



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

CC-GRTE001 Concession Services Environmental Assessment Scoping Newsletter

February 2020

Dear Friends,

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing the *CC-GRTE001 Concessions Services Environmental Assessment* to address potential changes to concessions contract GRTE001, which provides visitor services at Colter Bay, Jackson Lake Lodge, Jenny Lake Lodge, and other locations in Grand Teton National Park (park).

The park previously offered an opportunity to comment on potential changes in commercial visitor services provided by the concessions contract during civic engagement conducted in the summer of 2018. This scoping provides another chance to comment on specific concessioner-assigned facility projects and operational proposals that have been developed by the NPS.

This environmental assessment is being developed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Concurrently, the NPS is undertaking the preparation of a prospectus under the 1998 Concession Management Improvement Act.

Therefore, actions analyzed in this environmental assessment are subject to further decision making processes, and are not guaranteed to be included in the prospectus.

This newsletter provides background information about the concessioner-assigned facilities and commercial visitor services within the park and the proposed additions or changes to some of these facilities that could be included when NPS issues a new concession contract. The newsletter also describes ways you can participate. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Gopaul Noojibail, Acting Superintendent
Grand Teton National Park
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

Project Background

In accordance with NEPA, the purpose of the environmental assessment (EA) is to analyze the impact of potential changes to concessioner-assigned facilities and commercial visitor services consistent with the NPS Concession Management Improvement Act of 1998.

The NPS will be publishing a prospectus to provide commercial visitor services in the park for concessions contract CC-GRTE001, which is currently held by Grand Teton Lodge Company. A prospectus is a public solicitation to

conduct business with the NPS through a concessions contract. Under the existing contract, Grand Teton Lodge Company provides a wide range of visitor services such as lodging, food and beverage services, retail, marina operations, campgrounds, guided horseback rides, guided fishing trips, and guided float trips at several locations in the park. The operating season is generally May 15 through October 15. The concession contract will expire on December 31, 2021.



Accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities would be installed for the parking area, access routes, gangways to the dock and tour boats, and restroom at Colter Bay Marina

Proposed Action

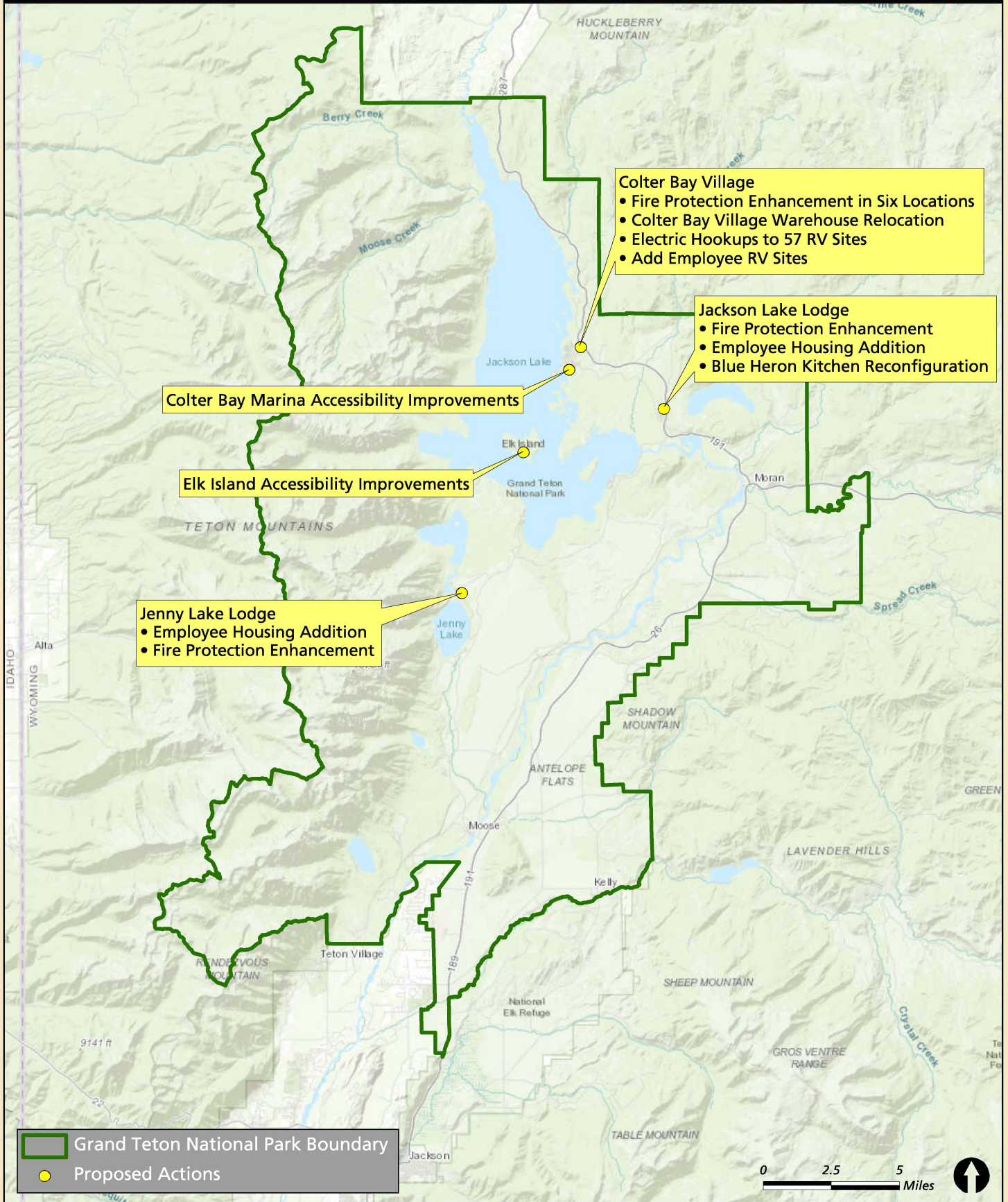
The NPS is considering authorizing the following concessioner-assigned facility improvements when a new concession contract is issued for CC-GRTE001. The NPS is analyzing the following concessioner-assigned facility improvements for the next concession contract.

