

## Questionnaire for Commercial Service Operators in YNP

The National Park Service is considering the reduction of the sale of single service plastic containers in the Yellowstone National Park to reduce environmental impacts. In an effort to determine how visitors and your clients might be affected by this type of initiative, we would appreciate your input by answering the following questions. Please complete and return electronically to [yell\\_concessions@nps.gov](mailto:yell_concessions@nps.gov) no later than **January 15, 2013**.

- 1) Do you provide beverages to your clients on trips into Yellowstone National Park?  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
- 2) If no, proceed to question 4. If yes, how do you provide the beverages?
  - a) Single service containers YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
  - b) Water Cooler/Bulk Dispenser YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
  - c) Souvenir /Reusable containers YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
- 3) If single service container are used, designate each type below:
  - a) Plastic \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Aluminum \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Glass \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Other \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) How do you dispose of trash/recyclables generated from your trips?
  - a) Outside of the park \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) YNP trash receptacles \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) YNP recycling receptacles \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Do you request clients bring their own beverages?  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
- 6) Would you be willing to encourage your clients to bring their own reusable containers?  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
- 7) Would you be willing to provide reusable water/beverage containers to your clients as a "souvenir?"  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
- 8) Do you provide your employees reusable water/beverage containers?  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
- 9) **Additional Comments/Remarks**

# Plastic Bottle Survey

We had a total of 45 responses as of 02/22/13:

23 CUA

7 Winter

15 Stock

Each service is included on a separate sheet. Several things came up that I thought were important to note:

- 1-We need to be clear on what we are asking or trying to do. Several people were confused and thought that we want to ban plastic single serve containers in the park. They didn't understand that for the purpose of this survey we were only looking at the sale of these items inside the park.
- 2-Increase education and environmental awareness to the public and operators about the issue of plastic in our environment and safety of water from filling stations.
- 3-Identify locations of places to fill containers. Many had concerns water would not be available.
- 4-Be clear that any souvenir bottles that are "provided" are part of the cost of the business, not something NPS is providing or paying for. No taxpayer dollars being spent. One CUA holder had an interesting idea that maybe YPF could address.
- 5-Stock outfitters were particular more negative than the other groups. I am not sure if the sale of plastic bottle inside YNP would even be an issue for them but worth noting their comments.

# Stock Outfitters

15 responses

	<p>12 provide beverages</p> <p>7 - provide souvenir/reusable container (some of these may be a single service container used more than once)</p> <p>1 - uses water cooler/bulk dispenser</p> <p>4 - uses single service containers</p> <p>6 request clients to bring their own beverages</p> <p>8 would encourage clients to bring their own reusable containers</p> <p>8 would be willing to provide a souvenir</p> <p>9 provide employees with reusable containers</p> <p>already use a souvenir or single serve bottle that they reuse for the trips (plastic bottle that each client gets and they write their name on it with a sharpie)</p>
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1 Llama Trips in Yellowstone	We do not use 1 time bottles. We provide as a gift 1 reusable water bottle for each guest. (No survey)
2 Jackson Hole Llamas	Reusable coffee mugs and clients supply their own coffee mugs
3 Outfitters Yellowstone Wilderness	<p>Clients provide own water bottles, usually purchased at the local general store.</p> <p>Worried about dehydration, if disposable bottles aren't available, they will show up without water.</p> <p>Cannot pack a big enough water cooler to hydrate 10 people. The headaches created by reusable containers would require pages to discuss. But in short, I would have to purchase them (adding to my cost), and I can't resell them because I am not allowed to sell anything in the park.</p> <p>Each day we would have to fill bottles and haul them to the trailhead. When someone ran out of water, it would be my fault because I didn't provide enough.</p> <p>This is something that probably sounds like a really good idea when sitting up there in Mammoth, but on my end, it would be a nightmare.</p>
4 Rockin HK Outfitters	Don't know what you mean by reusable drink containers, don't seem very sanitary nor do we have time to clean Gatorade/water bottles every day.
5 Medicine Lake Outfitters	Our clients and staff get 2 sports drinks at the beginning of the trip with their names written with a sharpie. They use them for water for the entire trip. Single service containers are reusable.

