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Wireless Telecommunications Committee

Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Location: Tech Services Conference Room

Time: 8 A.M.

WTC Members in Attendance: Bret De Young, Supv. Technology Services

Dustin Sene, Radio Technician

Dan Reinhart, Resource Mgmt. Ops. Coordinator

Doug Madsen, Compliance Outdoor Recreation Planner

Proposals:

Yellowstone Association Wireless Internet – It was discovered in February that the Yellowstone Association installed Wild Blue internet service and a wireless router for guests and employee internet service at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch. Apparently they were not aware of the wireless plan and the proposal process. The Committee will reach out to YA and inform them of the Wireless EA procedures. Committee agreed to have YA submit a retroactive proposal and provide pictures and details of the site to be sure it is consistent with the Wireless EA and to clarify the scope and breadth of the installation.

The Wireless Committee has discussed proposal and approval requirements IAW with the EA to Concessioners, and NPS through several forums, but missed park cooperators such as the YA.

USGS YVO Webcam– Jake Lowenstern of the YVO informed the committee of a future proposal to move the YVO webcam from Lake Butte to Biscuit Basin. The 12/20/09 approved proposal states that the YVO will notify the Committee prior to moving the webcam to seek park input.

Informational Updates

Washburn Antenna Migration Engineering: A Scope of Work regarding the three proposals that will need to be submitted for approval is being assembled with the help of the Procurement office. No formal documentation is needed regarding conservation planning and environmental impact analysis, Reference Interim Guidance, Director's Order 12 Categorical Exclusions Section 3.3V which states "Preparation of internal reports, plans, studies and other documents containing recommendations for action which NPS develops preliminary to the process of preparing a specific Service proposal or set of alternatives for decision." Contractor would hold meetings for public input on the decision of which of the three proposals should be used. Contract should be out by fall and the public meetings next spring. The committee should be involved in the pre-solicitation meeting.

Lake Cellular WTF Site: Speaking with solicitor and attorney in DC regarding whether or not an Federal Register Notice (FRN) should be completed and what language should be used. If solicitor advises not to do the FRN would request a letter from them explaining why FRN should not be done. Committee believes the FRN should be done. An SF 299 was received from Verizon but they are not following the timeline because they are not able to get bandwidth to run the tower at this time. Construction on the tower will not start until bandwidth is available.

PMIS Spending plan for FY11 and Bunsen Peak CEV: After some adjustments, park is still over budget in FLREA project requests for FY11. For now, superintendent agreed to let things settle with the cuts we made so far (these and similar from other divisions) and continue to refine our programming for this year. Squad will meet again to review the status of our FLREA budget plan in about 2-3 months to see what has changed. If nothing, then we'll have to make some tough decisions across the park about what projects to cancel. Based on this and technical aspects (logistics with weight for helicopter) the Bunsen Peak CEV will be postponed for FY11.

Qwest Fiber PSC to Gardiner: On February 2nd the Church Universal Triumphant finalized the easement for Qwest to cross their land. Forest Service easement should be completed in about 3 weeks. The