

Robert A. Gimbel
Registered Professional Forester, (RPF #2161)



June 28, 2024

Dear FHR Nomination Review Committee:

This is a letter of support for the nomination of Ryan Tompkins for the 2024 Francis H. Raymond Award.

I probably first met Ryan when he was a student at the U.C. Forestry Camp in Meadow Valley, California (Plumas County) in 1994. After school, Ryan came back to Plumas County as a Forester with the U.S. Forest Service working on the Plumas National Forest.

In 2004, Ryan was the Contract Inspector for a Timber Marking/Cruising Contract with Continental Resource Solutions in which I was part of the crew. All of us on the crew were experienced in this area having worked in the field since the 1970s. I was very impressed with Ryan's knowledge and work ethic as we prepared the sites for thinning/clearing with specifications originally laid out under the "Quincy Library Group" plan.

Though I only knew Ryan casually as a "CAL Alumni Forester," and saw him mainly at the Alumni Picnics, I knew Ryan was very community minded and was working his way up the Forest Service ladder on the Plumas.

When he left the Forest Service after sixteen years or so, and as the Forest Silviculturist, I was very surprised. Yet seeing and hearing of his accomplishments as the U.C. Extension Forester, I could understand better where his heart lie. He was committed to making the forests healthier and safer from wildfire in the community in which he lived.

His dedication to the Plumas County Fire Safe Council and to the creation of "Fire-Wise" communities have been immense, especially since the advent of so many devastating fires to ravage Plumas County over the past decade.

His death leaves a huge gap in the work yet to be accomplished in Plumas County and the surrounding area. Ryan was a Forester who loved the area in which he lived. He loved his family and wanted to help make his community a better, safer place for his wife and sons as well as his neighbors.

I can think of no other person or qualifications more deserving of the 2024 Francis H. Raymond Award... Even if it is posthumously.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Gimbel



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6-11-2024

From: Scott Stephens
Professor of Fire Science
Henry Vaux Professor of Forest Policy
Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
Co-Director Berkeley Forests
University of California, Berkeley
Email: sstephens@berkeley.edu

Subject: Nominating letter for Ryan Tompkins for the 2024 Francis H. Raymond Award

Dear Selection Committee,

I am very happy to write a letter to nominate Ryan for the Francis H. Raymond Award. I read that this award can be given to an individual who has contributed the most to the management of California's natural resources over the past five years and Ryan is in this category.

Ryan received his BS in forestry from UC Berkeley in 1996 and a Master of Forestry from the same campus in 2001 working with professor Ed Stone. After graduating he began his career working in fire effects with the US National Park Service before moving to the Plumas National Forest. He began his career on the Plumas in timber sale preparation and ended it 16-years later as the lead silviculturalist on the Plumas out of the Forest Supervisors office. On the Plumas Ryan was a champion on landscape scale fuel treatments and with the idea of taking the 'long view' regarding forest management.

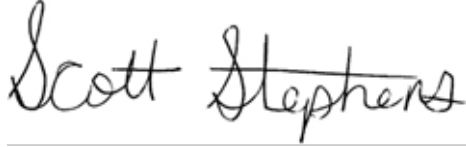
We all know how contentious federal forest management can be, especially if real changes to forest structure are prescribed. Ryan championed this for years on the Plumas and had success, even getting some fuel treatments included in California spotted owl and goshawk Protected Activity Centers (PACs). He knew that the forests of the northern Sierra Nevada were in desperate shape and needed treatments to reduce their fire hazards and vulnerability to drought and bark beetle attacks. He was a champion of active forest management on USFS ground that I have seen very infrequently in my 30+ career in fire ecology and forestry in California.

