



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park  
Wyoming 82190

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A46 (YELL)  
xD5027

JUN 02 2014

Mr. Jeff Ruch  
Executive Director  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility  
2000 P Street, Northwest, Suite 240  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Ruch:

This letter is in response to your April 29, 2014, letter where you requested additional information and updates on Yellowstone's *Wireless Communications Services Plan*. We thank you for recognizing the relevance of the Plan as we ourselves have found it to be a useful tool to protect park resources and values through limiting the types and locations of wireless services and infrastructure in Yellowstone National Park.

**Old Faithful cell tower relocation efforts:** Yellowstone's *Wireless Communications Services Plan Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)* states, "The Old Faithful cell tower will be relocated to an area near the Old Faithful fresh water treatment plant when it becomes feasible, to reduce the overall visibility of the tower." The active right-of-way permit for the existing water tank site contains language that advises the equipment owner to expect to move their equipment within the timeframe of the permit. Since that language was written, the NPS has conducted independent helium balloon tests (at varying heights) and found that equipment visibility would probably increase within the historic district and Upper Geyser Basin if siting at the water treatment plant occurred. Recently, Yellowstone received an application for a right-of-way permit to place a temporary cell on wheels (COW) at the water plant during a summer season. Given that the antenna on the proposed unit is adjustable, Yellowstone may benefit by gaining empirical visibility data that would be useful in determining whether the site is a feasible alternative. Yellowstone will need time to determine if the proposal is consistent with the *Wireless Communications Services Plan*.

**Mount Washburn:** In 2012, Yellowstone contracted with an A&E firm to assist with the conceptual design of a freestanding structure that would facilitate the migration of antennas off the Mount Washburn fire tower. Removal of antennas from the exterior would help protect the structure, restore the exterior integrity, improve equipment performance, and enhance visitor and