

# Yellowstone National Park

Wyoming and Montana

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



*Washed out road along the Gardner River*

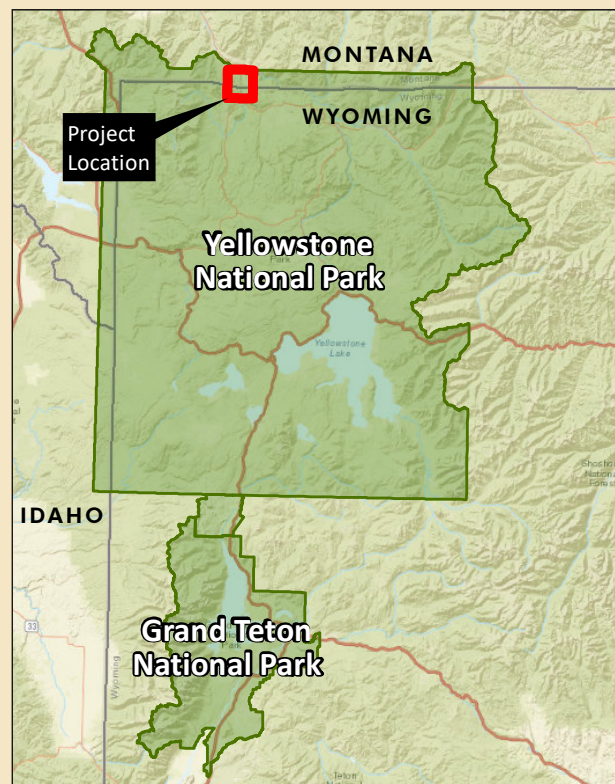
## Yellowstone North Entrance Road February 2024

### Project Overview

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, is considering construction of a new permanent North Entrance Road (project) in Yellowstone National Park (Park). The goal is to have a road that will be more resilient to floods and other natural hazards and will protect natural and cultural resources.

This road and the Northeast Entrance are open year-round and serve as the only winter vehicle access in and out of the Park. After temporarily closing to regular visitor traffic on June 13, a temporary road re-opened to the public on October 30, 2022.

The NPS will continue to explore a range of ideas until a proposed action is developed for public review in the NEPA document (Environmental Assessment (EA) expected) to be published later this summer.





## NEPA Compliance

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to evaluate the environmental impacts of their proposed actions. Currently, the Park is in the pre-NEPA phase of environmental analysis. The Park will prepare a NEPA document (likely an environmental assessment [EA]), following the pre-NEPA phase of the project, for public review. Following the public review of the environmental analysis, the Park will prepare a decision document for the project.

## Purpose and Need for the Project

The purpose of the proposed action is to restore reliable long-term access to and from the Park's North Entrance while making it resilient to future floods and other natural hazards and protecting natural and cultural resources. Action is needed because the North Entrance Road failed after the catastrophic flooding event in June 2022. The North Entrance Road provides vehicular access between Gardiner and Mammoth Hot Springs for Park staff, visitors, and

Cook City residents, and serves as the second most popular entrance to the Park and the only entrance open year-round. The North Entrance Road also provides critical access for emergency vehicles.

## Preliminary Alternatives/ Alignment Development

The Park has developed three preliminary alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the project which will be analyzed in the environmental assessment. Each alignment is proposed to be 30 feet wide.

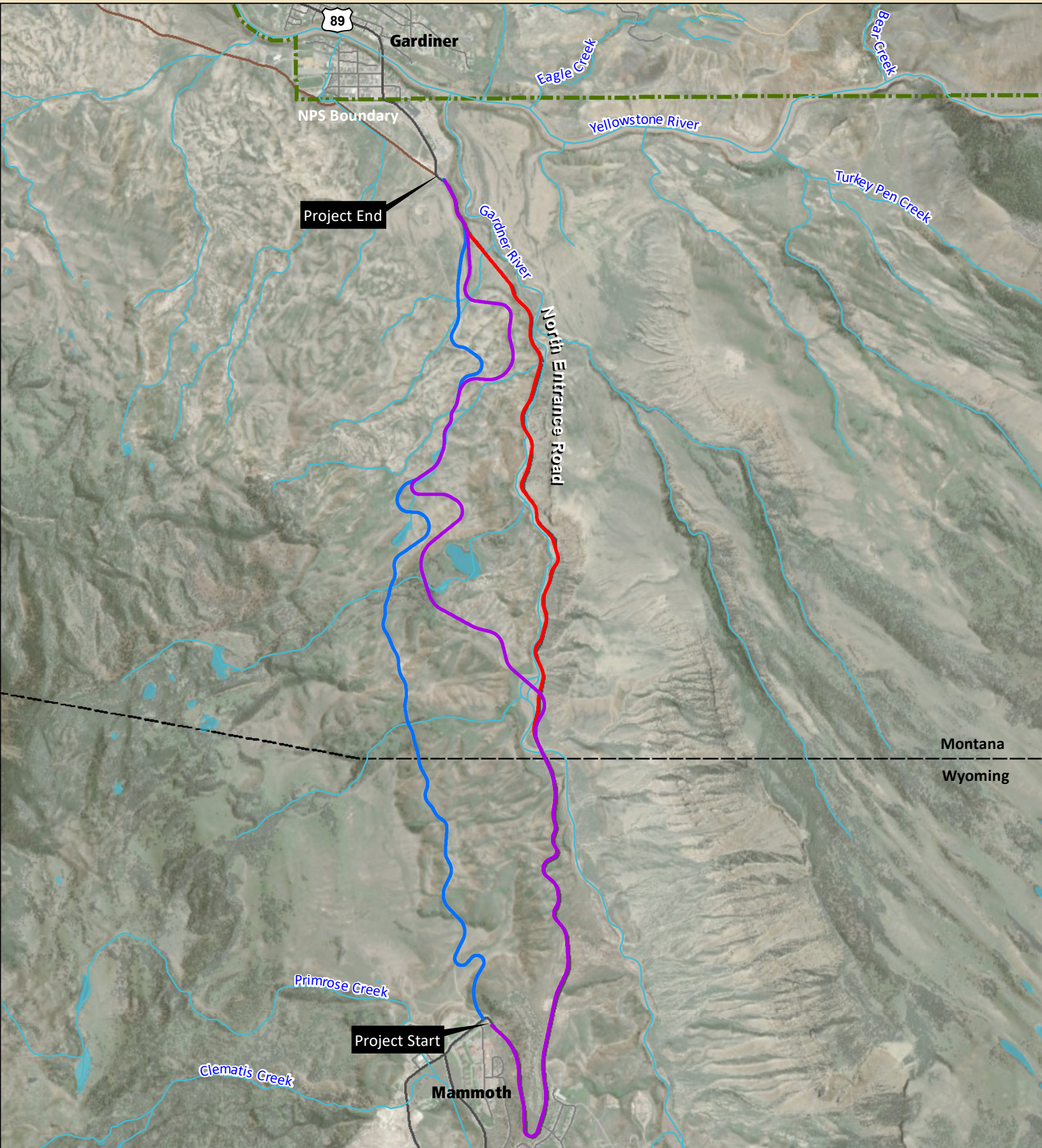
- Scientific analyses and engineering are being used to inform preliminary alternatives considered.
- The final selected action (alternative) will be detailed in the decision document.
- The NPS will continue to explore a range of ideas until a proposed action is developed for public review in the NEPA document (EA expected) to be published later this summer.