Ryan decided to take a new job as a UC Agriculture and National Resources (ANR) forestry advisor in 2019. He served Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra counties and was exceptional in this position. Before taking the UC ANR job he got his house and 35 other residences in his neighborhood outside of Quincy certified as a Firewise community. He then decided the whole town of Quincy should do this and got this done in May 2021 (over 2000 residences). One of his specialties was reforestation after high severity fires and there certainly was several of these in Plumas and Lassen counties (North Complex and Dixie, along with others). He knew that there was not enough seedlings or people power to reforest the majority of these fires so took a strategic approach. Working with large and small private forest owners he helped them get grants to reforest their lands and also helped them with advice and information on the proper

techniques to use. He also stressed that they would have to do cultural activities on these seedlings for some time before they would be established, he said we can't just plant and walk away.

It is an absolute tragedy that we recently lost Ryan to cancer. He was an absolute leader in this field who had already accomplished so much, effort well above and beyond what is normally expected on the job. I believe Ryan is an excellent candidate for the Francis H. Raymond Award and strongly support his nomination. If you would like any additional information, please contact me via email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Stephens". The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

To whom it may concern:

Ryan Tompkins presence will continue long after his passing. His influence and actions will be felt by many years down the road.

From a physical perspective, Ryan's work as a forester has left an indelible mark on the landscape. A fact that he fully understood and embraced. Ryan Tompkins was the definition of a forestry nerd. I will never truly know how many hours he spent researching and honing his craft, but I do know that he was an endless well of information. More impressive than Ryan's seemingly encyclopedic volume of forestry related knowledge, was his ability to leverage that knowledge into practical application. It is a rare person who can effortlessly move between the halls of academia, quoting various scientific papers, to laughing with budding young foresters in the woods while guiding them on the art of marking timber. His advocacy for sound forest management echoed in the marking guidelines that he wrote and the research that he supported. There is no doubt that many of the projects he worked on were instrumental in managing and controlling the 2021 Dixie Fire. He co-authored a paper in 2022 titled "Operational resilience in western US frequent-fire forests" that made many foresters and silviculturalists rethink how they assess thinning targets. This paper went on to greatly influence many projects on the Plumas National Forest, including the Claremont Project.

As impressive as it was to watch Ryan practice forestry, I got the most joy and inspiration interacting and watching him interact with people. He had had a low key charm and charisma that drew people to his passion. Ryan was able to succinctly explain many complex forest management and ecological concepts to his audience. And that audience ranged widely from new forestry students, seasoned professionals and first time forest landowners. His talks were as entertaining as informative and he had a gift for clear communication. Beyond the papers that he authored and the projects he implemented, his ability to inspire and educate so many people will be his greatest legacy. There's no way to calculate how many people he positively impacted, but it can be safe to say that their professional and personal lives are far richer for having known him.

Maurice Huynh

Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough District Silviculturalist



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5/5/2024

Malcolm North
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FHR Nomination Review Committee
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
State of California

Letter of Support for Ryan Tompkins

I am writing to strongly support the nomination of Ryan Tompkins for the 2024 Francis H. Raymond Award. I've known and worked with Ryan for over 15 years. He is an exceptional forester who has generously given his time, expertise, and enthusiasm to many forest projects, stakeholder meetings, and to public outreach efforts. In roles ranging from silviculturist (17 years with the US Forest Service) to a Forest and Natural Resource Advisor for U.C. Cooperative Extension, Ryan has proven to be a dedicated, knowledgeable, and practical advisor on forestry issues. I've enjoyed collaborating with him on several peer-reviewed papers where he provided excellent writing and editing input for developing manuscripts. I have also joined him and others for teaching a 'Forestry for Lawyers' workshop (organized by Jamie Rosen, OGC attorney) for high-level government attorneys working for public land agencies (i.e., US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.). Ryan is always animated and fun to work with, but he really excels at teaching, providing useful, humorous examples of the challenges in conducting forestry on public lands.

