

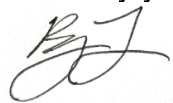
Dear Dr. Jones and the Eastern Tennessee State University search committee,

I am writing to apply for the Forest Ecology position in the Biological Sciences Department. I am well qualified for this position because (1) I am a forest ecologist who uses experiments, observations, and models to explore the influence of climate change on temperate deciduous forests at the individual, population, and community levels. This includes published work in the areas of **biodiversity, ecophysiology, forest ecology, and species interactions**. (2) I have acquired funding to support my research program as evidenced by my recent NSF postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh and visiting researcher fellowships at the University of Tennessee and at Morton Arboretum in Chicago. (3) My work is published in many of the top journals of my field including *Nature Communications*, *Global Change Biology*, *New Phytologist*, and *Functional Ecology*. (4) I am committed to advancing inclusive excellence in my research and teaching. I have worked extensively with undergraduates from historically underrepresented and excluded backgrounds in environmental science through programs like the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program. (5) **I have experience teaching and mentoring within the context of an environmental school, especially with respect to the topic of Natural Resources Ecology.**

I am actively engaged in the both the scientific and broader, non-scientific community. I have been invited to speak about my internationally-recognized work in three countries and eight states, with ten of these invitations coming from the past year alone. I synthesize information from across different scales and sources in order to address my research questions. These approaches range from performing field experiments to gathering growth chamber ecophysiological data to using 200-year-old herbarium collections to establish historical ecological baselines. In addition to being published in leading peer-reviewed journals, I communicate my work to the general public via outlets like the *Pittsburgh City Paper* and WESA, Pittsburgh's local NPR affiliate.

I have included a list of references on the following page. My webpage links to all my publications and gives more details on my current research focus (<https://www.benrlee.com/>). Specific examples of past and future grant proposals can be found at <https://www.benrlee.com/grants/>. If you have any questions about my application, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Benjamin R Lee

Dr. Inés Ibáñez –Professor at the University of Michigan
Relationship to me: Ph.D. Advisor
iibanez@umich.edu; (734) 615-8817

Dr. Mason Heberling – Assistant Curator of Botany, Carnegie Museum of Natural History;
Adjunct professor, University of Pittsburgh Dept. of Biology
Relationship to me: Postdoctoral mentor
HeberlingM@CarnegieMNH.org; (412) 353-4828

Dr. Sara Kuebbing – Director of the Yale Applied Science Synthesis Program; The Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment
Relationship to me: Postdoctoral mentor
Sara.Kuebbing@yale.edu; (302) 650-4860