

The park will consult with the Wyoming SHPO and utilize the best expertise possible to try and reach an appropriate design for a Mt. Washburn wireless communications facility. The design will consider standards submitted by the Wyoming SHPO during Section 106 consultation.

Mt. Washburn will continue to serve as the primary communications hub for the park, and will continue to have multiple antenna, dishes, and electronics equipment at the site. A final design for a mountain top facility will be available to the public prior to any substantial changes being implemented.

The Old Faithful cell tower will be relocated to an area near the Old Faithful water treatment plant when it becomes feasible, to reduce the overall visibility of the tower. This will not occur before the current right-of-way (ROW) agreement with the cell phone provider expires in 2009. This relocation could result in a slight decrease in service near the Old Faithful developed area along a few miles of the Grand Loop Road.

The equipment and antennas associated with cell phone service atop Bunsen Peak will be relocated to the current Elk Plaza. New infrastructure will be added 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 will likely use powered microwave dishes 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 will likely have to be completed and approved in order for this to occur. The existing electric power line to the summit will 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.

Courtesy signing and protocols will be developed and installed to help guide visitors in use of cell phones and other portable communications technologies. In response to comments Alternative C is further clarified; to reduce annoyances of cell phone usage, courtesy signing and protocols will focus on increasing the distance between visitors enjoying the natural soundscapes and those using cell phones by designating 'cell phone free' zones where possible. Park visitors will be provided this information through such avenues as park interpreters and the park Visitor Guide/Newspaper entitled *Yellowstone Today*. The newspaper will also be amended to show or list areas of the park where cell phone coverage can be expected or not expected.

Resource Monitoring

This alternative will 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 will not be installed, to reduce wilderness impacts. Five proposed new seismic stations will 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. Three new stream gauging stations will be installed 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