



Old Faithful Dormitory Construction and Cabin Repurposing Plan

Project Scoping

November 2011

Dear Interested Party:

Yellowstone National Park is in the process of developing a dormitory construction and cabin repurposing plan for the Old Faithful area. This project presents an opportunity to improve visitor experience, employee housing, and infrastructure in one of the most visited areas in Yellowstone National Park while preserving the historic character of the area.

Proposed elements of this plan include:

- Provide an increased number of low cost visitor lodging units at Old Faithful
- Provide employee housing for employees displaced from cabins
- Separate employee housing from visitor lodging

An Environmental Assessment will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that, 1) explores a reasonable range of alternatives to meet the project objectives; 2) evaluates potential issues and impacts to park resources and values; 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts; and 4) describes an approach for conservation decisions over the coming decades.

The National Park Service encourages public participation throughout the NEPA process during which the public has two opportunities to formally comment on the project, once during initial project scoping and again following release of the Plan/EA. The National Park Service is currently in the scoping phase of this project and invites you to voice your ideas, comments, or concerns in this effort. These comments will be considered during preparation of the EA. Your interest and participation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Daniel N. Wenk
Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park*

season. There would not be an increase in overnight visitors at Old Faithful.

- **Proposed Action Alternative:** Under this alternative all of the Old Faithful Lodge cabins would be rented to visitors during the summer season. A new 77-room dormitory would be constructed in the administrative area (south of the Grand Loop Road) to house 144 employees displaced by repurposing the cabins to a visitor use function. There would be a potential increase of approximately 134 overnight visitors at Old Faithful during the summer season.

Overview of the Process

Project milestones include ("*" indicates opportunities for public comment):

- Public scoping (closes December 20, 2011)*
- Preparation of the Environmental Assessment (December, January 2011/2012)
- Public review of the Environmental Assessment (January 2012)*
- Analysis of public comment (January 2012)
- Preparation of decision document (February 2012)
- Announcement of decision (March 2012)

Resources and Concerns

The Environmental Assessment will analyze potential impacts to a number of resources including:

- Geology and soils
- Vegetation including special status plants
- Wildlife
- Special Status Wildlife Species and Yellowstone Species of Management Concern
- Cultural resources
- Visitor use and experience
- Socioeconomics
- Park Operations



Alternatives

Following is the preliminary range of alternatives to be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment:

- **No-Action Alternative:** Under this alternative a new dormitory would not be established. 28 multiplex cabin buildings (67 units) currently used by employees would remain for that use. The cabins nearest the lodge would continue to be rented to visitors during the summer



Ideas to Consider

Below are a few ideas to keep in mind as you develop your comments on this proposal:

1. Do you have any ideas to share about issues/concerns, or are there any issues/concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered?
3. Do you have other comments and suggestions for us to consider in the environmental assessment?

How Do I Comment on This Project?

Please submit your comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yell>

Comments may also be hand-delivered to the park's headquarters in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, or mailed to:

Old Faithful Dormitory Construction and Cabin Repurposing Plan
Attn: Resources Compliance
Yellowstone National Park
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
Please provide all comments by December 20, 2011