

Avoid spillover cell coverage into backcountry areas.

Comment Text: What specific steps will Yellowstone take to minimize "spillover" from each cellular site in the park? What if the steps are ineffective?

Comment Text: Nor does the EA specify or explain what steps YNP will take to minimize "spillover" from cellular sites in the park.

Comment Text: ensure no unintended cell-coverage spillover in areas managed as wilderness

Comment Text: while the dEA makes a commitment to 'minimize' spillover coverage in the backcountry, the Lake region is surrounded by 'backcountry', and therefore the unintended coverage area will likely conflict with YNP's goal of not providing cell coverage to park backcountry

Comment Text: Backcountry areas need to be maintained as wilderness and must be free of cell phones.

Leave a developed area of the park without cellular or wireless service to allow visitors a choice.

Comment Text: Why not continue to have one "developed" part of Yellowstone without coverage, so we can compare experiences in different parts of the park?

Comment Text: Both Old Faithful and Mammoth already have, and will continue to have, wireless communications access. Therefore, Lake is the only 'comparable' historic site currently with no wireless access. Based on that aspect alone, it would seem critical that Yellowstone would want to maintain at least one of these comparable historic areas free of wireless communications disturbance.

Specifically state the limitations of proposed new cell phone coverage for YNP.

Comment Text: We note that the only place within the draft EA where it is explicitly stated that new cell coverage will be limited to Lake is in table 2, p. 19. We ask that the description of the preferred alternative explicitly state the limitations of new cell phone coverage as well.

(Response) The NPS considers the Wireless Plan/EA as a crucial step in ensuring that cell coverage remains limited in Yellowstone National Park. The purpose and need of the Wireless Plan/EA is, first and foremost, to protect park resources and values by limiting the types and locations of wireless services and infrastructure. The preferred alternative does restrict cell coverage in Yellowstone to meet this purpose and need. The preferred alternative only allows cell phone coverage in the primary developments of the park. One new cell phone site within the park would serve the Lake developed area, the only primary developed area of the park yet without coverage. Allowing cell coverage at Lake meets the Wireless Plan/EA objective to improve operational effectiveness of wireless communications in the park and safety for park visitors, employees, residents, contractors and concessioners. Cell phone coverage would not be promoted or available along park roads outside developed areas, or promoted or available in any of the backcountry. While it is possible for some of these areas to gain coverage due to spillover of the signal, it is not the intent of the alternative. Guidelines and criteria established in the Plan/EA will help to minimize spillover as much as possible.

Wireless services are discussed in the Wireless Communications Services Plan/EA in two ways: first, cell phone coverage is prescribed in the plan, meaning that if coverage in a certain area is not discussed, it would not occur without an additional NEPA document and public notification; second,