

Courtesy Signing

Signing and protocols would be developed to help guide visitors in the courteous use of cell phones and other portable communications technologies.

to the top of Bunsen Peak to increase the capacity of voice and data transmission throughout the park.

While this system has not yet been designed, it would most likely use a powered microwave dish to relay additional bandwidth through an interim point to Mt. Washburn, and then be redistributed to the developed areas of the park.

Applications to the FCC for additional radio frequency spectrum would have to be completed and approved in order for this to occur. The existing electric power line to the summit would remain in service for this purpose, if and when it occurs. Any new proposals to install additional cell equipment will be reviewed by the park Telecommunications Committee, as described in Alternative B.

Courtesy signing and protocols would be developed and installed to help guide visitors in use of cell phones and other portable communications technologies. The wireless communications provider would be required to fund outreach projects to educate visitors in adhering to these protocols.

Resource Monitoring

This alternative would provide for the implementation of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory (YVO) Monitoring Plan, with the exception that three gauging stations proposed in the Bechler area and the Upper Yellowstone River would not be installed to reduce wilderness impacts. Five proposed new seismic stations, would be allowed in this alternative; four are in park developed areas or road corridors (East Entrance, Northeast Entrance, U.S. 191 north of West Yellowstone, MT and Roaring Mountain–Obsidian Cliff road corridor), and one is within recommended wilderness in the Thorofare region in the southeast corner of Yellowstone. Because the proposed seismic station at Thorofare is within the park's recommended wilderness, a Minimum Requirement Analysis would be completed and reviewed by the park Wilderness Committee prior to installation. Three new stream gauging stations are proposed for installation in the park (one on the Gibbon River near Norris, one on the Firehole River between Upper and Midway Geyser basins, and one on the Yellowstone River between Otter Creek and Chittenden Bridge). Gas monitoring stations would be deployed temporarily (up to one year) while gas monitoring strategies continue to be developed. All other proposals in the YVO Monitoring Plan are equipment upgrades to existing facilities.

Existing RAWS sites within the park would be maintained. A new RAWS would be installed in the northeast portion of the park near the Warm Springs trailhead. Manual weather stations located at Mammoth, Old Faithful, and Canyon would be replaced with RAWS over time, and as feasible. Existing tower structures and weather collecting sites would be used for upgrades. The Bechler RAWS would be upgraded and the existing guyed tower would be replaced with a platform and tripod structure that does not require guy wires. The National Weather Service proposal to upgrade existing automated weather stations at Mammoth, Tower-Roosevelt, Old Faithful and East Entrance would be proposed to monitor flash flood, storm development, and landslide conditions. A site at East Entrance would be determined using the siting criteria found later in this chapter. A temporary RAWS located on Hoyt Peak to monitor avalanche conditions on the East Entrance Road near Sylvan Pass would be made permanent.

Any new research permit application that proposes to install wireless telecommunications equipment would be reviewed by the park's Research Permit Committee and Telecommunications Committee as described in Alternatives A and B, respectively. If a proposed research project might have impacts greater than negligible or minor, then the permit application would additionally be reviewed by the park's Resource Compliance Team as described in Alternative A. If a research project is proposed