

CHAPTER 5: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Scoping

External (public) scoping was conducted to inform various agencies and the public about the proposal to prepare a plan to guide future wireless communications services in Yellowstone National Park and to generate input on the preparation of this Environmental Assessment. The scoping effort began on July 13, 2006, with a press release, mailing to interested parties, and posting of a scoping newsletter on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. Three public open houses were held in August 2006, one each in Idaho Falls, Idaho; Bozeman, Montana; and Cody, Wyoming. Three open houses were held in the park in late August at the Lake, Old Faithful, and the Mammoth developed areas. The 50-day scoping period ended on August 31, 2006.

A total of 107 written comments were received through mailed letters (17), mailed park forms (22), and through PEPC (68). No comments were received from state or federal agencies. Scoping comments are discussed further in Chapter 1, *Purpose and Need*.

Federal Agencies

A copy of this EA will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, to allow for consultation as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. This will occur during the public review period of this EA.

State Agencies

The park will submit this EA to the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office for their review and comment for compliance with Section 106 Consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Native American Groups

A letter and project newsletter were mailed to Yellowstone's 26 affiliated tribes and 47 other potentially interested tribes on July 24, 2006, to solicit concerns and comments for the proposed project. The park received a letter from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, South Dakota, on August 16, 2006, requesting that the park keep them informed of the project progress, immediately cease work and notify them in the event that human remains or archeological items are discovered, and to forward them a copy of the EA. The park will notify the 73 tribes of the availability of the draft EA and will forward a copy to any tribe requesting it.

Internal Scoping

Internal scoping was conducted by an interdisciplinary team in Yellowstone National Park. Interdisciplinary team members met regularly throughout the course of this planning process to discuss the purpose and need for the project; various alternatives; potential environmental impacts; past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects that may have cumulative effects; and possible mitigation measures. The team also gathered background information and discussed public outreach for the project. Over the course of the project, team members have conducted individual site visits to view and evaluate the potential facility sites.

Environmental Assessment Review and List of Recipients

The Environmental Assessment was released for public review on September 16, 2008. To inform the public of the availability of the Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect, the National Park Service published and distributed a letter and press release to various agencies, tribes, and members

of the public on the park's mailing list, and developed a press release for publication in local newspapers. Copies of the Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect will be provided to interested individuals, upon request. Copies of the document will also be available for review on the Internet at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yell>.

The Environmental Assessment will be on public review for a 45-day public comment period ending October 31, 2008. During this time, the public is encouraged to submit their written comments to the National Park Service at the address provided at the beginning of this document. Following the close of the comment period, all public comments will be reviewed and analyzed, prior to the release of a decision document. The National Park Service will issue responses to substantive comments received during the public comment period, and will make appropriate changes to the Environmental Assessment, as needed.

List of Preparers and Reviewers

- Eleanor Clark, Chief, Comprehensive Planning and Design, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Kaelyn Johnson, Communications Manager, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Tim Klukas, Prescribed Fire Manager, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Chris Lehnertz, Deputy Superintendent, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Suzanne Lewis, Superintendent, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Doug Madsen, Outdoor Recreation Planner, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Tom Olliff, Chief, Yellowstone Center for Resources, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Dan Reinhart, Supervisory Resource Management Specialist, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Mike Reynolds, Telecommunications Supervisor, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- PJ White, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Julie York, (former) Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park

Consultants (provided information):

- Mike Angermeier, Landscape Architect, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Shan Burson, Acoustic Ecologist, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Herb Dawson, Historic Architect, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Erik Hendrickson, (former) Project Manager, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Ann Johnson, Archeologist, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Kerry Murphy, Wildlife Biologist, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Al Nash, Public Affairs Officer, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Vern Nye, Telecommunications Specialist, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Zehra Osman, Landscape Architect, NPS, Yellowstone National Park
- Jo Suderman, Exhibit Technician, National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park