<p>Medicine Lake Outfitters 5 (cont.)</p>	<p>He understands where we are coming from but says none of us are in business, you're govt employees with nothing more than an imagination to help you understand what we who are in business have to deal with. Those of us who provide services are drowning in an ever increasing work load of cumulative regulations promulgated by all the beauracracies that rules our lives. Please exercise a little common sense in where you go with this. When beauracratc overreach has finally put us out of business there won't be anybody left to pay the taxes.....</p>
<p>Slough Creek/Black Mountain Outfitters 6</p>	<p>We have provided logo reusable water/beverage bottles for all our clients for several years. They take them home. Also provide to guides.</p>
<p>Sunrise Pack Station 7</p>	<p>We supply single service water bottles for guides and guests, which they write their names on with a Sharpie and use for entire trip. Do encourage them to bring their own though.</p> <p>Use a single service container but reuse that container during trip. Discard or recycle outside of park.</p>
<p>Yellowstone Mountain Guides 8</p>	<p>We use reusable camp cups and other kitchen equipment on Pack Trips.</p> <p>Require guests and guides to supply their personal 32 oz reusable water containers for all trips.</p>
<p>Skyline Guest Ranch 9</p>	<p>Thinks using large water/drink containers and reusable containers could pose a myriad of additional issues including but not limited to Cost, sanitation, and health issues (dehydration/heat stroke).</p> <p>We often have guests bring 3-5 drinks for a day. Would we have to provide them.</p> <p>A client wouldn't care to have a souvenir bottle and would dispose of them anyway.</p> <p>If they are not a souvenir and we must reuse them, it would be a nightmare of sanitizing and preparing for reuse....as well as keeping large drink coolers clean in trucks that go up and down dirt roads and livestock handlers climbing in and out of, etc. It's enough of a challenge to keep the inside of coolers clean to put drinks in.</p>
<p>Covered Wagon Ranch 10</p>	<p>Already provide reusable souvenir containers.</p>
<p>Gunsel Horse Adventures 13</p>	<p>I have guests bring canteens or camelback containers, all reusable.</p>
<p>Two Ocean Pass Outfitting 15</p>	<p>Will govt regulations ever decrease instead of being added to every available excuse?</p> <p>Plastic is just another waste that we have to deal with - no different than other refuse.</p> <p>It is a real convenience to use plastic bottles of this nature - we use them all the time and would hate to see the Park Service eliminate them.</p> <p>Safety of our clients - the bottled beverages are sanitary and safe - do you really think that "souvenir" bottles that the Park would provide would not become waste?</p> <p>Anytime something is given for nothing people do not care whether or not it is taken care of.</p> <p>Creating additional problems for all - safety for clients, more work for outfitters, wasting taxpayer money and NPS time in enforcing such a ridiculous rule.</p>

# Winter Operators

7 responses

We had 3 companies respond twice (probably manager and owner) I tried to incorporate all comments below.

- 6 provide beverages
- 4 - use single service containers
- 3 - uses water cooler/bulk dispenser
- 2 - uses souvenir/reusable container
- 5 request clients to bring their own beverages
- 6 would encourage clients to bring their own reusable containers
- 4 would be willing to provide a souvenir
- 4 provide employees with reusable containers
- 1 already use a souvenir

<p><b>2 Alpen Guides</b> <b>2 separate responses</b></p>	<p>Currently provides souvenir water bottles with all our lunches with an option to upgrade and purchase aluminum bottles. Not provided to those guests that bring their own food. I think all plastic bottles should be banned in YNP.</p>
<p><b>4 See Yellowstone Tours</b> <b>2 separate responses</b></p>	<p>Our tours include water with their lunches. We have a recycle bin at our shop for the water bottles when they return. We have looked into reusable containers, but the cost is prohibitive. We do encourage our guests to bring water/drinks with them as we only provide a water with lunch. Many guests, especially international guests are nervous to drink water not bottled, even though you and I know it's the best right from the faucet! It's a good notion but not sure how workable. In winter it may work but the #'s are so small compared with summer it would only make a small impact. Why not install more recycle bins and use the recycled materials for park building in the Park. I think the guests may see the lack of single use bottles but availability of "Souvenir containers" as a money making scheme not an environmental one. How would you implement this? Check everyone's bag before they enter? Search every car in summer? I also think the lack of easily accessible water bottles in the Park could lead to medical issues due to the altitude. We could try [encouraging clients] but I'm not sure how successful that would be. If they are here on vacation &amp; didn't bring reusable containers with them they would have to buy them and would more likely just buy single use bottles outside the Park and take them in. Who would pay for [souvenir containers]?</p>

<p><b>Two Top Snowmobile</b> 6 (Jaime McCray)</p>	<p>I am concerned that you are singling out water as a single serving plastic container. What about the many other single serving containers (soda, sports drinks, paper cup, or are you just planning not offering single service beverages)? When traveling I often do not want a sugary drink yet the unfamiliar water does not agree with my system - in fact I have a friend that got terribly sick from a drinking fountain at the DC airport.</p> <p>Many municipal water is not palatable with far too many chemicals. While I live here and know the water from the municipals are better than any purchased water - it is a hard sell to our clientele. When the clients ask to purchase water we beg them to use a reusable container for free from our water fountain.</p> <p>We do not sell water but carry it on tours per the requirement in our operating plan. When traveling you don't always have the ability to wash the re-usable containers.</p> <p>While I understand your concern and efforts I personally think this is a bad idea.</p>
<p><b>Two Top Snowmobile</b> 7 (Kennedy)</p>	<p>Loved the souvenir water bottle idea.</p>

