



**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Yellowstone National Park  
Wyoming, Montana, Idaho**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
Yellowstone Youth Campus Plan**

Recommended:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel N. Wenk".

Daniel N. Wenk  
Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

A handwritten date "9/25/17" in blue ink.

Date

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sue E. Masica".

Sue E. Masica  
Regional Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service

A handwritten date "10/4/17" in blue ink.

Date



## INTRODUCTION

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Park Service (NPS) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to examine alternative actions and environmental impacts associated with the proposed project to reconstruct or relocate the youth campus using sustainable design to create a high quality learning center within Yellowstone National Park (YNP). The project is needed to provide an improved and expanded education campus that inspires life-long learning and stewardship through education programs and park experiences. The current campus has several conditions that need to be improved, such as dormitory, classroom, and office space, universal accessibility, energy efficiency, and parking.

The statements and conclusions reached in this finding of no significant impact (FONSI) are based on documentation and analysis provided in the EA. To the extent necessary, relevant sections of the EA are incorporated by reference below.

## SELECTED ALTERNATIVE AND RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION

Based on the analysis presented in the EA, NPS selected Alternative C – Yellowstone Youth Campus Relocation (the NPS selected alternative page 13-14 and page 23-27 in the EA).

The selected alternative will construct a new campus at a site located south of Mammoth Hot Springs. A portion of this site is the former location of the Mammoth corrals, where Xanterra Parks & Resorts historically offered guided interpretive horseback rides during the summer. The barn, corrals, two cabins, and vault toilet are the only existing structures at the site and will be removed. This site is located on the east side of the Grand Loop Road. It is also near the old Fort Yellowstone Cemetery and site of the former Mammoth Lodge. The new buildings will have the capacity for 140 students to stay at the campus. The topography of this site provides space for future adaptability and expansion of education programs.

The project may be implemented in two separate phases to allow for fundraising development. The first phase will construct a commons building, three dormitories, one staff apartment, and the gear storage and waste-water treatment building. Parking, pathways, and outdoor space will be included. Phase two will construct two more dormitories, one additional staff apartment building, an additional classroom building, and a fire pit and basketball court. The total area of new disturbance will be approximately 17.0 acres (6.0 acres permanent and 11.0 acres temporary). Permanent disturbance will occur from buildings, pathways, roads, parking areas, and other infrastructure. Temporary disturbance will occur around the areas of foundations and edges of areas that will be permanently disturbed and from trenching for utilities.

Buildings at the existing youth campus will remain at their current location. The two dormitories will be used for employee housing. Function of the Mess Hall will cease until funding is acquired and rehabilitation of the building is completed.

## RATIONALE

Alternative C was selected because it best meets the project purpose to:

- Improve the campus facility to be a teaching model of sustainable living.
- Improve and expand classroom space with adaptable learning environments.
- Improve and expand campus facilities to accommodate up to 140 students overnight.
- Provide a safe and universally accessible place to learn and work.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES**

Refer to Appendix A for a complete list of all mitigation measures that will be implemented for the selected alternative.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/ AGENCY CONSULTATION**

Initial public scoping for the project occurred from August 20, 2014 through September 26, 2014. The EA was made available for public review and comment during a 30-day period, from July 13, 2017 through August 11, 2017. Fourteen public comment letters were received. Substantive comments centered on visual impacts, funding, location of campus, and non-native plant species. Substantive comments are addressed in the Errata and Response to Public Comments.

In accordance with §106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the NPS initiated consultation with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (WY SHPO) in August 2014 and again in August 2016 because another action alternative was developed to address the shortcomings of the existing campus site. In January 2017, YNP submitted determinations of eligibility for the barn, corrals, two cabins, and vault toilet. None of the structures retain historic integrity and are ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under the Criteria of Eligibility. The WY SHPO office concurred in March 2017. In July 2017, the NPS provided WY SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation with a copy of the EA and sought a “no adverse effect” determination on historic properties for the actions proposed under the selected alternative. A letter dated August 7, 2017, from WY SHPO concurred with the park’s determination.

On April 26, 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) delivered a final rule to comply with a court order that reinstated the removal of federal protections for the gray wolf in Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act. On June 22, 2017, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior announced that the Yellowstone population of the grizzly bear meets all the criteria for delisting and overall management can be returned to the states and tribes. Therefore, Section 7 consultation is not required. Canada lynx was not included in the analysis because the species is not known nor has potential of occurring in the project area.

