

[Quoted text hidden]

De Young, Bret <bret_deyoung@nps.gov>

Tue, Nov 5, 2013 at 1:29 PM

To: "Hallac, Dave" <david_hallac@nps.gov>

Cc: "Campoy, Ana" <Ana.Campoy@wsj.com>, Doug Madsen <doug_madsen@nps.gov>

Bcc: Dan Reinhart <Dan_Reinhart@nps.gov>, "Chief, Branch of Cultural Resources Tobin Roop" <tobin_roop@nps.gov>, Dustin Sene <Dustin_Sene@nps.gov>

Ana and Dave,

Below is the wireless coverage map that was included in Yellowstone's Wireless Communication Services Plan for the preferred alternative C which was adopted in the 2009 Finding of no Significant Impact (FONSI). Coverage is estimated and will vary by service provider and with each individual wireless device.

Currently there are three wireless service providers operating under a special park use right of way permit in Yellowstone. These providers include Verizon Wireless, AT&T, and Union Wireless. Verizon is operating at Mammoth, Old Faithful, Lake, Grant, and Mount Washburn. Union Wireless is operating at Mammoth, Old Faithful, and Grant. AT&T is operating at Mount Washburn. Each provider has different roaming agreements and technology. Visitors should check with their service provider to verify coverage. Each site has voice and messaging service and limited data. Bandwidth to the interior of Yellowstone is delivered by long haul microwave and is limited so slow connections and blocked calls are common during peak visitation periods.

There are five Wireless Communications tower and facility sites under permit within Yellowstone's borders. Service providers share space on one tower at each site. Verizon owns a tower and facilities and has a federal land lease permit at Mammoth, Old Faithful, and Lake. Union owns facilities and leases federal land at Grant and the NPS owns the facilities at Mount Washburn.

I apologize if this is more than what you asked for but a comprehensive coverage map for all carriers is not something the NPS provides at this time. Looking at the Verizon coverage locator on <http://www.verizonwireless.com>, ours appears to be more conservative, but I would argue that it is more accurate. Topography, which we have a lot of, plays a large role in limiting signal propagation. In our park newspaper we state that "cell coverage is limited, please check with your provider for coverage."

Bret De Young
Branch Chief - Technology Services
(NICET #112892)
Yellowstone National Park, WY
Office 307-344-2070
Cell 406-581-2617
bret_deyoung@nps.gov