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**Wireless Telecommunications Committee**

Meeting Minutes from Thursday, November 1, 2012

Location: Tech Services Conference Room

Time: 8:00 A.M.

WTC Members in Attendance: Bret De Young, Supv. Technology Services

Doug Madsen, Compliance Outdoor Recreation Planner

Dan Reinhart, Resource Mgmt. Ops. Coordinator

Dustin Sene, Radio Technician

Tobin Roop, Chief Cultural Resources

**Proposals:**

Verizon Proposals to install LTE Panels at existing sites: Verizon submitted proposals for the Committee to consider the addition of two LTE antennas on each existing tower at Old Faithful, Grant, Washburn, and Mammoth. Committee approved the Elk Plaza site with the contingency that Verizon must demonstrate that bandwidth to the site is available. If a fiber or copper upgrade to the site is required, it must be included in proposal. If this or similar proposals are approved, the Committee must determine if existing policies require the existing right-of-ways will need to be reissued or amended. The Committee was not interested in considering any proposals for interior sites upgrades unless Verizon can prove that service could be turned up immediately.

**Business:**

Lake Cell Tower Project Press Release and Public Comment on CE: Public Comments are due on November 16 for the CE that was prepared to address a minor change to the 2008 Wireless Communications Services Plan (WCSP) and to amend the 2009 FONSI that indicated that the park would issue a notice in the Federal Register. A FOIA received requesting specific SHPO correspondence has a due date in the Superintendent's office of November 6. The Committee discussed how comments would be processed. The Committee will wait until all comments are in, code them, evaluate substance in relation to the CE and Verizon proposal and will make a recommendation to the Superintendent regarding how respond and proceed with Verizon's application. A summary report of the comments will be posted on PEPC. The Committee will meet shortly after the comment period ends.

**Informational Updates:**

Fiber Infrastructure in Yellowstone: Verizon Wireless has contracted with Syringa networks of Boise, to provide an estimate of all costs including compliance and engineering drawings to deliver a fiber backbone to all of the sites owned by Verizon in Yellowstone. Syringa networks called Yellowstone to confirm that they had the correct form SF299 (Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands). A map was provided that shows the planned routes from South to Grant and Lake and from West to Old Faithful, Mammoth, and Washburn. The Committee commented that this project may likely result in an EIS. This will not likely fall under the Wireless EA for Compliance, but will have NEPA and NHPA implications at a minimum.

CenturyLink is in discussion with FHWA regarding the installation of conduit (for fiber at a later date) in combination with the upcoming Norris to Madison road project. This project is expected to take up to 10 years. Short term benefits are minimal, longer term benefits may be substantial.

## **Wireless Telecommunications Committee**

Meeting Minutes from Thursday, February 21, 2013

Location: Tech Services Conference Room

Time: 8:30 A.M.

WTC Members in Attendance:

Doug Madsen, Compliance - Outdoor Recreation Planner

Tobin Roop, Cultural Resources Program Manager

David Restivo, Media and Planning

Tami Blackford, Chief Resource Education & Youth Programs

Dustin Sene, Radio Technician

Bret De Young, Telecommunications Specialist

### **Lake Cell Tower Proposal:**

Proposal received 4/17/2012

#### **Public Comment on the Verizon Proposal and CE**

Discussion: Public comments were collected on PEPC Project 43426 proposal for a cell tower at Lake and the minor change to the 2008 Wireless Plan EA which closed December 17. Resources grouped the comments into a draft internal working document which separated the substantive issues into a report grouped by comment code. NPS subject matter experts have been assigned to draft responses within their area of expertise and return to Doug Madsen. The final draft park report will be forwarded to the Superintendent for finalization and made available to the public.

### **Objection to Yellowstone's Section 106 Process**

Report on ACHP findings regarding compliance for the Lake cell tower and wireless proposed undertaking (Roop).

Discussion: Yellowstone has scheduled two consultation (teleconference) calls with an individual and an organization to address their concerns related to the park's Section 106 process during the comment period and in a separate complaint filed with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The ACHP, and WY State Historical Preservation Office have been invited to attend the teleconference. After the scheduled consultation, the park's Section 106 timeline will be sent to the ACHP for review.

