



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.B (2340)

MAY 16 2016

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

Attn: Jeff Ruch

962 Wayne Avenue, Suite 610

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Ruch:

Pursuant to National Park Service (NPS) Director's Order #11B: Ensuring Quality of Information Disseminated by the National Park Service; we hereby respond to PEER's March 17, 2016 correspondence about what PEER cited as "Grand Canyon National Park Bison Technical Assistance Report."

In January 2016, the NPS revamped previous internal deliberative materials, along with results of intra-agency and inter-agency deliberative discussions, into a multi-authored scientific report with multiple federal and state co-authors entitled "Grand Canyon Bison Nativity, Genetics, and Ecology: Looking Forward" and intended for peer-reviewed publication in the NPS Natural Resource Report (NRR) series. The resulting multi-authored report supersedes the 2015 "Grand Canyon National Park Bison Technical Assistance Report" cited by PEER. Through the NRR processes, it has been determined to be informative scientific information, received agency management and technical review, external expert technical review, and finally formal peer review. The report has fully satisfied applicable scientific peer review and information quality processes and guidance; and has been formally approved by a NPS Peer Review Manager for publication as a NRR public document to be made available this spring. As a result, the superseding of the 2015 "Grand Canyon National Park Bison Technical Assistance Report" by this new NRR report meets the NPS information quality requirements. We will provide PEER with the internet link to the NRR report when it becomes available publicly.

With respect to PEER's concerns about application of Management Policies 2006 in this situation, we find that the NRR report is not the place to address PEER's observations regarding application of NPS Management Policies 2006. The planned Grand Canyon National Park bison environmental assessment will be the place for NPS to address the policy questions PEER has raised.

Sincerely,

John G. Dennis
Deputy Chief Scientist