

## GRAND TETON

### Park hides cell tower plans from public, enviro group says

*Published: Monday, March 26, 2018*

An environmental group is accusing Grand Teton National Park of keeping the public in the dark about the potential for more than 50 miles of fiber-optic cable and new cell towers in the park.

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility says it obtained information about the plan via a public records request.

Environmentalists say national parks have been putting in cell towers and cables without much public notice. Many cringe at the thought of cell reception in some of the last wild places in the country, while others say service makes the parks safer.

"We're not against cell towers per se," said PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch. "We want to make sure they don't needlessly sacrifice park values such as serenity, soundscape and viewsheds."

The group filed a lawsuit Thursday in a Washington federal court, saying the National Park Service didn't respond to its request for more records about Grand Teton's cell tower plans.

Park spokesman Andrew White would not comment on pending litigation but said Grand Teton solicited public comments over the summer on plans to add cell towers (Mead Gruver, [AP/Billings Gazette](#), March 23). — NB

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