*North Entrance Road*



# Preliminary Alternatives



- Alternative 1 – Canyon Alignment
- Alternative 2 – OGR Alignment
- Alternative 3 – Center Alignment

Yellowstone National Park North Entrance Road



# Preliminary Alternatives

The Park has developed three preliminary alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the project and will analyze the environmental impacts of the following alternatives. Each alignment is proposed to be 30 feet wide.

## Alternative 1: Canyon Alignment

This corridor follows the pre-flood North Entrance Road alignment and depends heavily on structures through the Gardner River Canyon. The first river crossing coming north out of Mammoth Hot Springs is the location of the existing Boiling River Bridge, which would be replaced with a longer and higher profile bridge. At the site of the first major road embankment washout from the 2022 flood event, a multispan bridge structure is proposed to parallel the river channel, while avoiding the failing east side slope, debris flow chutes, and landslide toe on the west side. The road would transition into a rock-shed structure (approximately 1,000 feet) to protect the road from the rockfall hazard along the east bank of the Gardner River before making the final bridge crossing toward Gardiner. The existing Bin Wall structure, past the final river crossing, would be retained and reinforced.

## Alternative 2: Old Gardiner Road (OGR) Alignment

This corridor follows the alignment of the current temporary North Entrance Road from Mammoth Hot Springs to Gardiner while widening it from its current 22 feet to 30 feet. Existing retaining and drainage structures would be replaced or enlarged to fit the wider road. Some of the tighter curves would also be widened to improve safety.

## Alternative 3: Center Alignment

This corridor follows the pre-flood North Entrance Road alignment for 2 miles north out of Mammoth Hot Springs, first crossing the Gardner River with a longer and higher Boiling River Bridge, then continuing along the previous North Entrance Road to China Gardens, where a new bridge structure would provide a second crossing of the Gardner River. After the second bridge, the new road alignment would continue in a northwestern direction and pass west of Slide Lake, where it would converge with the current North Entrance Road for a short 0.4-mile segment before diverging northeast back toward the pre-flood North Entrance Road into Gardiner.

# Schedule

Key milestones in the pre-NEPA and NEPA process:

Pre-NEPA Civic Engagement Meetings (Webinars)	February 12 and February 14, 2024	We are here
Public Comment Period	February 12 through March 13, 2024	
Prepare Pre-NEPA Documentation and Conduct Resource Surveys	Spring/Summer 2024	
Publish NEPA Document (assumes EA) for public review	Fall 2024	
Public Meetings (Webinars)	Fall 2024	
Publish Decision Document	Early 2025	

Please see the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) project page <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/NorthEntranceRoad> for the meeting link and project updates.





## How do I comment and participate in the process?

Please submit your comments online at NPS's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/NorthEntranceRoad>

Comments may also be hand delivered to the Park's headquarters in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, or mailed to:

### Yellowstone Center for Resources

Attn: North Entrance Road  
Yellowstone National Park  
P.O. Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Comments will not be accepted by phone or e-mail. We strongly encourage you to submit your comments through PEPC. Simply select "Yellowstone NP" from the drop-down box and follow the link for the North Entrance Road.

## You are invited! Come join us for a virtual public meeting/webinar

Yellowstone National Park invites the public to learn about and provide input on the North Entrance Road Project by way of virtual public meetings on February 12 and February 14, 2024, and a 30-day public comment period that begins on February 12, 2024. The goals of this outreach effort are to engage and solicit ideas from various agencies, stakeholders, and the public during early phases of the development of the project and associated environmental compliance process.

During the civic engagement meetings, three broad road alignment alternatives will be presented along with two video flyovers to explain the damage, environmental challenges, constraints, and opportunities of each alignment. Meeting details include:

### Webinar 1:

February 12, 2024, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. MST

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83341858193>

Webinar ID: 833 4185 8193

Audio: 720 707 2699

### Webinar 2:

February 14, 2024, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. MST

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84390842047>

Webinar ID: 843 9084 2047

Audio: 720 707 2699

**Thank you for your interest and participation.**