

# Wireless Telecommunications Committee Annual Report for FY13

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*Yellowstone National Park  
January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013*

The purpose of the Telecommunications Committee is to:

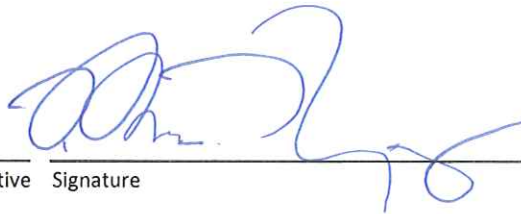
1. Receive and address requests for wireless service
2. Ensure proposals adhere to the wireless communications plan
3. Make recommendations to the Superintendent regarding any action to be taken.

	<b>Proposals Rcvd.</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Superintendent</b>
1	Lake Cell-On-Wheels	04/24/2013	Deny	Denied
2	Verizon Wireless 4G LTE panel upgrade at Elk Plaza	5/31/2013	Approve	Approve
3	H.K Contractors Washburn LMR	06/24/2013	Approve	Approve
4	NorthWestern Energy Washburn LMR	06/24/2013	Approve	Approve
5	Teton Communications Washburn LMR	06/24/2013	Approve	Approve
6	Verizon replace antennas and add sector on Washburn	09/11/2013	Approve	Approve
7	NPS collocation LMR at Verizon WY3 site Lake	10/30/2013	Approve	Approve
8	Union Telephone Company request to co-locate on the Lake Verizon site	12/11/2013	Approve	Pending

Recommended:

Bret De Young

Wireless Committee Representative



Signature

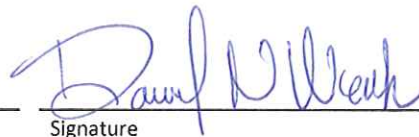
2/6/14

Date

Approved:

Dan Wenk

Superintendent



Signature

2/7/2014

Date

## **Descriptions of Proposals Received:**

### **1 – Request to allow a Cellular Services Provider to Deploy a Cell-on-Wheels in the Parking lot of the Osprey Dormitory at Lake**

Xanterra Parks and Resorts, an operating Concessioner in Yellowstone National Park, is contractually obligated to complete a remodel project on the Lake Hotel. The prime contractor requested a COW to facilitate construction communications during until the permitted Verizon cell tower would come on line. The Committee recommended that the Yellowstone Superintendent not approve the request because of the visibility of the equipment and that the Verizon site would be on line before compliance could be completed on the proposal.

### **2 – Verizon Wireless 4G LTE upgrade at Elk Plaza (Mammoth)**

Verizon submitted a proposal to Yellowstone requesting permission to add two 13 foot omni LTE antennas at 96'6", and one 4 foot diameter microwave dish at 60' on the existing Elk Plaza tower. The microwave dish would provide additional bandwidth and facilitate the upgrade without requiring a (fiber) trench to site. The Committee recommended approval to the Superintendent but required Verizon to provide a matte finish on the dish to mitigate visibility.

### **3 – HK Contractors Request to Co-locate LMR Equipment on Mount Washburn**

HK Contractor's utilizes land mobile radios to communicate between units while working on Federal Highways road contracts. This permit would allow the contractor to house a repeater and antenna at the NPS owned communications site on Mount Washburn for 10 years or for as long as H&K has a contract with Federal Highways, whichever comes first.

### **4 – NorthWestern Energy Request to Co-locate LMR Equipment on Mount Washburn**

NorthWestern Energy utilizes land mobile radios to communicate between units while working on electrical utility lines and substations in remote areas of Yellowstone. This permit would allow the utility provider to house a repeater and antenna at the NPS owned communications site on Mount Washburn for 10 years.

### **5 – Teton Communications Request to Co-locate LMR Equipment on Mount Washburn**

Teton Communications provides land mobile radio and paging services in Yellowstone Park for concession operators who provide towing services, snow coache tours, bus tours, guided backcountry trips, security in lodging areas, facilities maintenance, and snow removal. Teton Communications' repeater channel is monitored by Yellowstone's 911 Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) for visitor and operator safety. This proposal was submitted at the request of NPS in order to renew an expired right-of-way.

### **6 – Verizon proposal to replace omni antennas with sector panel antennas on Mount Washburn**

Verizon proposed that a change from shielded omni antennas to sectorized panel antennas would improve their wireless coverage over the Canyon developed area and that the panels would enhance safety at the site by pushing the electromechanical energy (EME) away from the firewatch residence and lookout deck. Detailed drawings were provided along with the proposal. WY SHPO recommended that the undertaking proceed.

### **7 – NPS Request to Co-locate a Radio Base Station at the Verizon Cellular site at Lake**

The Lake area suffers frequent power and network outages which result in downtime for the Yellowstone NPS radio over internet protocol (ROIP) system at Lake. Yellowstone proposes to move the Lake (South System) base station from the old Ranger Station on the lake shore, to the new Verizon facility located at the fresh water tank site in the NPS Administrative area. Connecting the ROIP base station to the primary and secondary power system at the Verizon site will ensure a constant reliable power source. Proximity to the network switch in the administrative area will ensure a constant reliable network connection. The objective is will be enhanced safety for rangers using the South radio system.

### **8 – Union Telephone Company (UTC) proposal to co-locate on the Lake (Verizon) Cell site**

UTC sent to Yellowstone, a proposal for new wireless service, application for transportation and utility systems and facilities on federal lands (SF299), signal propagation engineering drawing, and (existing) tower drawing with (new) antennas. UTC stated that they wish to mount four 8' high by 1' wide panel antennas at 78' on the two sectors facing the Lake developed area. They propose to house their equipment in Verizon's existing equipment room. The Wireless Committee indicated that the request for co-location at the Lake site was consistent with the Wireless

Plan, however, utilizing downtilt on the antennas, UTC must show that the signal will not extend farther than Verizon's signal. Yellowstone's Superintendent did not see the proposal prior to the end of the calendar year. An update will be provided on the 2014 report.

Public comments were collected and considered throughout the scoping and planning process for the Wireless Communications Services Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). In lieu of public meetings, the NPS provides this annual report, available to the public, which includes; a list of proposals received/reviewed by the Wireless Telecommunications Committee (WTC), recommendations from the WTC to the Superintendent, action taken by the Superintendent, and a summary of each proposal.

The Committee consists of four representatives from Park Planning, Resource Management, and Telecommunications and is led by the Supervisory Telecommunications Specialist.

