

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.