

Under Alternative C, *Limited Increase in Wireless Services*, cell phone coverage and WCFs would be allowed at the existing areas (Mammoth, Canyon, Tower-Roosevelt, Old Faithful and Grant developed areas). New cell phone coverage would be allowed at the Lake developed area using temporary or permanent infrastructure and equipment. The cell tower at Old Faithful would be relocated to a site near the water treatment plant when feasible. Viewsheds and safety at Mt. Washburn lookout would be improved by relocating antennas to a new platform tower adjacent to the existing location. Associated equipment would remain in the existing space under the visitor observation deck of the lookout. Obsolete equipment would be removed from Bunsen Peak. Cellular infrastructure originating from Bunsen Peak would be relocated to the Elk Plaza location. New infrastructure would be added on Bunsen Peak to increase the capacity of the data transmission system within the park. The electric transmission line to the summit of Bunsen Peak would remain, but the equipment shed would be replaced with a smaller cabinet-sized weather-proof enclosure to accommodate the FM translation equipment. Guidelines and criteria listed later in this chapter as "common to all action alternatives" would be implemented.

Any new proposals to install additional wireless communications services, repeater sites, or equipment would be reviewed by the park Telecommunications Committee, which is led by the telecommunications specialist and comprised of members from compliance and resource programs. This committee would review each proposal for purpose and need, resource impacts, and adherence to the guidance established by this plan, NPS DO-53, frequency coordination, and permitting by the FCC. The committee would make recommendations to the superintendent regarding the issuance of permits. The committee would also update the criteria established in this plan based on technology changes, make recommendations based on new technology, and document all decisions regarding wireless communications projects.

NPS Radio

The park will upgrade and install new equipment and functions to the NPS radio system as needed to meet changing technology, federal mandates, and park needs. Any new proposals to install additional wireless radio equipment will be reviewed by the park Telecommunications Committee, as described in Alternative B.

Cell phone

Cell phone coverage would remain at Mammoth, Canyon, Tower-Roosevelt, Old Faithful and Grant developed areas. New cell phone coverage would be allowed at the Lake developed area. Three potential locations have been considered for a new antenna mounting structure to serve the Lake developed area. These three sites include: the existing lattice tower (which houses a microwave dish used by Qwest) located just north and west of the Fishing Bridge Junction (Fig. 5), near the entrance to the wastewater treatment facility (Fig. 6), or near the existing water tank located to the west of the Lake administrative area (Fig. 7). Antennas for this new cell coverage at Lake would be configured to minimize spillover coverage into Yellowstone's backcountry. All three potential sites have power and road access. None of the sites are located in recommended wilderness. All sites would be hidden from view of developed areas, the Grand Loop Road, and area hiking trails. The park would evaluate other sites to serve the Lake developed area so they meet the guidelines and criteria listed in the "Guidelines and Criteria for Siting, Design, Construction and Operations" section of this chapter.

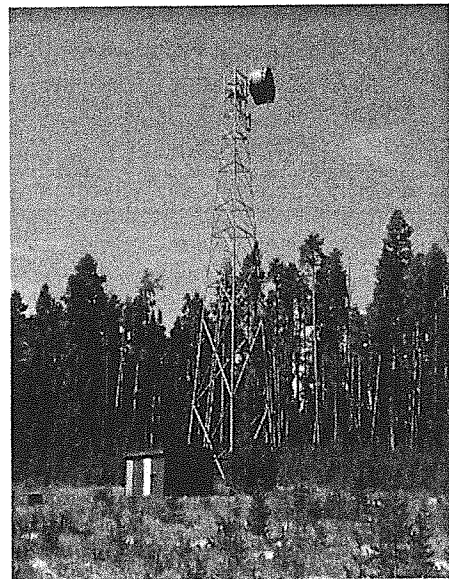


Figure 5 Existing Lattice Tower, NW of Fishing Bridge