



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming 82190

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H3015(YELL)

CERTIFIED

OCT 29 2013

Ms. Mary Hopkins
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer
Barrett Building, 3rd Floor
2301 Central Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Subject: Proposed Antenna Relocation and Replacement, Mt. Washburn Fire Lookout (HS-0290; #48YE946)

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

Yellowstone National Park proposes to relocate and replace telecommunication antennas on and adjacent to the Mt. Washburn Fire Lookout. This is an undertaking per 36CFR800, the implementing regulations for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and we seek your review and concurrence with our determination of effect.

The Mt. Washburn Fire Lookout was constructed in 1939 and sits atop Mt. Washburn in the north central portion of the park. The building still functions as a fire lookout but has also long functioned as a telecommunications hub due to its accessibility and line of sight relative to developed areas in the park. The lookout has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register and is significant under Criterion A for its association with the history of the National Park Service administration during the New Deal Era, and under Criterion C as representative of the evolving design of fire lookouts by the National Park Service.

The park proposes to remove two 136-inch high by 2.6-inch diameter "omni directional" antennas currently affixed to the northeast and northwest corner of the fire lookout building and mount three 72.7-inch high by 11.9-inch wide by 7.1-inch depth "panel" antennas in other locations (see enclosure 1 for photo comparisons of these antenna types). One panel antenna would be mounted on the existing wooden H-frame behind the Mt. Washburn structure. Another would be mounted on the non-historic canvas structure on the front of the building and one would replace the existing omni-antenna handrail on the northeast corner of the building. In sum, two existing pole-type antennas on the building would be replaced with three new panel antennas. Please see enclosure 2 (overall site plan) and enclosure 3 (proposed elevation) for locations of existing and proposed antennas.

The existing omni-antennas emit radio frequencies in all directions, causing spillover of cellular coverage and electromagnetic exposure for Mt. Washburn residents and visitors. The

replacement panel antennas would strengthen cellular signals in the Canyon developed area; improve safety by directing energy away from the fire lookout residence and visitors; and reduce spillover of cellular signals into the backcountry. The Wireless Communications Services Plan was completed in 2009 and considered upgrades to the Mt. Washburn equipment (pages 1-3, 27-28, and 102). A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed in April of 2009. This project meets the objectives of the FONSI by improving the operational effectiveness of wireless communications in the park, while at the same time reducing visual intrusions on visitors and the historic structure and addressing the safety and security aspects of the site's proximity to a highly used visitor destination.

As you can see, the panel antennas are shorter than the existing omni-antennas. Additionally, the proposed changes would not be noticeable from adjacent portions of the Grand Loop Road Historic District. The park has determined that the replacement and relocation of antennas on the Mt. Washburn Fire Lookout would not adversely affect any historic properties.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Tobin Roop, Chief, Branch of Cultural Resources, at (307) 344-2224, or Bret DeYoung, Chief of Telecommunications, at (307) 344-2070.

Sincerely,

Daniel N. Wenk
Superintendent

Enclosures:

1. Photo comparisons of the existing omni-directional antennas and the proposed panel antenna
2. Overall Site Plan
3. Proposed Elevation

bcc: (w/o enclosures)

Central Files

Supt's Files

David Hallac

Tobin Roop

Jennifer Carpenter

Dan Reinhart

Doug Madsen

Lindsay Robb

Bret DeYoung

Dustin Sene

YCR Files

No Reading Files

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