A scoping letter describing the proposed action was mailed to the park’s 26 associated tribes in August 2014, to solicit concerns and comments for the proposed project. The park did not receive any responses. In July 2017, the tribes were each provided information on the completion of the EA. One tribe provided a comment of no objection to the selected alternative.

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

CEQ regulations at 40 CFR Section 1508.27 identify ten criteria for determining whether the selected action will have a significant impact on the human environment. The NPS reviewed each of these criteria, given the environmental impacts described in the EA, and determined there would be no significant impacts for any of the criteria.

The following impact topics were dismissed in the EA because they were found to have no potential for significant impacts, and include visitor use and experience, cultural landscapes, wetlands and floodplains, geological resources, Indian trust resources, air quality, soundscapes, archeology, paleontological resources, ethnographic resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, and climate change.

As described in the EA, the selected alternative has the potential for beneficial and adverse impacts on soil and vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, student use and experience, historic structures, and visual resources; however, no potential for significant adverse impacts was identified.



Implementing the selected alternative will result in up to 17.0 acres (6.0 acres permanent and 11.0 acres temporary) of adverse impacts to soil and vegetation from grading, excavating, trenching, building, and utility line installation. Approximately 18 coniferous trees (Douglas-fir, spruce, and juniper) will be removed for buildings, access routes, and parking areas. Mitigation measures stated in the EA will be implemented to minimize the adverse effects to soil and vegetation.

The selected alternative will result in 6.0 acres of adverse permanent habitat loss and 11.0 acres of temporary disturbance for wildlife. This potential for wildlife to be adversely disturbed will increase temporarily during the estimated six-month construction period over a three year period for each phase of the campus development. Higher levels of noise and human activity from 140 students could displace elk, bison, and black bear. The project site and surrounding meadows are used by elk to bed and forage throughout the year, and are used as calving areas in the summer. Small patches of undisturbed habitat at the building sites that are potentially used by smaller species, such as nesting birds and small mammals, would be permanently lost to new construction. Disturbance effects may include energetically costly physiological response, nesting and foraging interruptions, avoidance or disruption of travel routes, or displacement from habitat. Impacts will not affect wildlife species at the population level, since the project site is located adjacent to the Grand Loop Road and near an already developed area with high levels of human activity.

At the time of writing the EA, grizzly bears and wolves were protected pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 and discussed under the Threatened and Endangered Species section. However, the two species are no longer listed species within the park. Canada lynx was not included in the analysis because the species is not known nor has potential of occurring in the project area.

Student Use and Experience will be beneficially impacted by the selected alternative by expanding the programs capacity to up to 140 students and allowing for 5,000 students to participate in programs annually. This location provides easy access to the “wild” right from the campus and provides space for future expansion. From this location, parts of the campus will be visible from the Grand Loop Road and the High Bridge along the road from Tower to Mammoth.

Historic Resources will not be adversely affected. The visibility of the campus from the Grand Loop Road Historic District, Bunsen Peak Road Historic District, and the Fort Yellowstone Cemetery will be mitigated through a design that will blend the development into the landscape. Supplemental vegetative screening through the transplanting of trees will further screen the development from the cemetery.

Visual Resources will have short-term adverse impacts from construction activity, equipment, dust plumes, and other temporary construction elements associated with construction of the campus. These impacts will cease upon completion of construction. Adverse impacts to the viewshed will occur from the introduction of buildings and from interior and exterior lighting. The campus will create changes to the surrounding lighting environment by the light spill from exterior lighting and from windows in the development. These changes will have adverse effects on the nighttime visual environment from the High Bridge and from along the Grand Loop Road. To lessen these impacts, exterior lighting will be directed in a downward pattern to minimize sky glow, and high color rendering will be used. Interior lighting will have automatic occupancy sensors in all rooms and time programmable controls for unoccupied hours.

## **CONCLUSION**

As described above, the selected alternative does not constitute an action meeting the criteria that normally requires preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The selected alternative will not have a significant effect on the human environment in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of NEPA.

Based on the foregoing, it has been determined that an EIS is not required for this project and, thus, will not be prepared.

## **APPENDIX A: MITIGATION MEASURES**

The following mitigation measures will minimize the degree and/or extent of adverse impacts and will be implemented during the project.