### **Verizon Initial Contact for Antenna upgrade**

Discussion: Verizon has made initial contact with Yellowstone in an attempt to assemble a proposal to upgrade antennas at existing licensed sites in Yellowstone to 4G LTE. Due to the lack of service available to support the upgrades and the compliance involved, the only possibility for this upgrade is Mammoth (Elk Plaza) but would still require microwave or fiber improvements to the site to achieve the upgrade. Verizon representatives have expressed an interest in visiting Yellowstone in May to draft an engineering proposal for an upgrade at this site.

### **2012 Annual Report**

Discussion: The report has been signed by the Superintendent and Wireless Committee chair and will be made available to the public by posting it on the PEPC site.

Initial discussions with Verizon on a proposal for 4GLTE upgrades at 5 YELL sites (De Young)

Verizon Wireless would like to expand their 4G network by upgrading their existing Yellowstone sites. Yellowstone Telecommunications technical staff has informed Verizon that the upgrades are not possible at Lake, Washburn (Canyon), Grant, and Old Faithful due to lack of bandwidth to the interior.

Bunsen Peak:

Bunsen Radio Equipment building and tower

The Yellowstone radio shop is putting together a scope of work and purchase requisition with the intent to purchase a stack kit package for a 12ft by 16ft log cabin equipment room to replace the existing building that is unsightly, not weatherproof, and in disrepair. The new cabin will be constructed of hand peeled logs and metal roofing.

Roundtable – Non Agenda items

Next Meeting Thursday April 18, 8:30 AM Telecom Conf Room.

312813

Meeting

Minutes

Wireless Telecommunications Committee  
Meeting Agenda for Thursday August 15, 2013  
Location: Telecommunications Conference Room  
Time 8:30 AM

*Members in attendance:*

*Bret DeYoung  
Doug Madsen  
Dan Reinhardt  
Dave Kelser  
Tobin Roop  
Dustin Sené*

\*The July meeting was cancelled due to multiple schedule conflicts

**Status of Proposals:**

**Verizon 4G LTE and Supporting Backhaul at Elk Plaza:** Committee recommended approval to the Superintendent's. Superintendent signed approval.  
**Teton Communications, H&K, NorthWestern energy LMR on Washburn:** Fee / Non-Fee Right-of-ways in draft.

**Status of Projects:**

**Lake Verizon Cell Tower and WTF:** Tower stacked, scheduled to go online Friday 8/16, first impressions indicate that the tower is not visible from Grand Loop Road Historic District. Union has had discussions with park regarding co-location. NPS has had discussions with Verizon about co-location of NPS LMR on the tower and in the equipment room.  
**Bunsen Radio Equipment Building and Tower:** Old equipment room dismantled, ready for removal by helicopter transport. Pre-construction meeting with Intermountain Restoration on Mon. 19<sup>th</sup> where contractor will provide NPS with work schedule.  
**NorthWestern Energy (NWE) 5-Year Upgrade Wi-Max and Communications EA:** Yellowstone is drafting the EA; photo visual simulations have been prepared. Draft estimated to be complete by the end of August. Target signed FONSI by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Initial Discussions:**

**Possible future proposal from Fiber Optic Carriers:** There is a possibility that Yellowstone could receive a proposal from a network carrier to construct UG fiber from South Entrance, to Grant, Lake and Old Faithful. A fiber optic working group is being formed by GRTE planning staff to attempt to manage priorities related to the potential proposals.  
**Five desired locations discussion from Powder River Development on behalf of AT&T:** Initial topics of discussion with Yellowstone have included (lack of) bandwidth for backhaul and AT&T's desire to turn up sites at Grant, Lake, OF, Elk Plaza, and Bunsen Peak. The park emphasized that co-location on existing facilities is the park's priority and that Elk Plaza is a better location than Bunsen Peak for access, resource protection, and adherence to the Wireless Plan.  
**Verizon considers a proposal to build a tower on Mount Washburn:** Verizon has had discussions with Yellowstone to explore the possibility of building the tower that Yellowstone drafted in the January 2012 10% Conceptual design but could build due to lack of available funding.  
**Addition of a Sector on Mt. Washburn:** Yellowstone asked Verizon Wireless to improve their service to the Canyon developed area. Engineers and planners visited with park technicians on 8/14 to gather information for a proposal.

**Informational:**

**OC192 upgrade between Gardiner and Mammoth:** CenturyLink would like to re-splice fiber in three hand holes along the Old Mammoth-Gardiner Road to upgrade their OC12 to an OC192 this mid-September.

**Roundtable – Non Agenda items**

No non-agenda items for the roundtable.