Beginning in about 2009, I started working with Ryan on several landscape-scale projects in the northern Sierra Nevada. He developed extensive fuels treatments projects while working for the US Forest Service on the Plumas National Forest. Like many locales in California, he had to grapple with large wildfires with extensive high-severity effects and efforts to remediate and restore these landscapes. These projects inevitably involved community participation over how to reduce fuels and reforest these footprints. In particular, I worked with Ryan to develop and test different reforestation approaches and how to communicate the need to monitor and learn from these practices to stakeholders. I've seen Ryan talk at many public hearings about the intent of forest projects, and their silvicultural and ecological goals. He has always been very effective in these roles, as his knowledge is grounded in years of practical experience and thoughtful engagement with the interested public.

Ryan has also volunteered his time and expertise to public endeavors such as serving on the science advisory panel for the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, and as a member of its reforestation working group. He's shared his expertise with the Quincy Library Group and with other projects including US Forest Service efforts to accelerate the pace and scale of fuels treatments. In all of these roles, Ryan has been highly motivated, well organized, and an effective outreach communicator. He has always demonstrated a natural ability to effectively teach and communicate the curiosity and investigative nature of forestry science.

Beyond his outreach and teaching skills, what is perhaps Ryan's greatest asset is his sense of humor, empathy with others, and ability to listen. I've worked with many foresters over



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the last three decades, but Ryan is exceptional. I highly recommend Ryan Tompkins, without reservation, for the 2024 Francis H. Raymond Award.

If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Ryan (left, sitting on log) leading a field discussion on site preparation and reforestation approaches in the 2007 Moonlight Fire with a group of forest managers, stakeholder, and researchers.

Sincerely,
Malcolm North

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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Eric Ewing, Unit Chief
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: June 22, 2024

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
c/o Assistant Executive Officer Dan Stapleton
Sacramento, CA

Re: Support for Nomination of Ryan Tompkins for the Francis H. Raymond Award

It is both a great honor and profound sorrow to nominate Ryan Tompkins for the Francis H. Raymond Award posthumously. I had begun nomination discussions with various forestry and fire ecology individuals prior to Ryan's cancer diagnosis. Since then, this was pushed far from my mind, until now, as his memorial service approaches.

Ryan brought an infectious joy and exuberance to forest ecology. He treated folks with respect, compassion, and empathy, from all walks of life and perspectives. Ryan approached environmentalists and preservationists, loggers and industry personnel, agency staff, and individual property owners. Ryan spearheaded multiple collaborative programs to coordinate work in the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade Range.

Ryan was focused not only on ecological resilience and restoration; Ryan's passion lay in helping to create fire adapted human communities. He and I discussed many examples of positive and negative management so that he could craft effective field tours for the lay person as well as decision makers, including the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

In the Sierra Nevada mixed conifer forest, Ryan advocated for substantial decreases in stand density followed by prescribed fire application, especially around communities and structures. Ryan was instrumental in spreading information and increasing support for prescribed fire and cultural burning.

More than this, Ryan was a kind soul who attracted differing perspectives. He calmly addressed concerns, including citation references, in order to help folks make a more informed decision. I attribute the increased acceptance and even desire for prescribed fire in the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade Range to Ryan's efforts.

Having said this, Ryan did not shy away from confrontation. He and I collaborated on specific locations to demonstrate the effectiveness of industrial management tactics, such as salvage logging and reforestation, in creating future forests as well as creating a safer condition for future firefighting efforts. A prime example of this is the tour to Moonlight Valley and Mountain Meadows, where USFS lands, left untreated after the Moonlight Fire, were far too dangerous for firefighting during the Dixie Fire. Conversely, I was able to utilize a mix of heavy equipment and fire engines as

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a division during the Dixie Fire, in the neighboring lands managed by W.M. Beatty and Associates. Ryan targeted this location for field visits so that industry, consultants, environmental groups, decision-makers, and the USFS could see firsthand the implications of management decisions.

Ryan did all of this with a kind smile on his face. His compassion showed in all of his outreach. Ryan ensured that folks had access to the best data and peer-reviewed papers, and anecdotes or personal experiences to bolster confidence in management options and decisions.