### **General Construction**

- Ground disturbance, staging, and stockpiling areas will be located in parking areas or in previously disturbed sites within the project footprint, away from core visitor use and residential areas to the greatest extent possible. All staging and stockpiling areas will be returned to pre-construction conditions following construction.
- Construction zones will be identified and fenced with construction tape, snow fencing, or some similar material prior to any construction activity. Fencing will define the construction zone and confine activity to the minimum area required for construction. All protection measures will be clearly stated in the construction specifications, and workers will be instructed to avoid conducting activities beyond the construction zone as defined by the construction zone fencing.
- The NPS project manager will be responsible for ensuring the project remains within the construction limits.
- Fugitive dust generated by construction will be controlled by spraying water on the construction site, if necessary. Any water used for dust control will be taken from hydrants in park administrative areas or a local source approved by the park.
- To minimize possible petrochemical leaks from construction equipment, the contractor will regularly monitor and check construction equipment to identify and repair any leaks.
- Fuel will be stored in fuel trucks or aboveground storage tanks, and all fuel storage will be in staging areas.
- Tools, equipment, barricades, signs, materials, demolition debris, and rubbish will be removed from the project work limits upon project completion.

### **Soils**

- Topsoil conservation measures will be employed prior to construction in accordance with Yellowstone's Vegetation Management for Construction Disturbance Guidelines (YNP 1997).
- Topsoil will be stripped and replaced wherever possible, to enhance revegetation following the construction phase.
- Disturbed soils are more susceptible to erosion; and until revegetation takes place, standard erosion control measures, such as silt fences and/or sandbags, will be used to minimize any potential soil erosion.

### **Vegetation**

- A revegetation plan will be implemented to minimize impacts to native vegetation.
- Disturbance to existing vegetation at the sites will be avoided to the greatest extent possible. During construction, a temporary construction limit fence will be placed at the project footprint to protect native vegetation.
- After construction, the site will be revegetated by transplanting native vegetation between Fort Yellowstone Cemetery and the staff housing area and by reseeding within the project area.
- Vehicles, equipment, and staging for materials will occur within the project footprint.
- Equipment used will be cleaned to reduce the spread of non-native plant species.

## **Wildlife**

- To avoid impacts to migratory birds during nesting season, all tree removal activities must not occur between March 1-August 15 for raptors and May 1-August 1 for songbirds. If tree removal will occur within the specified dates, the Bird Program Manager (307) 344-2242 will need to be contacted to discuss or schedule a survey.
- All outdoor food storage will adhere to park policies already in place, to ensure no unattended food sources are available to wildlife.
- All contractors and employees will be given orientation and educated about working in grizzly bear country, and briefed on proper food storage and safety measures. Orientation will include information about park regulations regarding food storage, disposal of garbage and other bear attractants, safety measures, and approaching or harassing wildlife.
- All contractors and employees will be informed about threatened and endangered species. Contract provisions will require the cessation of construction activities if a species were discovered in the project area, until park staff re-evaluates. This will allow modification of the contract for any protection measures determined necessary to protect the discovery.

## **Soundscapes and Air Quality**

- To reduce noise and emissions, construction equipment will not be permitted to idle for more than 10 minutes while not in use, according to the Superintendent's Compendium based on CFR 36 § - 5.13 Nuisances.
- Appropriate dust mitigation suppression controls, such as spraying water at the construction site and covering loaded trucks, will be implemented.

## **Archeological Resources**

- Should construction unearth previously undiscovered cultural materials (glass, ceramic, bone, metal cans, obsidian, etc.) are discovered during work in the area, crews must stop work immediately and contact the park archeologist at (307) 344-2290 for assistance. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered during construction, provisions outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990) and NPS Director's Order 28 will be followed.
- The NPS will ensure that all contractors and subcontractors are informed of the penalties for illegally collecting artifacts or intentionally damaging archeological sites or historic properties. Contractors and subcontractors will also be instructed on procedures to follow in case previously unknown archeological resources are uncovered during construction.

## **Paleontological Resources**

- In the event that inadvertent discoveries of buried paleontological materials during construction the contractors will stop work and contact Cultural Resources at (307) 344-2290 for assessment of finds before continuing work.

## **Geological Resources**

- If any of the following conditions are encountered, stop work and immediately contact the park geologist: a pre-existing hole in the ground the size of a basketball or larger; standing or flowing water, either hot or cold; or a "rotten egg" smell.