Next Meeting Thursday September 26th, 8:30 AM Telecom Conf. Room.

**Wireless Telecommunications Committee**  
Meeting Agenda for Thursday September 26, 2013  
Location: Telecommunications Conference Room  
Time 8:30 AM

*Members in attendance:*

*Bret DeYoung (Chair/ Telecommunications Branch Chief)*  
*Dan Reinhardt (Resource Management)*  
*Dave Kelser (Telecommunications Assistant)*  
*Tobin Roop (Cultural Resources)*  
*Dustin Sene (Radio Shop)*

**Proposals:**

**Verizon Proposal to add a Sector to Mt Washburn:** Additional sector would improve service to the Canyon develop area. Consider downtilt to minimize spillover to roads and backcountry surrounding Canyon Village. Committee feels that this proposal is consistent with the Wireless Plan. SHPO Consultation is required prior to allowing Verizon to mount sector panel on the fire lookout.

**Northwestern Energy Mount Washburn LMR ROW:** NorthWestern Energy signed and returned to Yellowstone, two copies of the right-of-way along with a check for lease and cost recovery.

**Project updates:**

**Lake Verizon Cell site:** Site fence has been constructed, Amerigas is connecting a gas line to the generator, HyLander Tower is waiting for HVAC inspections. There are five T1s available from CenturyLink which will be adequate to turn up limited voice and data services within the prescribed footprint. NPS is inspecting the site on a regular basis to ensure that the terms and conditions of the permit are adhered to.

**Elk Plaza Verizon 4G LTE upgrade and supporting microwave backhaul:** Work has been delayed due to rain degrading condition of the tower road. Sector panels have been installed, but microwave backhaul solution is incomplete.

**Bunsen Radio Equipment Cabin and Tower:** Helicopter flights are scheduled for October 8 to deliver logs, tools, and construction materials to the site. All demolition debris has been removed from the site. NPS ordered a lattice tower to replace the previous 35' tower that was damaged and removed in 2008. November 14, 2013 is the delivery date for completion of the cabin construction.

**Initial Discussions:**

**Ongoing five desired locations discussion from AT&T:** Powder River Development met with staff on September 10. Powder River Development flew helium balloons to produce visual (photo) simulations to accompany proposal(s) at a later date.

**Informational:**

**Northwestern Energy (NWE) 5-Year Upgrade Wi-Max proposal and EA:** The Environmental Assessment is scheduled to go out for regional review next week, and may be released for public comment in mid-October.

**Fiber Optic Service Workgroup Meeting October 2 at GRTE:** Dustin, Doug, and Bret will attend this meeting at Grand Teton Park. On the agenda is a discussion of existing fiber, NPS desired infrastructure upgrades, potential obstacles, and scope of compliance. Grand Teton is inviting FCC license holders and utility local service providers and may put out a Request for Information (RFI) at a later date.

**OC192 Upgrade between Gardiner and Mammoth:** Based on an order for service, CenturyLink plans to upgrade three splices on the Old Gardiner Road to upgrade the OC12 fiber to an OC192.

**Verizon lease site in Gardiner:** Outside of Yellowstone Park boundaries. Verizon is working with Park County Airport Advisory Board, and FCC to license a site at the Gardiner water tank.

**Wireless Telecommunications Committee**  
Meeting Agenda for Thursday, October 31, 2013  
Location: Telecommunications Conference Room  
Time 8:30 AM

*Members in attendance:*

*Bret DeYoung (Chair/ Telecommunications Branch Chief)*  
*Dan Reinhardt (Resource Management)*  
*Dave Kelser (Telecommunications Assistant)*  
*Tobin Roop (Cultural Resources)*  
*Dustin Sene (Radio Shop)*  
*Doug Madsen (Compliance)*

**Proposals:**

- NPS Land Mobile Radio collocation at Lake Verizon WTF and tower. (DeYoung/Sene) Verizon provided NPS with their standard application. Placing NPS LMR equipment on Lake Tower would improve Radio Over IP (ROIP) connection reliability, direct channel coverage, and secondary power. Proposal was read to committee and committee determined the proposal was consistent with the Wireless Plan and recommended approval to the Superintendent.
- Verizon Wireless Mount Washburn SF299. (DeYoung/Sene) Verizon let their previous ten-year permit expire and therefore is applying for a new permit to remain on Mount Washburn. Verizon has proposed moving their sectors to different locations on the structure to improve the existing poor coverage in the Canyon developed area. Section 106 letter to WY SHPO is out and Tobin waiting the thirty days for their response.

