

Alternative B: No Action

Existing cellular communications equipment currently operated at the Grant and Old Faithful sites would remain in service. All activity at the site would continue at the current level. No additional buildings or antenna towers would be constructed or installed. No additional traffic on the access roads and no additional impacts to wildlife in the area above existing conditions would occur.

Communications in these areas would continue to have less than adequate coverage, and lapses in service may still occur.

Alternative C: Western Wireless Proposed Alternate Location for Old Faithful

Old Faithful

The alternate site is located at coordinates Latitude 44 25 11 by Longitude 110 34 29. An additional 8 feet by 20 feet building would be placed near the existing 8 feet by 20 feet MetaComm cell site building (the existing MetaComm building lacks sufficient space to allow for co-location). The antenna will be installed on the existing tower structure presently used by both US West Telecommunications Company and MetaComm Cellular. The NPS long-term plans are to move this existing telecommunications site to the current maintenance area. This move would require extensive planning and site development. Western Wireless is willing to enter into negotiations with all parties concerned on this possible relocation of the Old Faithful buildings/tower site.

Grant Village

The same as in Alternative A.

Alternative D: Preferred Plan

This alternative incorporates a number of mitigating measures into Western Wireless's Proposed Plan (Alternative A). Construction of both facilities would occur after July 15th and before snow in the area makes construction unfeasible (typically late October).

Old Faithful

This alternative proposes to construct a monopole tower at a height of not more than ten feet above the existing tree tops. The tower would be camouflaged to appear in texture and color as the surrounding burned tree snags. The color of the two antenna mounted on the tower would be of the same color as the monopole. The equipment shelter would be placed on the south side of the crest of the hill. No part of the building would be visible from public view. The color of this building would blend with surrounding colors of the hillside. All color choices would be subject to approval from the chief of the branch of landscape architecture in Yellowstone National Park.

Grant

This alternative proposes a monopole tower no more than 20 feet in height above the existing treetops that are in the immediate vicinity of the proposed site. Co-location between Western Wireless and MetaComm would occur on this tower and in the equipment shelter. Color of the tower would blend with the surrounding vegetation and would be subject to approval from the chief of the branch of landscape architecture in Yellowstone National Park.