Ryan was the consummate professional. Ryan was drive by his passion for forest ecology, fire ecology, silviculture, fire adapted human communities, outreach, and education. Most importantly, Ryan was a beautiful human, inside and out. He cared for his fellow humans, his community, his friends, and his family. He will be sorely missed. I strongly urge you to award Ryan the Francis H. Raymond Award to recognize his extraordinary contributions to the planet.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Pangburn
Forester I
CAL FIRE Lassen-Modoc Unit
Serving Plumas County

June 24th, 2024

Mr. Dan Stapleton, Assistant Licensing Officer
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Dear Mr. Stapleton,

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Ryan Tompkins for the Francis H. Raymond Award for 2024. Ryan was both an exemplary forester and a consummate extension professional and he richly deserves this award.

I first really got to know Ryan when I chaired the search committee for the Forest Advisor position for Plumas, Lassen and Sierra Counties in 2019. Ryan had had an exemplary 18-year career as a silviculturalist with the Plumas National Forest in Quincy but was looking for new opportunities. It became clear to me then that Ryan was at the forefront of practicing foresters due to his depth of ecological knowledge, dirt forestry skills, and experience in reforestation. He also had the academic, interpersonal and communication skills needed to make an effective extension advisor. I predicted then that he would be called ‘Mr. Extension’ within the first six months of his new position. Which, of course, is how it turned out (except for use of the actual name – which I think was only used by me).

Ryan was dedicated to trying to maintain intact forest ecosystems in the Sierra Nevada, both through sound management of green forests and through active reforestation after high severity wildfires. In the last five years, we teamed up on several projects involving outreach and education for private landowners both before and after wildfire. His talks and field trips were always very well received by participants. He was making a real impact in helping landowners to better manage their forests.

He was also a reliable research partner in a number of studies we conducted together including reforestation effectiveness, implementation of landowner assistance programs, and understanding of landowner goals and barriers. He shared keen insights in our research teams and helped make our research more applied and relevant. I learned so much from him. I wish that we could have had more time to work together on these issues. I know that his ideas and efforts will continue to have a big impact on my work and all of us in Cooperative Extension.

Though his career was tragically cut short, Ryan Tompkins still had an outsized influence on the profession of forestry in California. In the time that he had, he conducted a lot of cutting edge reforestation projects, advocated passionately for management of California forests, and connected landowners, local government, non-profits, public land managers, industrial forest

land managers and researchers to come up with forest management solutions. He well deserves this award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

X Susie Kocher

Susie Kocher
Forestry Advisor

Susie

University of California Cooperative Extension – Central Sierra (El Dorado, Calaveras, Amador and Tuolumne Counties)

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June 7, 2024

Subject: Francis H. Raymond Award Nomination

Dear Mr. Stapleton,

My name is Michael Hall and I serve as the District Manager for the Feather River Resource Conservation District. Our organization provides technical assistance and project implementation in a range of natural resource conservation fields on lands located in Plumas County, CA. Our district is heavily forested and the current resource concerns are predominantly focused on fire risk reduction, fire restoration, and reforestation. As such, our programs rely on people who make their careers of advancing forest management practices and research. I am writing today to nominate Ryan Emmett Tompkins for the Francis H. Raymond award.

Ryan Tompkins and I were frequent collaborators in the years I knew him. First, as the Silviculturist for the Plumas National Forest, then later as the UCCE Forestry Advisor. Ryan's reputation as a knowledgeable and respected forester preceded him. During his time with Plumas National Forest, I would attend meetings where Ryan's enthusiasm for all items of silviculture seemed dampened by the restrictions inherent within the US Forest Service. Despite this, he managed to accomplish. I also served alongside him on the board of the Plumas County Firesafe Council, where he frequently advocated for scientifically and financial sound project development

Soon after our acquaintance, Ryan left the Plumas NF and accepted the UC Cooperative Extension Forestry Advisor position for Plumas, Lassen and Sierra counties. It was during this time that I began work with Feather River RCD, and worked with Ryan in a more active capacity. Our organization helped Ryan with long term monitoring of post fire ecosystems, particularly focused on methods of mechanical site preparation, and brush control in reforested areas. I got to know and learn from him during long days in the summer taking Browns transects. Ryan taught me and many others numerous nuances about reforestation; how to order seed and seedlings, the benefits of cluster planting vs rows, circumstances for herbicide applications, and well as the implications of planting densities with no follow up plans.

