1400 Independence Ave SW Washington, DC 20250

**File Code:** 6270

2021-FS-WO-00884-F

Date:

Delivered via ELECTRONIC MAIL: john@greenwald.com Mr. John Greenwald, Jr. CEO The Black Vault, Inc. 27305 W. Live Oak Rd. Suite #1203 Castaic, CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received November 17, 2020, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Washington Office FOIA Service Center and assigned tracking number 2021-FS-WO-00884-F. You requested "records...of all reports of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) received by the USFS either by the public, or by USFS employees/personnel." Additionally, you specified records created after the records you previously received in response to 2017-FS-WO-00542-F.

In response to your request 2021-FS-WO-00884-F, we conducted a search and found one (1) responsive page: one (1) page is enclosed in part. Redactions were made pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).

## **FOIA Exemption 6**

Exemption 6 requires the Government to withhold all information about individuals in "personnel and medical files and similar files," where disclosure of such information "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Exemption 6 also involves a balancing of the public's interest in disclosure against the individual's privacy interest.

Pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6, we have redacted a website comment poster's name and reference to another third-party. These individuals have a clear privacy interest in the protection of this information, and there is little or no public interest in its release. The individual privacy rights outweigh the public's interest in this information.

The FOIA provides that requesters pay the reasonable costs for search, review, and duplication of records. Pursuant to Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Subtitle A, Part 1, Subpart A, Appendix A, there is no charge as the amount falls below the minimum required to collect fees.

This concludes the Forest Service's response to your FOIA request.

The FOIA provides you the right to appeal this response. Any appeal must be made in writing,





within 90 days from the date of this letter to the Chief, USDA Forest Service. Additionally, due to the concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus we are only accepting appeals electronically at this time. Please email your appeal to <a href="mailto:SM.FS.WOFOIA@usda.gov">SM.FS.WOFOIA@usda.gov</a>. The term "FOIA APPEAL" should be placed in capital letters on the subject line of the email along with the FOIA case number assigned to your request. To facilitate the processing of your appeal, please attach a copy of this letter to your request as well.

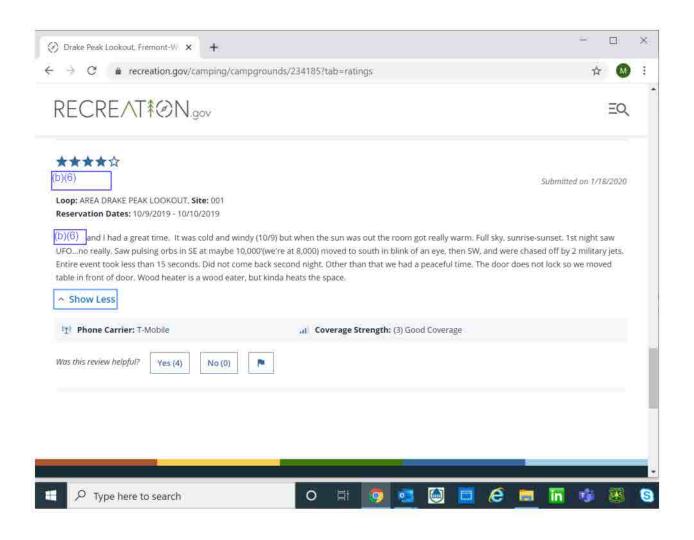
If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOIA Public Liaison at (202) 205-6560. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001, email <a href="mailto:ogis@nara.gov">ogis@nara.gov</a>; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at (877) 684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,

## **GORDON BLUM**

Acting Director, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources

Enclosure: one (1) page



This document is made available through the declassification efforts and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

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