



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Craters of the Moon National Monument

P. O. Box 29

Arco, Idaho 83213

April 16, 1986

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Dr. Gene Miller
Biology Department
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-4500

Dear Dr. Miller:

In response to our telephone conversation on 4/14/86, I checked on the possibility of obtaining funds for testing some of our vegetation for flouride. I approached the park Superintendent, Bob Scott, at an inopportune time: he was in the process of reading a letter from the Regional office in Seattle about additional budget cuts. I went ahead and collected some vegetation from three trees. If a problem shows up with elevated or unacceptable levels of flouride, perhaps we can take the funding question from there, especially if it becomes necessary to conduct further testing.

I collected these needles on 4/16/86 at 11:30 a.m. General weather conditions at the time were partly cloudy, cold (~40° F), and windy (west at 30 mph). I collected all needles from the outer branches, at a level about chest high. You suggested using an unaffected tree as a control. The tree I chose had needles with the dark red band characteristic, but not nearly as many were evident on this tree as the other two trees. I tried to choose needles that appeared unaffected, based on what I've read and have had explained to me concerning flouride uptake. The outer tips of most of these needles appear chlorotic, but that of course could be due to something other than flouride.

I appreciate your concern over this issue at Craters of the Moon, and look forward to hearing from you on the results of your tests.

Thank you very much for all your time.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Laspina

Mary E. Laspina
Park Ranger

Enclosures