



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yellowstone National Park

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Yellowstone National Park News Release

National Park Service Approves Construction Of Cell Tower For Yellowstone's Fishing Bridge And Lake Village

The National Park Service has given final approval permitting Verizon Wireless to build a cell tower to serve the Fishing Bridge and Lake Village developed areas in Yellowstone National Park.

A Right-of-Way permit clearing the way for construction of the new cell tower was recently approved by John Wessels, the Director of the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service.

Cell phone service originating from inside the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park is currently limited to the Mammoth, Old Faithful, Canyon, Tower-Roosevelt, and Grant developed areas. The Lake developed area is the one additional location in the park where park managers determined new cell phone coverage could be added under the park's 2008 Wireless Communications Services Plan Environmental Assessment and its associated Finding of No Significant Impact.



The new cellular site will be located next to a buried water tank on a 100-foot rise above the Lake Administrative Area and 700 feet below the top of the Elephant Back Ridge. This site already has access via an existing service road and is near existing electric and phone lines. Antennas will be configured to minimize spillover coverage into Yellowstone's backcountry.

The National Park Service previously evaluated the potential visual impacts of a 100-foot tower at the site using weather balloons and a crane. These efforts demonstrated that the tower would not be visible from the nearby Lake Hotel, Fishing Bridge, Lake Lodge Historic Districts, and area hiking trails, but will allow for cell service within the developed area.

The tower will extend 30 feet above the neighboring 70-foot-high average tree canopy, but will not break the skyline views from any popular visitor use areas or roads. The height will benefit the environment by allowing co-location of additional communications equipment while avoiding the need to build new towers for additional communication needs in the future.

This proposed site location and design was released for a 60-day public review and comment period last fall. Those comments and the response to comments as well as additional background on the project may be found on the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/LakeCellularSite>.

- www.nps.gov/yell -

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