



## Lake Area Comprehensive Plan

Dear Friends,

Yellowstone National Park (YNP) has begun developing a long range comprehensive plan for the Lake developed area, which includes Fishing Bridge, Bridge Bay, and Lake Village. This plan will focus on protecting the area's resources while responding to changing visitor and resource needs and conditions.

**We invite your involvement early in this process to give you an opportunity to assist in developing the comprehensive plan. Your comments will help us protect the fundamental resources and values important to the Lake Area.**

Visitors to the Lake Area experience the changing character and scenery of Yellowstone Lake, which showcases views across the water into remote areas of the park. The intersection of lake, river, and land provides a diversity of plant and animal life, including the Yellowstone cutthroat trout and the grizzly bear. This wealth of resources has provided connections to human occupation and inspiration for more than 11,000 years. More recently, this area plays an important role in the interpretation of the park's long history, including the evolution of fisheries management and wildlife conservation. Also of note, the Lake Hotel will be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016, coinciding with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service. With its rich cultural and natural resources, the Lake Area continues to be a destination for visitors seeking serenity and solitude.

As facilities age and resources change, Yellowstone National Park seeks a plan to guide future decisions regarding preservation of park resources and enhancing visitor needs. Thank you for your participation in this effort.

**Suzanne Lewis**  
Superintendent



*Yellowstone National Park's Lake Area is characterized by tranquility and a sense of history.*

### What is the Purpose of the Plan?

This plan will provide a framework for future decisions that:

- Preserve important cultural, natural, and scenic resources within the Lake developed area.
- Protect wildlife habitat and aquatic systems.
- Determine ways to enhance the visitor experience at the Lake Area.
- Establish desired future conditions for the resources and visitor experience in the Lake Area.
- Develop guidelines to respond to changing visitor and resource needs.

### Your involvement is important!

Please see the last page for information on how to send your comments or suggestions for consideration in this plan.

## Why is this Action Needed?

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- **Protect Area Habitat:** The Lake Area is prime habitat for a wide range of animal and plant communities; it is the fundamental mission of the park that future development avoid impacts to these important natural resources.
- **Enrich the Visitor Experience:** The Fishing Bridge RV Park and Bridge Bay Campground sites need to be evaluated based on updated standards. There are several historic buildings that need to be evaluated for adaptive use in order to better serve the visitor.
- **Enhance Vehicular and Pedestrian Circulation:** Existing circulation patterns complicate access to facilities in the area; vehicles enter from the back instead of the front of the Lake Hotel. The lakefront, which is currently partially edged with a roadway, is a scenic resource area that may require options to reduce impacts. Pedestrian connections, viewing opportunities, and access to the water is needed for visitors to further enjoy the lakefront and walk between lakeside facilities.
- **Improve Infrastructure:** Aging utilities in the area need upgrades. The area also lacks sufficient consolidated employee housing and year-round office space. A fire camp location is needed to serve the east side of the park where fire may threaten facilities in this area.



## What is the Timeline for the Lake Area Plan/Environmental Assessment (EA)?

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Project milestones include:

- Public Scoping – July 6 – August 6, 2010
  - Lake Mess Hall, July 20, 2010, 6-8pm
  - The Holiday Inn, Cody, WY, July 21, 2010, 6-8pm
  - Bozeman Public Library, Bozeman, MT, July 28, 2010, 6-8pm
- Preparation of EA – Fall 2011
- Public Review of EA – Spring 2011
- Analysis of Public Comments – Summer 2011
- Preparation of the Plan, environmental compliance and the expected announcement of the decision –Fall 2011

## Resources & Concerns

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The Plan/EA will analyze potential impacts to a number of resources, including:

- Geology, soils, and vegetation
- Wildlife and species of special concern
- Water resources, floodplains, and wetlands
- Cultural resources, including tribal values
- Air quality, night sky, soundscapes
- Visitor use and experience
- Scenic resources
- Park operations
- Public health and safety

## What are the Plan Objectives?

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What does the NPS wish to accomplish with this plan?

### Visitor Use

- Provide the visitor with opportunities to experience and be inspired by the Lake Area's resources and values while ensuring resource protection
- Increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the Lake Area's resources
- Provide for vehicle and pedestrian circulation that addresses visitor use for the area while protecting resources

### Public Health & Safety

- Seek to manage the Lake Area for the safety of all visitors and employees
  - Provide safe access to the lakeshore
  - Prevent/reduce potential interactions between humans and wildlife

### Resources

- Protect the Lake Area's natural, cultural, and scenic resources, including:
  - Diverse habitat associated with the intersection of lake, river, and land-based communities supporting extensive wildlife and native fisheries
  - Exceptional cultural resources such as the Lake Hotel, Fishing Bridge Museum, and rich human history
  - Unobstructed views across Yellowstone Lake
  - Protect the Lake Area's naturally-occurring sounds and dark night sky

### Park Management/Operations

- Provide for replacement of aging facilities and infrastructure to better support visitor services





## Your Input Counts

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Suggestions and comments from the public are solicited during the public scoping period. This is the time when any interested individual, organization, or agency can provide relevant information or suggestions for consideration in this plan. Here are some questions to consider:

- *While visiting the Lake Village, Fishing Bridge, or Bridge Bay areas, what sights, sounds, and experiences are important to you?*
- *What are your additional issues/concerns about the plan that you think we should consider?*
- *Do you have other ideas, comments, or suggestions for us to consider during the development of the Lake Area Plan/EA?*

Written comments may be submitted through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, hand-delivered to the park's headquarters in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, or mailed to:

Comprehensive Planning & Design  
Lake Area Comprehensive Plan  
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 Lake Area Comprehensive Plan.

***All public comments must be received or postmarked by midnight, MST August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010.***



*Please note that names and addresses of people who comment become part of the public record. We will make all submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*