



## Public Scoping: Concession Prospectus for Visitor Services at Colter Bay, Jackson Lake Lodge, Jenny Lake Lodge, and Other Locations

June 2018



*Jackson Lake Lodge is one of several facilities operated under contract GRTE001*

Greetings,

The concessions contract that provides visitor services at Colter Bay, Jackson Lake Lodge, Jenny Lake Lodge, and other locations will expire on December 31, 2021.

The National Park Service is considering what visitor services to require or authorize in the next concessions contract, which has an anticipated effective date of January 1, 2022. We are committed to ensuring commercial services meet the needs and expectations of an ever-changing visitor base.

The prospectus will be prepared in compliance with the Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998. Though public scoping for prospectuses is not required by law, we encourage your participation in this early phase of the process.

Please take a few minutes to review the information in this announcement and submit suggestions for the next contract. Your interest and participation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

David Vela  
Superintendent  
Grand Teton National Park  
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

## Current Visitor Services

A prospectus is a public solicitation for offers to conduct business with the National Park Service through a concession contract. The development of a prospectus for a new concessions contract to provide commercial visitor services within Grand Teton National Park has been initiated. Under the existing contract (referred to as CC-GRTE001-07), Grand Teton Lodge Company provides lodging, food and beverage services, retail, marina operations, campgrounds, guided horseback rides, guided fishing trips, and guided float trips at several locations within the park. Other concession contracts provide visitor services at Signal Mountain, Leeks Marina, Climbers' Ranch, and Triangle X Ranch as well as recreation services provided by fishing and river guides, cross-country ski guides, and mountaineering guides.



*Boat rentals, tours, and summer slip rentals are available at Colter Bay Marina.*

## Key Issues

The National Park Service is seeking input about adding or removing services and expanding opportunities to make sure the facilities and operations meet visitor expectations and provide high quality services. Issues already identified to consider in the process include:

- Increasing visitation has increased demand.
- Facilities and services need to be more accessible to visitors of varying ability and background.
- Connectivity (e.g., wireless, cell service) at facilities is variable and limited in some areas.
- Employee housing is limited within the region.

## Process

The National Park Service complies with the requirements of the Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 and its applicable regulations when developing concessions contracts for providing commercial visitor services in units of the National Park System. Approximately 18 months before the current contract expires, a prospectus will be issued to solicit proposals for the new concessions contract. During the development of the prospectus, confidential information (both from the existing concessioner and that developed by the NPS) is used in deciding the features of the next concessions contract. This opportunity for public input will help the National Park Service determine how best to provide commercial visitor services at the locations covered by the existing concession contract including any expansion of those services in type or location.