## **Visual Quality**

- Weathered corten steel and natural wood siding will be used on much of the exterior building to blend in with the brown and red rich tones of the nearby Mammoth Hot Spring Terraces. Natural stone will be used along some of the building foundations and for landscaping. Material that is reflective will not be used.
- A vegetated roof will be installed on the commons building. The vegetated roof will be visible from the Grand Loop Road and High Bridge, assisting the building to merge with the surrounding landscape.
- Existing vegetation and natural topography will be preserved, and revegetation efforts will be done to screen new infrastructure as much as possible.

## RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS ERRATA

These errata are to be attached to the Yellowstone Youth Campus EA dated July 2017. There were no corrections or statements to clarify in the EA other than typographical and minor editorial errors. Response to public comments addresses substantive comments that were received during the public review period.

Many comments addressed issues already adequately covered in the EA. Other comments addressed visual impacts, night sky, funding, why should the campus be built inside the park, and exotic plant species. No comments warranted development of an additional alternative or reconsideration of alternatives that were considered but dismissed. Therefore, the alternatives remain as described in the EA, and no changes were made in the assessment of environmental consequences.

The park only responded to substantive public comments; those comments and responses are provided below.

### VISUAL IMPACTS/NIGHT SKY

1. **Comment** – Commenter recommends lessening visual impacts by considering a building designed to reduce the height and amount of glass on the common/classroom building (to reduce glare by day and artificial light visible at night). Pull buildings in closer together rather than designing a sprawled-out campus. The view of Canary Spring from the High Bridge needs to be protected, and the view toward the High Bridge from the Grand Loop Road cannot be replicated.

**Response** – A number of elements have been incorporated into the commons building, such as directing exterior lighting in a downward pattern to minimize sky glow; and high color rendering light sources will be used to ensure light levels are minimized yet effective. Interior light will have automatic occupancy sensors in all rooms and time programmable controls for unoccupied hours. In addition, a preset dimming control system will allow for a range of lighting controls.

To assess visibility of the campus, photo-simulations were done to show where development will be most visible. The campus will be visible from the Grand Loop Road at two locations. The photo-simulation in Figure 13 (page 52) shows how the proposed low, horizontal massing and roof designs of the overall development conforms to the natural terrain, and how the use of non-reflective materials, natural colors, and textures blends the buildings into the landscape. A vegetated roof will be installed on the commons building. Existing vegetation and natural topography will be preserved, and revegetation efforts will be done to screen new infrastructure.

**Comment** – Commenter has concerns about the Night Sky Initiative. The evening view while driving the Grand Loop after sunset would be changed with the glow of light pollution looming over the horizon from another building inside the park.

**Response**—Please refer to response above about elements that will be incorporated to minimize impacts to night sky.

### YELLOWSTONE YOUTH CAMPUS INSIDE THE PARK

1. **Comment** – Commenter has concerns about more expansion inside the park. Why does the campus have to be inside the park, when you are in close proximity to a town that already has considerable infrastructure and development?

**Response** – As discussed on page 30 in the EA, relocation of the campus to a site near Gardiner, Montana, was evaluated. Issues related to access, water, security, distance from the park, added transportation time, as well as the quality of experience students receive from living and learning in the park during program participation.

## **FUNDING**

1. **Comment** – Commenter would like to know what is meant by the project being largely funded by Yellowstone Forever? Who will fund the remainder?

**Response** – Yellowstone National Park has requested \$11 million in National Park Service Centennial project funding. The additional amount will come from partner/donor support.

2. **Comment** – Commenter has concerns about building a large new project when the park cannot afford to maintain current buildings, and the deterioration and lack of maintenance of the old military buildings in Mammoth.

**Response** – The National Park Service and Yellowstone Forever will collaborate in operating the Youth Campus. The programs offered will be funded through a combination of user fees and donor support and will not rely on annual base funding from Yellowstone National Park. As mentioned above construction of the project will be funded by National Park Service Centennial funding and from partner/donor support.

## **EXOTIC PLANT SPECIES**

1. **Comment** – Commenter has concerns about 20-30 acres of disturbance in Alternative C in such proximity to existing and extensive areas of exotic invasive species and the spread of weed species. Restoration efforts on the site of construction are likely to fail without first addressing and mitigating these seed sources nearby. For example, a mere 200 yards to the south is an extensive area of knapweed, Canada thistle, toadflax, and other noxious weeds that will act as seed sources if not dealt with prior to construction. Re-routing sewer and water, creating a new road, and the actual building site will only aid in the spread and further establishment of these weeds. The current EA does too little to assuage these very real concerns.