**Project updates:**

- Bunsen Radio Equipment Building and Tower. (Sene) Construction of the log cabin is nearing completion. Equipment in place and unused construction material from contractor flown down yesterday via helicopter (10/30). Unassembled (35') tower and base are staged on site for a later date. The cabin is not visible from Swan Flats. There are no cellular facilities at this site, or are any planned in accordance with the plan, the facilities may be used for NPS LMR, and/or FM Association Radio, and/or Microwave transport.
- Northwestern Energy (NWE) 5-Year Upgrade Wi-Max proposal and EA. (DeYoung/Roop/Madsen) EA being reviewed by region. Comments due back tomorrow (Nov. 1) and then submit for public scoping first week in November (tentative). All towers proposed at 60' high except for Mammoth (30').

**Initial Discussions:**

- Ongoing five desired locations discussion from AT&T. (DeYoung) No new information for the committee at this time.
- Mt Washburn microwave survey for Verizon engineering group, Dunne Communications. (DeYoung) Sector panel proposal approved at Elk Plaza for 4G LTE upgrade. In addition to Elk Plaza, Verizon is looking at microwave link to Washburn from West Yellowstone to augment their transport to Old Faithful, Grant, and Lake. (Madsen) Did committee approve microwave link and equipment? (DeYoung) Just to Elk Plaza. Proposals for any other expansion to bandwidth on interior transport has not been submitted to the park at this point.

**Informational:**

- Fiber Optic Service Workgroup Meeting October 30 at GRTE. (Madsen) Doug Madsen and Andy Bilton (YELL IT Supervisor) attended the meeting in Grand Teton. Bret could not attend due to a schedule conflict. Doug presented to the Wireless Committee the slide presentation from yesterday's meeting in Grand Teton. Grand Teton set the tone with what their plans are, but they would like input from providers before developing their formal strategy. Grand Teton declared that they would impose a moratorium until they can finalize a (communications) Plan. Some providers in attendance were only interested in fiber if it would reach into Yellowstone and result in a return on their investment. Grand Teton would like to know ASAP if YELL is not interested in fiber development from the south entrance. The Committee determined that Yellowstone's management team should be briefed on the fiber discussions.
- OC192 Upgrade between Gardiner and Mammoth. (DeYoung) No activity currently.
- Yellowstone Winter newspaper. (DeYoung) Submitted revised comments as follows: Page 1, Top Ten Things to Know: Cell Phone Service is available in the developed areas of Mammoth Hot Springs, Old Faithful, Grant, Lake, Canyon, Tower and the North and West Entrances. As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone while enjoying

November 8, 2013

Verizon Wireless Service news (from NPS online publication)

Mammoth: Verizon continues to build a microwave path to the Mammoth-Elk Plaza tower with the goal of increased capacity and a service upgrade from 3G to 4G LTE. Customers with 4G capable Verizon phones and devices within the CGSA will experience faster downloads and better service during high visitation periods. There are no plans to extend the cellular footprint at this site. All proposed and existing wireless services in Yellowstone National Park are required to be consistent with Yellowstone's Wireless Communications Plan which was signed into effect in April of 2009.

# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Verizon is having trouble with their new microwave link to the Elk Plaza site this morning.

Verizon is aware of the problem and technicians are en route.

The bright side to these outages is that the objective is the first 4G LTE service upgrade in the area.

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A Gathering of Naturalists ~ "There's a Cougar in My Backyard"

Wednesday, Jan 22, 7:00pm

Track Education Center

#9 Jardine Road, Gardiner, Montana

Saturday's event was standing room only, and this Wednesday's presentation will give those who missed it a chance to attend.

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**Please use caution** when traveling to and from cars and between buildings! There are several types of traction devices available at Supply Center (in the canteen) provided by the Safety Office at no cost to employees. Get some!

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Ring, ring...have you heard? **Sonya Anderson is retiring!** Come celebrate with Sonya as she completes 22 years of service in Yellowstone!

\*January 30, 2014

\*Mammoth Community Center

\*3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Potluck style-Bring your favorite dish to share (Sonya loves potlucks and trying new foods)

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Last Wednesday a **3-foot long chain with a padlock** was found in front of the plastics recycling bin outside Admin. See Karin in Supply (Canteen) if it is yours.

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