

April 1, 2020

Mary Risser
Acting Superintendent
Grand Canyon National Park
Coconino County, Arizona

via email

Dear Acting Superintendent Risser,

I am writing with extreme concern for the decision to keep the Grand Canyon National Park open in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Coconino County we currently have 82 COVID-19 positive cases and 4 deaths. The national modeling used to project COVID-19 positive cases over the next 30 days is staggering.

The decision to allow the park to remain open puts park employees, area residents and tourists at risk.

As the Health and Human Services Director and Chief Health Officer for Coconino County I strongly recommend that you make an urgent request to the Interior Secretary for closure of the park. We are happy to answer any questions and to provide the support needed to communicate of the importance of this action.

Respectfully,



Thomas D. Pristow, MSW, ACSW
Director and Chief Health Officer
Coconino County Health and Human Services

cc: Senator Martha McSally
Senator Kyrsten Sinema
Representative Tom O'Halleran (AZ-1)
Governor Doug Ducey