23 responses

20	provide beverages 14 - use single service containers	12 plastic 8 aluminum 2 glass
3	7 - uses water cooler/bulk dispenser 6 - uses souvenir/reusable container request clients to bring their own beverages	
17	would encourage clients to bring their own reusable containers (of these 6 already ask clients to bring own or stated their clients already bring their own).	
12	would be willing to provide a souvenir (2 - already do, 2 - maybe, 8 - yes)	
10	provide employees with reusable containers	
2	already use a souvenir	

1 Taylor Outfitters	I prefer to use re-usable water bottles and re-usable camp cups for hot drinks, but occasionally use plastic disposable water bottles, aluminum cans and paper coffee cups. I recycle all disposables at YNP or at home. <b>One suggestion I might offer is to offer a "free" water bottle as a gift to those booking a package with Xanterra (i.e. Frosty Fun).</b> Thank you for your commitment to reducing waste.
2 Reinteen Tours	Most of our clients bring reusable water bottles. We do provide additional beverages at a picnic lunch, using water cooler dispensers.
Blue Ribbon Fishing	Beverages are usually served with lunches such as lemonade poured in plastic solo cups or plastic water bottles all of which I personally collect and transport the trash outside the park on a daily basis.
4 Tours	Supplying the drinks is part of the Guiding Service I offer and I place (dispose) of the empty containers in recycle bins outside of the park.
5 Angler	
Wilderness Photography	
6 Expeditions	I am very much in favor of significantly limiting or prohibiting non-reusable beverage containers in the Park.
7 Bundu Bashers	Fully support doing away with plastic bottles.

<p><b>Bud Lilly's Trout Shop</b></p>	<p>On full day trips we provide box lunch and beverages as part of the package. Some customers bring their own water bottles. Employees generally have their own water bottles. Your plan to reduce the sale of plastic bottles would not impact our clients.</p>
<p><b>9 Big Wild Adventures</b></p>	<p>We already have our clients bring their own re-usable water bottles. Employees bring their own. Single service plastic containers should be outlawed everywhere! They are toxic and wasteful. The NPS should not allow them in Yellowstone. Please do outlaw the sale of single service plastic containers in Yellowstone.</p>
<p><b>10 Wilderness Inquiry</b></p>	<p>Most of our clients bring their own water bottles and then we provide group containers. We fully support the reduction of sale of single service plastic containers.</p>
<p><b>13 Park's Fly Shop</b></p>	<p>Not currently using [souvenir/reusable containers] but thinking about it.</p>
<p><b>Yellowstone</b></p> <p><b>14 Outdoor Adventures</b></p>	<p>I think this is actually overdue. All of my clients bring their own reusable water bottles or camelbacks. There are only 2 locations in the park to refill a water bottle (Canyon and OFVC). Most bottles cannot fit inside a bathroom sink. Explained the trouble he has had at eth Canyon VC. <i>(I have forwarded his comments to Interp staff and they are looking into it. I also informed him of other water filling station in the park and let him know we hope to have a map showing all locations as well as more filling stations in the future. He was very excited and appreciative of the information.bw )</i> Also carries a 5 gallon water container that he keeps in the van to refill clients water bottles.</p>
<p><b>15 The Wild Side</b></p>	<p>We recycle everything we can from our trips at YNP recycling locations.</p>
<p><b>18 Earth Tours</b></p>	<p>I just bought a water cooler and have considered getting souvenir bottles for some time. Might do so this year. Most trash is recycled in Jackson Hole. <b>To make it easier and more economical, Yellowstone might be able to leverage a bargain deal on souvenir bottles that guides can purchase for their guests. Just an idea.</b></p>
<p><b>Jackson Hole Wildlife</b></p> <p><b>19 Safaris</b></p>	<p>We were the first tour company in Jackson Hole to encourage the use of reusable water bottles by offering a souvenir bottle with our trips. We applaud your efforts to reduce the consumption of disposable plastic containers!</p>
<p><b>22 Cycle America</b></p> <p><b>Wilderness</b></p>	<p>We do not purchase single serve drinks for the same environmental reasons you are considering eliminating them.</p>
<p><b>23 Treatment Center</b></p>	<p>Our clients bring reusable plastic containers in and out of the park. Pack it in pack it out. We use Nalgene bottles.</p>