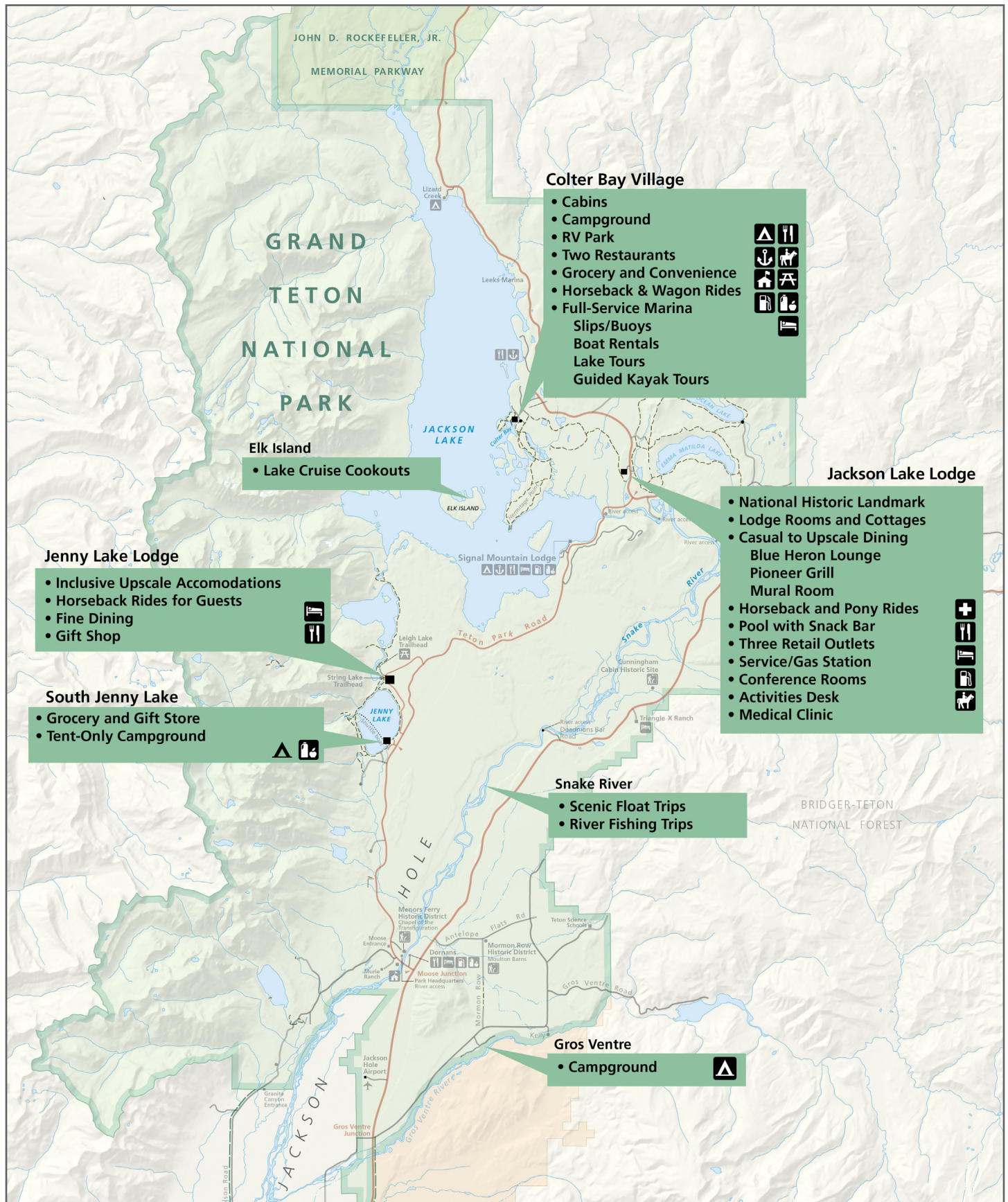
<b>Summer 2018</b>	Public Input	Public input begins June 20 and ends July 20, 2018.
<b>2018-2019</b>	Develop Scenarios	National Park Service staff review comments and develop possible scenarios (alternatives) for the new concessions contract.
<b>Spring 2019</b>	Planning	Prospectus drafting and environmental planning begins.
<b>2019-2020</b>	Publish	Final preparation of the prospectus occurs, alternatives are selected, and the prospectus is published.
<b>Fall 2020- Spring 2021</b>	Offers	The National Park Service receives and evaluates offers/proposals and selects a concessioner.
<b>January 1, 2022</b>	New Contract	A new contract is in effect.



*All inclusive lodging options are available at Jenny Lake Lodge (left). Jackson Lake Lodge (middle), a National Historic Landmark, offers a variety of services to the visiting public. Available activities include horseback rides (right), among many others.*



Grand Teton Lodge Company provides visitor services at the locations shown on the following map. The operating season is generally May 15 through October 15.



## Join the Conversation!

As part of this process, the National Park Service asks for your input. Broad public participation will help the National Park Service understand how best to meet current and changing visitor needs and expectations by building understanding of visitors and their anticipated experiences, preferences, and needs. It also will help the National Park Service identify existing or new opportunities to meet those needs while achieving our mission to preserve and protect resources.

**EXPERIENCES . . .** What experience(s) do you value or want to have in the park that the concessioner could provide under the new contract? Are there experiences that you think should not occur in the park or that someone other than the concessioner should provide? Things to potentially consider in your answer include:

- What is your ideal camping experience in each of the campgrounds (Gros Ventre, Colter Bay, and Jenny Lake)? Fully connected with lots of amenities, a rustic experience, or something else? Would reservations be desirable?
- Do the activities currently offered provide your desired park experience (river floats, horseback rides, lake tours, fishing trips, boat rentals, bus tours)? What other activity would you enjoy?

**SERVICES . . .** What additional visitor services do you think the concessioner could provide?

What existing concessioner-provided services do you think should not occur in the park or that someone other than the concessioner should provide? Things to potentially consider in your answer include:

- Do the current food options available in the park offer enough variety of food types and establishments to meet visitor needs? Are there other types of food service/styles the park should consider?
- Do you think that conference spaces and availability of lodging rooms strikes the right balance between the public at large and group interests?

**FACILITIES . . .** What about the buildings, maintained landscapes, and visitor areas (lodging rooms, historic buildings, parking areas, other facilities) meet your expectations? What doesn't?

**YOU TELL US . . .** What other thoughts on visitor opportunities do you have for the National Park Service to consider?

*This is not part of a park planning process and the National Park Service has no obligation to issue public responses to comments. Even so, the National Park Service may issue media releases and other information about the value of the public input into our prospectus development process. Your response to the request for input is appreciated.*

### Public Scoping Comment Period

Comments should be submitted online to: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grte-001>

This link provides access to the website for the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) database.

Comments must be received by July 20, 2018.

Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personally identifiable information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personally identifiable information) may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.