



**Department of Geography
University of British Columbia
1984 West Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2**



April 2, 2010

Dr. Connie Woodhouse
Associate Professor
Geography, Regional Development & Dendrochronology
Joint Appointment, Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

Dear Dr. Woodhouse and Members of the Search Committee,

RE: Recommendation for Dr. Ze'ev Gedalof

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Ze'ev Gedalof as an outstanding candidate for the faculty position at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research and as part of the new Environmental Initiative at the University of Arizona. I met Ze'ev during the 2003 Mixed Severity Fire Regimes conference in Spokane, Washington where he delivered an excellent invited presentation. Since then, we have met regularly at conferences and Ze'ev was absolutely instrumental in organizing the 2008 AmeriDendro Conference at the University of British Columbia. Most recently, we have collaborated on research on fire regimes and the potential impacts of fire suppression in the wildland-urban interface in British Columbia, Canada.

Ze'ev's expertise in climatic variability, forest dynamics and disturbance regimes, his outstanding quantitative skills, and his application of dendrochronology across a range of subdisciplines make him an ideal match to the attributes you seek for your program. Over the past decade, Ze'ev has clearly demonstrated many strengths of a successful and accomplished scholar - yet, I believe he has tremendous, untapped potential to contribute to our knowledge of the environmental sciences. A move to The Laboratory of Tree Ring Research at the University of Arizona would be the catalyst needed to fully realize his research abilities and achieve the full suite of contributions he will potentially make over the course of his career - an exciting prospect.

During his tenure at the University of Guelph, Ze'ev has secured grants from Canada's Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Discovery, Strategic, and Research Equipment programs, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the Climate Change Action Fund, and other agencies. With these grants he has established the Climate & Ecosystem Dynamics Research (CEDaR) Laboratory and mentored 10 M.Sc. students and more than 20 undergraduates in the past seven years. Ze'ev's creative and innovative research and publications have contributed to our understanding of the complexities of long-term climatic variation and its impacts on a tremendous range of biophysical processes including tree growth, forest dynamics, wildfire, hydrology, and sea ice cover. Reflecting the high-quality and diversity of his research, he has been published in high-impact international journals across a range of sub-disciplines in the environmental sciences, including *Geophysical Research Letters*, *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* and *Ecological Applications*. The impacts of his research are demonstrated by the high number of citations of his work - several of his papers have been cited 39 to 92 times by his peers. His on-going research is equally promising and addresses a broad range of theoretical problems in forest ecology and paleoclimatology with meaningful application to resource management and conservation.

With respect to teaching and graduate student mentoring, I am certain that Ze'ev would make excellent contributions within your undergraduate and graduate programs at the University of Arizona. He has strong academic background for teaching many theoretical and applied aspects of historical and contemporary biogeography and environmental change. His current position at the University of Guelph has a strong emphasis on undergraduate teaching and learning. There, he has very successfully prepared and taught a diverse range of courses on biogeography, physical geography, dendrochronology, environmental science, GIS and mapping. Although I have not seen Ze'ev teach in a classroom, I have great confidence in his ability to communicate effectively. His presentations at international conferences are consistently of excellent quality - informative, while conveying confidence and inspiration.

I know from first-hand experience that Ze'ev is an outstanding research collaborator with noteworthy leadership and mentoring skills. It has been my pleasure to work with Ze'ev and Dr. Michael Pisaric (Carleton University, Ontario) on an interdisciplinary investigation of fire regimes and the effects of climate variation and fire suppression in wildland-urban interface forests of southeastern British Columbia. In 2008, we successfully secured a 3-year grant from the highly competitive Strategic Grants Program of Canada's Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). We have just completed the second of three years on this new research initiative, which involves four M.Sc. students and one Ph.D. student. Ze'ev supervises two M.Sc. students on this project and is a very engaged committee member guiding the research of two others. In the true spirit of collaboration, Ze'ev, Michael, myself and our students have worked together closely in the field and co-presented posters and papers at national and international conferences. Ze'ev has led our fieldwork, giving me ample opportunity to witness and learn from his interactions with graduate students and our collaborators. I admire the efficiency with which he collects large amounts of high-quality field data and samples, as well as his down-to-earth style when providing advice and guidance to our graduate students. Without doubt, the success of our students and their respective projects has been positively influenced by Ze'ev's expertise and strong leadership.

In summary, Dr. Ze'ev Gedalof has much to offer as a research scientist, educator, and colleague. I have been continuously impressed by the breadth of Ze'ev research vision, the depth of his analytical skills, and outstanding leadership and communication skills. It is an exciting prospect to me that Ze'ev would join your faculty. Already an accomplished research scientist, Ze'ev has tremendous potential to make substantive contributions to the environmental sciences over the course of his career. Undoubtedly, Ze'ev would thrive in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research and as part of the new Environmental Initiative at the University of Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. Daniels", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Lori D. Daniels
Associate Professor
Biogeography, UBC