

March 29, 2010

Connie Woodhouse  
Associate Professor  
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University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85721-0076

Dear Connie,

I am excited to write a letter in support of Kiona Ogle for the U of A-NPN position. I know Kiona well and have interacted with her for a number of years. We're co-PIs on an NSF RCN project, and have taught together in short courses on modeling for several years. She's terrific and an ideal candidate. While she has not focused on traditional approaches to dendrochronology, she has been active in studying the interactions of climate, seasonality and the timing of ecological events. She's been innovative in that work, combining experimental, observational and modeling approaches, all integrated with innovative statistical techniques. She's even got quite a nice paper on tree rings in pinyons. She is a first-rate scientist, and a great colleague. I have trouble imagining a stronger candidate for this particular position.

I have one other perspective. Kiona has been very interactive on NEON-related issues. She has helped teach the NEON-supported short course on flux modeling that Russ Monson and I started, and she is a co-PI on the NEON-linked Research Coordination Network project on ecological forecasting. The NEON sites will collect extensive information relevant to longterm growth dynamics and climate, including more than just seasonal indicators and extending to key processes and parameters. Kiona and I have already begun talking about how her modeling approaches could help us integrate these data and she'd be an ideal collaborator and link between LTRR and NEON!

Kiona has been an effective leader in a wide range of venues. She has been an innovator in adapting modern statistical techniques to complex ecosystem and physiological problems and has been effective in broadening access to these approaches. She leads a regular short course on hierarchical Bayesian techniques and has effectively participated in others. Her approach exemplifies the issues above-she has focused on education and collaboration in both science and methodology and has done so at a stage in her career when many of her colleagues are far more focused on just pursuing their own research.

So, while I'd hate to lose Kiona as a neighbor in Wyoming, I think she would be ideal for your new position.

Best regards,



Dave Schimel