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08/14/2008 10:50 AM

To mmcdermo@usgs.gov

cc

Subject Supplement to Request for Information Correction

Mike McDermott  
USGS

Dear Mr. McDermott:

I submitted a "'Complaint' About Information Quality; Request for Correction" dated 26 July 2008 ("Correction Request"), receipt of which was acknowledged by Stephen E. Hammond in a letter dated 1 August 2008.

I want to supplement my Correction Request with this e-mail and the following paper published yesterday by R. Alexander Pyron et al. (copy attached):

Pryon, R. Alexander, Frank T. Burbrink, and Timothy J. Guiher. 2008. Claims of potential expansion throughout the U.S. by invasive python species are contradicted by ecological niche models. PLoS ONE 3(8):e2931. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0002931.

The Pyron paper is a scathing criticism of the scientific paper published by Rodda et al. in February and the USGS news release issued at the same time. Beyond the criticism, the Pyron paper offers a more sophisticated and scientifically main-stream analysis that predicts virtually no expansion of the python population in Florida. The Pyron paper very clearly and persuasively describes the flawed result in the Rodda paper and offers a superior alternative analysis.

I withdraw the last paragraph in my Correction Request under the "Conclusion" subsection in the "Discussion" section. I also withdraw the statement in the first paragraph of the "Recommendations for Corrective Action" to the effect that "there is no way at present to accurately project the worst-case range of the Florida pythons." I further amend the "Recommendations for Corrective Action" to recommend that USGS simply withdraw the February news release and issue a new news release disavowing the Rodda paper and stating that there currently is no basis for concluding that the Burmese pythons in Florida will expand to areas outside of Florida.

Sincerely,

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