

The majority of respondents' comments favored limiting wireless communications to park developed areas, opposed cellular service being added at Lake, favored reducing or consolidating unneeded and/or visually obtrusive wireless infrastructure, favored protecting visual resources, opposed adding WiFi to historic lobbies, opposed adding webcams to the backcountry, did not think the proposed Mt. Washburn antenna platform was acceptable, and that cell phones created noise pollution, thus reducing solitude. Some comments objected to any wireless coverage for visitor convenience. A few felt that cell service within the park should be expanded.

A total of five public review and comment meetings were held in October 2008 during the public comment period. One at the Public Library in Bozeman, Montana on October 1 (17 attended), and one at the Forest Service Office in Idaho Falls (5 attended), Idaho on October 2. Three additional public meetings were held within the park for residents, employees, and concessioners. They occurred on October 14 at Mammoth (8 attended), October 15 at Old Faithful (4 attended), and October 16 at Lake (6 attended).

Substantive comments centered on restricting wireless communications coverage, restricting availability of WiFi, protecting park visual resources, protecting park soundscapes, and concerns for health and safety. Responses to these comments are attached to this FONSI. Responses to these comments resulted in slight modifications to the text of the EA that are listed in the Errata Sheet. Modifications are also summarized in the Preferred Alternative section above. The modifications are clarifying in nature, are intended to better meet the purpose and need of the EA and do not have bearing on the determination of significant impact. The FONSI and errata sheets will be sent to all who commented.

CONCLUSION

As described above, the preferred alternative does not constitute an action meeting the criteria that normally require preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The preferred alternative will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Environmental impacts that could occur are limited in context and intensity, with generally adverse impacts that range from localized to widespread, short- to long-term, and negligible to moderate. There are no unmitigated adverse effects on public health, public safety, threatened or endangered species, sites or districts listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or other unique characteristics of the region. No highly uncertain or controversial impacts, unique or unknown risks, significant cumulative effects, or elements of precedence were identified. Implementation of the action will not violate any federal, state, or local environmental protection law.

Based on the foregoing, it has been determined that an EIS is not required for this project and thus will not be prepared.

Recommended: *Stephan Lewis* 4.3.09
Superintendent Date

Approved: *for* *Laura E. Joss* 4/7/09
Regional Director, Intermountain Region Date