**Response** – Please see page 23 for acres of disturbance. The selected alternative site will disturb approximately 17.0 acres (6.0 acres permanent and 11.0 acres temporary). As discussed in the Mitigation Measures on page 28 and in the soil and impact analysis on page 34, the presence of non-native plant species is a concern. The park's vegetation specialists have conducted site visits and had discussions about the importance of developing an integrated revegetation plan for the site prior to beginning construction and ground-disturbing activities.



# NON-IMPAIRMENT DETERMINATION

## Yellowstone Youth Campus

By enacting the NPS Organic Act of 1916 (Organic Act), Congress directed the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service (NPS) to manage units "to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in the System units and to provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" (54 U.S.C. 100101). NPS Management Policies 2006, Section 1.4.4 explains the prohibition on impairment of park resources and values:

"While Congress has given the Service the management discretion to allow impacts within parks, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement (generally enforceable by the federal courts) that the Park Service must leave park resources and values unimpaired unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise. This, the cornerstone of the Organic Act, establishes the primary responsibility of the National Park Service. It ensures that park resources and values will continue to exist in a condition that will allow the American people to have present and future opportunities for enjoyment of them."

An action constitutes impairment when its impacts "harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise will be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values" (NPS 2006, Section 1.4.5). To determine impairment, the NPS must evaluate the "particular resources and values that will be affected; the severity, duration, and timing of the impact; the direct and indirect effects of the impact; and the cumulative effects of the impact in question and other impacts. An impact on any park resource or value may constitute impairment, but an impact would be more likely to constitute an impairment to the extent that it affects a resource or value whose conservation is:

- necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park;
- key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park; or
- identified in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents as being of significance (NPS 2006, Section 1.4.5).

Fundamental resources and values for Yellowstone National Park are identified in the enabling legislation for the park, the Foundation for Planning and Management Statement, and the Long Range Interpretive Plan. Based on a review of these documents, the fundamental resources and values for Yellowstone National Park come from the park's geologic wonders, the abundant and diverse wildlife, the 11,000-year-old continuum of human history, and providing for the benefit, enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. Resources that were carried forward for detailed analysis in the EA and are considered necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park are key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; and/or resources identified as a goal in relevant NPS planning documents include soils and vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, historic structures, and visual resources. Non-impairment determinations are not necessary for human health and safety or visitor use and experience because impairment findings relate back to park resources and values, and these impact topics are not generally considered park resources or values according to the Organic Act.

This non-impairment determination has been prepared for the selected alternative, as described in the Findings of No Significant Impact for the Yellowstone Youth Campus Environmental Assessment.

### **Soils and Vegetation**

Soils at the selected alternative developed upon glacial till with sandy loam or loam textures. A large portion of the soils have been previously altered from past disturbance.

Native vegetation within the proposed project sites are predominated by two vegetation types and are described on page 32 of the EA. No special status plant species or wetlands occur within the site.

The selected alternative will result in up to 17.0 acres (6.0 acres permanent and 11.0 acres temporary) of soil and vegetation removal and clearing. These actions will cause adverse impacts to soil and vegetation in the project area from grading, excavating, trenching, building, and utility line installation. Six acres of common upland vegetation (sagebrush, grasses, forbs) and soil will be removed for buildings, parking areas, entrance road, pathways, and outdoor spaces. Within the project footprint, approximately 18 coniferous trees (Douglas fir, spruce, and juniper) will be removed for buildings, access routes, and parking areas. Vehicles, equipment, and staging for materials will occur within the project footprint. Soil and vegetation removal and clearing for utility line placement and grading will temporarily disturb 11.0 acres of soil and vegetation, out of the 17.0 acres footprint of the project.

Though there will be adverse impacts, topsoil conservation measures will be followed in accordance with Yellowstone Vegetation Management for Construction Disturbance Guidelines (YNP1997). To prevent further spread of non-native plant species, an integrated revegetation plan will be developed by the park's vegetation specialists prior to beginning construction and ground-disturbing activities. To avoid transporting in new non-native plant species, equipment will be cleaned before entering the park and/or construction site. Even with permanent removal and clearing of 6.0 acres of soil and vegetation and temporary removal and clearing of 11.0 acres, both the soils and vegetation are common in the Mammoth Hot Springs area and throughout the park's thousands of acres of the same soil and vegetation type will remain undisturbed. The selected alternative will not impair soils and vegetation with implementation of the actions mentioned above.