- Fire protection measures would be implemented to reduce fire hazards and achieve compliance with modern fire safety codes at Jackson Lake Lodge and various concessioner-assigned buildings at the park.
- Additional employee housing would be constructed, including year-round employee housing for about 6 to 12 employees and their dependents in the Jackson Lake Lodge employee housing area, 10 to 12 seasonal employees at Jenny Lake Lodge, and 6 to 12 seasonal employees at the Colter Bay Employee RV Area.
- An existing room at Jackson Lake Lodge would be reconfigured as a full-service kitchen to serve the Blue Heron Lounge and replace the current outdoor cooking area.

CC-GRTE001 Concessions Services

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- New 50-amp electric hookups would be added to 57 existing RV campsites at the Colter Bay Campground.
- Accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities would be installed for the parking area, access routes, gangways to the dock and tour boats, and restroom at Colter Bay Marina; and the dock, gangway, trail, cook site, and composting toilet at Elk Island.
- An existing concessioner-assigned warehouse and recycling facility at the Colter Bay Administrative Area would be relocated to a new nearby location.

The proposed concessioner- assigned facility improvements are under consideration because a need has been identified for improvements to facilities and operations associated with

commercial visitor services under CC-GRTE001. Although no substantial expansion of commercial visitor services or increase in capacity for overnight accommodations has occurred, day-use visitation continues to increase. The increase in the number of visitors has resulted in increased need for commercial visitor services, along with a need for more concessioner employees and housing. Fire protection enhancements are needed at Jackson Lake Lodge, a National Historic Landmark, and other locations within the concessioner-assigned facilities to protect the public and employees and achieve compliance with current structural fire codes and standards. Additional improvements such as food and beverage service reconfiguration at Jackson Lake Lodge and additional amenities at campgrounds are needed to improve the visitor experience and operational efficiency.

Comments and Issues

Comments are encouraged on the components of the proposed actions outlined above. We also encourage other relevant comments related to commercial visitor services under concession contract CC-GRTE001. Additional opportunities for public involvement will be provided later in the environmental compliance process. The NPS preliminarily envisions assessing impacts on health and human safety, wildlife, cultural resources, and visitor use and experience.

Anticipated Schedule

The public scoping period for this project will occur from February 4 through March 5, 2020, during which time public comments are encouraged. A second opportunity to comment will occur when the environmental assessment is published in spring 2020.

To learn more about the *CC-GRTE001 Concessions Services Environmental Assessment* and submit comments online, visit: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grte-001>. You may also submit comments by mail to

Grand Teton National Park
CC-GRTE001 Concession Services EA
P.O. Box 170
Moose, WY 83012

Thank you for your interest and participation.