



Tim Tibbitts

01/30/2008 03:58 PM  
MST

To: Jack O'Brian/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Lee Baiza/ORPI/NPS@NPS  
cc: Peter Holm/ORPI/NPS@NPS  
Subject: ORPI FOIA re: research permits

COPY FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION

Greetings Jack:

Lee Baiza asked me to provide you some statements regarding the questions raised by a recent FOIA concerning ORPI issuing research permits. I can offer the statements below. Please let me know if you would like additional information on any of these points. Also, we will be FAXing you several documents that respond to the FOIA.

- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has not at any time stopped issuing scientific research/collecting permits to the public, due to border-related safety/security issues, or for any other reasons.
- Since 1995, ORPI has averaged approximately 35 active research permits each year.
- ORPI declined one permit request in 2003 due to border-related safety/security concerns, which were specific to the timing, location and methods of that project.
- ORPI suspended one research project in 2006 due to border-related safety/security concerns, which were specific to the timing, location and methods of that project. That project has not yet resumed.
- From 2002 through 2007, several permitted research projects were temporarily suspended, modified, or delayed, due to border-related safety/security issues. Those projects were all eventually completed.
- In 2005, ORPI began including language in each research permit, which informed researchers of potential border-related safety concerns in the park, and which placed all responsibility for researchers' safety with the researchers themselves.
- Also in 2005, ORPI instituted a "liability waiver." Researchers (and others) wishing to access areas of the park that were closed to the general public were, in some cases, granted access if they signed a document waiving all potential liability claims against the NPS for personal injury, harm, or loss of property that might occur due to illegal border-related activity.
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Thanks,

Tim

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Lee Baiza  
01/30/2008 01:59 PM  
MST

To: Jack O'Brian/DENVER/NPS@NPS  
cc: Tony Schetzle/DENVER/NPS@NPS, Mike  
Snyder/DENVER/NPS@NPS  
Subject: foia-on research permits

**COPY FOR YOUR  
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Jack, I will be faxing you three items which are included in all our research permits;

- First of all is a copy of our cover letter which focuses on general conditions and safety concerns
- The normal General Conditions document which we use in the NPS
- A copy of the scientific research and collecting permit--this info is entered in PEPC

As I mentioned earlier, this individuals questions and his reference of the fox-news story where Biologist Karen Krebbs was quoted as being tired of dodging smugglers in doing her work at ORPI. Just as an fyi, Tim Tibbitts our Biologist that has been working with Karen for many years interviewed her after this article came out and she stated "she was mis-quoted". We don't issue night vision goggles to researchers and we have not stopped granting research permits. The difficulty has been that some researchers may have had difficulty in reaching specific areas of the monument.

Hope this helps!

Lee Baiza  
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