



David Barna
02/24/2004 11:58 AM
EST

To: Nathan Souder/WASO/NPS@NPS, Jeff Taylor/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Elaine Hackett/WASO/NPS@NPS, Chick Fagan/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Maureen Oltrogge/GCA/NPS@NPS
cc: Don Hellmann/WASO/NPS@NPS
Subject: public response to Grand Canyon Book Issue

Nathan

I have 3 Congressional letters that are past the deadline. We are closing them out today. He're the language we are using.

David

----- Forwarded by David Barna/WASO/NPS on 02/24/2004 12:01 PM -----



David Barna
02/24/2004 11:34 AM
EST

To: Elaine Sevy/WASO/NPS@NPS, Gerry Gaumer/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Carol Anthony/WASO/NPS@NPS, Al Nash/WASO/NPS@NPS,
terry_hall@nps.gov, barbara_J_baxter@nps.gov
cc: david_barna@nps.gov
Subject: public response to Grand Canyon Book Issue

Thank you for your letter concerning the issue of book sales at Grand Canyon National Park.

In July 2003, the book Grand Canyon: A Different View, by Tom Vail, was approved as a sales item in Grand Canyon Association (GCA) bookstores within Grand Canyon National Park. The book claims that the Grand Canyon is only a few thousand years old, developing on a biblical rather than an evolutionary timeframe. Shortly after the book became available, some people raised concerns about its appropriateness and suggested that the book be removed.

In December 2003, the park received a letter from the American Geological Institute, opposing the sale of the book. The letter was accompanied by a letter signed by presidents of seven geoscience organizations expressing concern "about a young-earth creationist book currently being sold in bookstores at Grand Canyon National Park."

As of early February 2004, approximately 300 books had been sold and GCA continues to keep a moderate supply on hand pending a decision by the NPS.

The National Park Service Office of Communications in Washington, DC has agreed to facilitate a review of the book for its appropriateness as a sales item at bookstores in the park. The book is currently being reviewed by the NPS offices of Policy, Natural Resources, and Interpretation. We hope to have final decision on the book in March 2004.

Thank you for your interest.

David Barna
Chief of Communications
National Park Service

David Barna

06/24/2004 11:11 AM
EDT

To: Chick
Fagan/WASO/NPS@NPS, Nathan Souder/WASO/NPS@NPS, Patricia
Turley/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Maureen Oltrogge/GRCA/NPS@NPS, Susan
Garland/DENVER/NPS@NPS
cc:
Subject: New draft Grand Canyon E
response letter

Folks

Here is the language we plan to use to answer the recent letters regarding the book at Grand Canyon.

Any thoughts?

David

Draft – Draft – Draft (24 June 04)

We appreciate your letter regarding book sales at Grand Canyon National Park.

As you know, questions have been raised regarding whether the sale of Tom Vail's book "Grand Canyon: A Different View" is appropriate at the bookstores of the Grand Canyon Association. The book's striking photographs are accompanied by text that supports a biblical rather than evolutionary timeline for the creation of the canyon.

Following the placement of this book in Grand Canyon Association Bookstores, the National Park Service began receiving complaints about the appropriateness of the book as a sales item within a national park. Opposition was raised on scientific grounds. It was at this point that park staff sought guidance on the matter from headquarters staff in Washington, DC.

This is one of several questions concerning appropriate expression of free speech and freedom of religion involving our national parks that have been raised in recent months. As a group these matters are currently under review at the national level by several offices of the National Park Service and by the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

The book remains available for purchase at the sales outlets of the Grand Canyon Association pending review.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

K14 (0130)

June 25, 2004

Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-3204

Dear Senator Clinton:

We appreciate your letter regarding book sales at Grand Canyon National Park.

As you know, questions have been raised regarding whether the sale of Tom Vail's book "Grand Canyon: A Different View" is appropriate at the bookstores of the Grand Canyon Association. The book's striking photographs are accompanied by text that supports a biblical rather than evolutionary timeline for the creation of the canyon.

The book was originally approved for sale in July 2003. Opposition to the sale of the book on scientific grounds first surfaced in December 2003. It was at this point that park staff sought guidance on the matter from headquarters staff in Washington, DC.

This is one of several questions concerning appropriate expression of free speech and freedom of religion involving our national parks that have been raised in recent months. As a group these matters are currently under review at the national level by several offices of the National Park Service and by the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

The book remains available for purchase at the sales outlets of the Grand Canyon Association pending review.

Sincerely,

David Barna
Chief of Public Affairs