Between the summers of 2020- 2021, over 60% of forests in Plumas County burned. The Dixie fire, which burned almost one million acres, was catalytic in my career, and something I owe entirely to Ryan's leadership. Ryan helped establish a pilot "emergency forest restoration team"

utilizing my organization as the lead. This was only the second such program formed in the state and was created with the ambitious goal of taking forest restoration practices established by industry and forest service and providing them to the average small forest private landowner. Ryan's guidance in this cannot be understated and it is to his credit that over 200 landowners and over 2,000 acres have been treated thus far.

In 2022, the paper "Operational Resilience in Western US Frequent-Fire Forests", or which Ryan was an author, was published and has since formed the basis for many of our organizations forest health projects, including the North Quincy Project. Ryan's suggestion to model desired stand condition on relative stand density index has been the guiding proponent of the project.

Most recently, Ryan and I were collaborating with local indigenous groups, to develop a management plan that would incorporate traditional ecological knowledge for beargrass management into an area to be treated under a traditional timber harvest plan. Unfortunately, Ryan's brief, sudden illness took him from this world before we could see the project to fruition. All collaborators have committed to completing the project in his memory.

Ryan's recent passing has created a void in the woods. It's a rarity to find someone so knowledgeable, humble, confident, and kind. Ryan could work with agencies, industry, non-profits, and landowners with a contagious kindness and grace. Ryan never had to shout because the room always listened when he spoke. His passion for forestry went beyond his job. It permeated into his life and was something he loved sharing. He was the consummate educator, never dumbing his topics down but always making it relatable and fun. The greatest tragedy would be to let this person, who has done so much for forestry go unrecognized.

There is plenty more to say, but I'll try and keep this nomination short. I am sure that Ryan's reputation alone will be enough of a nomination. I considered him a mentor. His guidance and willingness to help other people up has helped forge a new generation of land stewards who will take the same amount of pride in their work and this land.

Please accept this nomination for Ryan Emmett Tompkins for the Francis H. Raymond award.



Michael Hall
District Manager



June 27, 2024

FHR Nomination Review Committee
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA
94244-2460



Re: Nomination of Ryan Tompkins for Francis H. Raymond Award

Dear Committee,

It is my pleasure and privilege to submit this letter of nomination for Ryan Tompkins for the Francis H. Raymond Award. As you can see throughout the nomination materials, and across all of the letters submitted on Ryan’s behalf, there is no person more deserving of professional recognition than he. Ryan made decades of contributions to our field, both in the scientific realm as well as in the applied aspects of the work. Strictly looking at his professional and academic background—with degrees from UC Berkeley, a successful career with the USDA Forest Service followed by an impressive 5 years as Forest Advisor with the University of California Cooperative Extension, and an extensive publication record—Ryan would be a prime candidate and competitor for this award. He tackled complex issues, including post-fire restoration and reforestation in the Sierra Nevada, the use of prescribed fire and other silvicultural tools to promote forest resilience, and locally-based work to promote fire-adapted homes and communities.

In a place like Plumas County, enveloped by the Dixie Fire and an often controversial history around forest and fire management, this work can’t be effectively accomplished by just anyone. I grew up in Trinity County, a place not dissimilar from Plumas, and I know how divisive and challenging these issues can be. It takes someone with unique skills and smarts—someone who can reach across social and political lines, building the relationships and trust needed to change hearts and minds. And it is this aspect of Ryan that truly set him apart from everyone else I know across all the agencies, organizations, and communities with which I work. Ryan was almost indescribably genuine and kind, with a warmth that could disarm even the most prickly of partners. There was a light in his eyes, a slight quiver in his voice, and a softness to his character that was so innate—so soulful—that everyone could see and feel it when they were around him. These are traits we aspire to as extension agents, but few of us come close to where Ryan was.

