



Dr. Connie Woodhouse  
Chair, Search Committee  
Laboratory of Tree Ring Research  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona

April 2, 2010

Dear Search Committee,

It is a pleasure to write a letter of reference for Dr. Valerie Trouet for a faculty position in Forests in the Earth System at the University of Arizona. I know Dr. Trouet well from working with her over the past several years. She initially worked with me as a postdoctoral scholar on a research project focused on fire-climate interactions in California and adjacent states. Subsequently, we have been collaborating on research related on the spatial and temporal variability of the Pacific North America pattern (PNA) and how that variability influences fire-climate relationships evident in both the paleo and instrumental record. Valerie has an outstanding record of research for someone at this stage of her career. She is a superb candidate for your position and I strongly urge you to interview her.

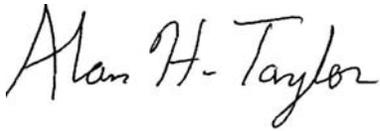
Dr. Trouet is a very well trained tree ring scientist who has strong interests in climate dynamics and how these influence ecosystem processes at various scales. Her record of publication in this broad area is very strong, diverse, original, and spot on to the areas you want to develop new leadership in (interactions of climate, wildfire, forest growth, carbon dynamics). There is strong support for these statements on Dr. Trouet's CV and I do not feel it is necessary to provide a list of specific examples from her published work as supporting evidence. More importantly, Dr. Trouet has a broad intellectual reach and works on important research problems. She enjoys collaborative research and has great skill in identifying, organizing, and more recently in leading collaborative research to tackle these problems. She is an outstanding young scientist who is ready to lead and I think she would thrive in the interdisciplinary research environment that has been nurtured at the University of Arizona.

Dr. Trouet's good interpersonal skills have certainly been an asset to her research program and they will serve her well in the teaching program she will develop. In working with students and staff in my laboratory and in the geography department she was generous, a good listener, and fair, and she was very well respected in our community. She would be an excellent mentor for undergraduate and graduate students in your program and I expect that

she would develop into an excellent teacher. Her ability to work productively with people is a real strength.

In summary, Dr. Trouet is an outstanding candidate for your position and I fully support her application. She is a great fit and she is poised to become a strong scientific leader. If you have any further queries about Dr. Trouet I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan H. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan H. Taylor  
E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Professor of Geography  
Associate Director, Earth and Environmental Systems Institute.