growth, and linking tree ring dynamics with remote sensing and climate databases (on which we’ve co-authored 7 refereed publications thus far, no doubt with more to follow). The work he does is truly multi-disciplinary and I expect he would continue to pursue interdisciplinary collaborations at the tree-ring laboratory. This all lends itself well to additional potential for growth conducting



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innovative research and mentoring students with his admirable motivation and enthusiasm.

In brief, Andy is exceptional and has tremendous potential to continue advancing his research and teaching activities. He has a substantial publication and grant acquisition record already, and I've no doubt that would continue. In addition to all of these qualities he is a pleasure to work with and is very well liked by his colleagues – myself included.

I would be happy to provide additional information at your request.

Best regards,

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