I was on Ryan’s hiring committee when he applied for the job with UCCE. I remember calling his references, and one of them (a renowned forest ecologist) gruffly said something to the effect of “there is no better person in the world than Ryan Tompkins. You’d be idiots not to offer him the job, and you’ll be lucky if he takes it.” I can attest that these statements were all true. I’m not religious, but I have this weird sense that heaven was reclaiming Ryan. He was otherworldly—multifaceted in his character and his expertise: a respected scientist, a loving parent, a superb silviculturalist and forest

manager, an engaged community member, an influential colleague, and a loyal friend. He changed the way we think about and manage forests in the Sierra Nevada and across California. He also changed the way we think about and relate to each other. I cannot imagine anyone else more suited for the Francis H. Raymond Award.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have questions or need more information. With appreciation,



Lenya Quinn-Davidson
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To: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Dan Stapleton
Subject: Nomination of Ryan Tompkins (Registered Professional Forester #3108) for the Francis H. Raymond Award

June 7th, 2024

I am writing to support the nomination of Ryan Tompkins, Registered Professional Forester #3108, for the Francis H. Raymond Award. On a professional level, I have worked with Ryan Tompkins as a collaborator on forestry related projects via the Feather River RCD as well as the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Effectiveness Monitoring Committee. These projects focused on 1) the effectiveness of grazing as a brush management tool in areas burned by the 2007 Moonlight Fire, and 2) the short- and long-term effectiveness of Plumas County Fire Safe Council projects on fire hazard mitigation, including areas burned by the 2020 North Complex and 2021 Dixie Fire. These projects represent a tiny portion of the vast work that Ryan Tompkins contributed to our understanding of forestry management, reforestation, and hazardous fuels mitigation in Northern California. I consider myself lucky to have attended attend Ryans "Reforestation Tours" based in Plumas County. On these tours, Ryan would have guest speakers from industry and public agencies cover the challenges of managing the post fire environment-they were always well attended and to me a shining example of how he brought so many people out to the woods to learn about complex forest management issues.

On a personal level, Ryan was a great friend that I've known since 1994, when we were young undergraduates studying Forestry together in the UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources. We worked together (2003-2008) on NEPA planning teams during the HFQLG era and for post fire management of major fires on the Plumas National Forest. Ryans approach to planning was always patient, always caring, always professional, and always high quality-he brought those traits to the Forestry Profession in everything he did.

I believe Ryan would be an exceptional candidate for the Francis H. Raymond Award

Thank you for your consideration,

Jason Moghaddas

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2024 Francis H. Raymond Award Nomination Review Committee:

This letter is in support of Ryan Tompkins for the Francis H. Raymond Award. This award annually recognizes an entity who has contributed the most to the management of California's forests.

Ryan Tompkins life exemplifies dedication to forestry despite his career being shortened to three decades. He was a rising forest visionary who was cut down while successfully spreading important forest management knowledge to a growing population persistently in need of same.

Ryan became an unpaid volunteer Director on the Plumas County Fire Safe Council Board in January 2020, following his appointment as Cooperative Extension Advisor for the University of California in 2019. He had been active in the Council previously as a citizen, while he also served as silviculturist for the Plumas National Forest.

Starting soon after moving the family home following the Silver Fire (2009), Ryan and family shouldered the expense and time and energy to turn their residence into a showplace for defensible space by reducing brush and tree density, coupled with home hardening, ultimately using their home to serve as an example for subsequent tours and publications. Ryan initiated the development of the surrounding Galeppi Firewise Community by using 'contagious education' which involved demonstration, perspiration, and motivation. This affected at least 36 residences and was nationally certified in 2018. Helping in the creation of the Quincy Firewise Community in 2020, Ryan introduced a measuring tool to allow volunteers to register their efforts, a requirement for Firewise recognition affecting 2400 residences. The usefulness of this innovative and interactive tool has become recognized nationally.