### **Wildlife**

The selected alternative will result in 6.0 acres of permanent habitat loss and 11.0 acres of temporary disturbance. Potential for wildlife to be disturbed will increase temporarily during the estimated six-month construction period over a three-year period for each phase of the campus. Levels of noise and human activity from up to 140 students at the campus could displace elk, bison, and black bear who utilize areas in the vicinity of the campus. The project site and surrounding meadows are used by elk to bed and forage throughout the year and are used as calving areas in the summer.

Small patches of undisturbed habitat at building sites that are potentially used by smaller species, such as nesting birds and small mammals, will be permanently lost to new construction. The NPS expects no increase in wildlife mortalities in this area because all construction activities will be short-term, lasting no longer than three years, and confined to the immediate project area. As with all YNP construction projects, the NPS would direct the contractor to manage food and garbage to ensure it is not available to wildlife. Contractor staff will have to attend a wildlife/food management orientation safety session and abide by the guidelines. Construction could have adverse impacts on migratory birds from permanent loss of if ground-disturbing activities occur during the nesting season. To avoid potential mortalities and violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, bird habitat will be surveyed prior to clearing activities

during the nesting season, March 1-August 15, and occupied habitat will not be removed during the nesting season. If an active nest is encountered at any time, it will be protected from removal. Though construction activities and 140 students at the campus could result in short-and long-term adverse impacts from disturbance and displacement, wildlife species at the population level will not be impacted. Therefore, it has been determined that the selected alternative will not result in an impairment to wildlife species.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species**

At the time of writing the EA, grizzly bears and wolves were protected pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 and discussed under the Threatened and Endangered Species section. However, the two species are no longer listed species within the park. Canada lynx was not included in the analysis because the species is not known nor has potential of occurring in the project area.

### **Historic Resources**

The Mammoth livery and corrals formerly operated in an area near the site. The NPS evaluated the existing buildings and determined they were not National Register eligible. In addition, the selected alternative was found to be visible from the Grand Loop Historic District, Bunsen Peak Road Historic District, and the Fort Yellowstone Cemetery, a discontinuous resource of the Fort Yellowstone NHL Historic District. Photos were taken of these viewpoints, and photo simulations of the undertakings were developed. The visibility of the campus from these historic districts will be mitigated through design that will blend the development into the landscape. Supplemental vegetative screening through transplanting of trees will further screen the development from the cemetery. Under §106, the determination of effect will be No Historic Properties Adversely Affected. The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with this assessment on August 7, 2017. The selected alternative will not impair historic resources within Yellowstone National Park.

### **Visual Resources**

Open, unobstructed views with few human intrusions are an important part of the experience in the park. At the selected alternative location, the existing viewshed of the former corral site will have adverse impacts to the viewshed from new buildings, parking areas, and an expanded road that will be visible at locations from the Grand Loop Road, Bunsen Peak trail, Bunsen Peak, and from the High Bridge along the road from Tower to Mammoth. Light spill from exterior lighting and from windows in the development will also create changes to the surrounding lighting environment. To lessen these impacts, materials that blend in with the tones and textures of the nearby Mammoth Hot Springs will be used. A vegetated roof will be installed on the commons building to merge with the surrounding landscape. Existing vegetation and natural topography will be preserved, and revegetation efforts will be done to screen new infrastructure. In addition, exterior lighting will be directed in a downward pattern to minimize sky glow, and high color rendering light sources will be used to ensure light levels will be minimized. Interior lighting will have automatic occupancy sensors in all rooms and time programmable controls for unoccupied hours. The commons building will have a preset dimming control system to allow for a range of lighting controls. The park has determined the selected alternative will not impair visual resources within Yellowstone National Park.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, as guided by this analysis, good science and scholarship, advice from subject matter experts and others who have relevant knowledge and experience, and the results of public involvement activities, it is the Superintendent's professional judgment that there will be no impairment of park resources and values from implementation of the selected alternative. The NPS has determined that implementation of the selected alternative will not constitute an impairment of the resources or values of Yellowstone National Park. This conclusion is based on consideration of the park's purpose and significance, a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the EA, comments provided by the public and others, and the professional judgment of the decision maker guided by the direction of NPS Management Policies 2006.

