



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
P.O. DRAWER 170
MOOSE, WYOMING 83012



IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617(GRTE)

FEB 17 2005

Thomas M. Campbell III, President
Biota Research & Consulting, Inc.
PO Box 8578
Jackson, Wyoming 83002-8578

Dear Mr. Campbell:

On behalf of Grand Teton National Park's Planning and Fire Management Offices, my sincere thanks and appreciation for the incredibly hard work and professional consultation provided on the development of the park's Fire Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). Biota Research & Consulting Inc. did an outstanding job in working with park staff to assist with developing alternatives and analyzing the environmental impacts associated with the proposed actions.

Biota exceeded expectations in regards to helping the park understand how to relate fire management activities to the public, identify measurable goals and objectives, and assimilate voluminous information and professional comments in compiling a document that surpassed standards. Not only did the park service and local community respond with satisfaction, but many of our environmental conservation organizations complimented the park on a well-written and scientifically superior document. With organizations such as the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition commenting that the document is "exceptional," we knew we had succeeded in producing a thorough and well written document. Moreover, the Intermountain Regional office acknowledged that the EA is an outstanding document and has referred it to other parks as a good example.

Biota's knowledge, skill and ability facilitated the challenge to create a legally-defensible NEPA document in accordance with NPS policy. Jessica Mitchell, project manager for the EA, is especially talented in NEPA analysis and is very patient and astute. Her ability to sit in a meeting with several interdisciplinary park personnel and go back and put everything into a logical, sensible, context and format is extraordinary. This trait was paramount in making the EA a very well-organized and professional document.

Grand Teton National Park appreciates all of your hard work, professional consultation, positive and supportive attitude, and most of all, the ability to produce a superior NEPA document. Thank you! Should the need arise, we hope that we'll be able to work with Biota again in the future.

Sincerely,

Mary Gibson Scott
Superintendent