Even before the 2021 Dixie Fire, Ryan's research and publications and management background in post-fire recovery meshed perfectly with this Council's and Plumas County's needs. Serving a key role with the Council's newly expanded Staff, Ryan's involvement energized the Council, advancing on all fronts - defensible space, chipping, burning, hazard reduction projects on both public and private lands, public education, and more. Numerous individuals and organizations in Plumas County have been influenced by his wisdom and persuasive good humor. Ryan ignited a passion in others, inspiring forest activity on acreages large and small. Ryan became a mentor in the fields he loved, positively improving our collective forest futures. The obvious changes in Plumas forests are deep and visual and gratifying, and Ryan had a large hand in this transition

As an author of the 2021 Venado Declaration, Ryan increasingly spoke statewide and beyond to a vision based on science and management in our forests. Active in professional and industrial venues, Ryan had an expanding audience among numerous organizations when his voice was prematurely silenced.

As a human influence on existing and future forests, Ryan is unexcelled in his positive legacy. He is richly deserving of the recognition that the Francis Raymond Award bestows.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald P. Gasser".

Donald P. Gasser, Director, July 5, 2024



Date: June 7, 2024

To whom it may concern,

This letter serves to voice my support for the nomination of Ryan Tompkins for the Francis H. Raymond Award. Ryan Tompkins was an exemplary leader in Forestry in California. I first met Ryan when he was a Silviculturist, planning and implementing forest management on the Plumas National Forest. He had gone through the extensive certification program with Region 5 Forest Service to become a silviculturist. While in the agency we worked together with multiple resource areas and interests to develop the California Spotted Owl Strategy as well as several General Technical Reports in partnership with the Pacific Southwest Research Station. Ryan has always been a wealth of knowledge with a special ability to communicate that information as well as bring people together. Several years ago, Ryan left the Forest Service to take an opportunity with the University of California Cooperative Extension to expand his impact on forest management and forestry in California and a passion for helping private landowners access skills and tools to manage their forest lands as well as working across boundaries to develop and advocate for resilient forests on the landscape.

In 2021 I switched from the national forest to my current role as Program Manager for landowner assistance with State and Private Forestry, where I continued to work with and partner with Ryan in our new roles. Following the Dixie Fire in 2021, true to character, Ryan immediately began to support the Feather River RCD on their overwhelming task to help landowners recover from the Dixie Fire, piloting one of the first ever Emergency Forest Restoration Teams called for in the California Fire and Forest Resilience Task Force to successfully address post fire recovery work on for multiple private landowners. While providing support to that team Ryan also engaged with several other teams to support outreach, education and technical assistance to landowners and the professionals supporting them. During this time Ryan was also supporting the reforestation workgroup of the aforementioned task force and resulting work in the Reforestation Pipeline Cooperative that was established as a joint effort between CAL FIRE, USFS and American Forests to engage in cross boundary solutions to address reforestation pinch points, supporting landowner workshops through the University Cooperative, and helping develop monitoring protocols to evaluate the success and contribute to a lessons learned document for the Landowner Assistance workgroup of the Task Force, along with multiple task I am sure I am not aware of, all while continuing to build relationships and momentum for cross boundary forest resilience and the need to work together.

I have had the privilege to work with Ryan in multiple settings with multiple different groups over the years including watching him present information and concepts. Ryan would go out of his way to pull people together to make connections to meaningfully move forward for forest management including hosting field trips for the Task Force in Sept 2022 and for the Board of Forestry in 2023 as well as presenting to Society of American Foresters national convention and the California Reforestation Pipeline Cooperative in 2023. He had a special way of engaging the listener and invoking so much enthusiasm for forestry and forest resilience. Ryan has always been the epidemic for me for a great forester. He was always well thought out in his land management planning and always willing to share information and mentor developing professionals. I can think of no one I would rather write this letter of support for.

Sincerely,

Dana Walsh

Dana Walsh
California Landowner Assistance Program Manager
USFS, Region 5 State and Private Forestry

