



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** Proposed Telecommunications Infrastructure at Mount Washburn & Other Park Areas

**PEPC Project Number:** 70097

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

This proposed project would construct an antenna mounting structure at the Mount Washburn Fire Lookout to improve poor telecommunications services at the Old Faithful, Grant, Lake, and Canyon developed areas. At Canyon, this project would provide better cellular service in the developed area and limit spillover into the backcountry.

The project would improve safety for park workers and visitors; reduce the number of antennas attached to the exterior of the historic fire lookout; and increase the availability of cellular telecommunications bandwidth that currently limits park operations, visitor safety, and visitor experience.

The project would include the following components:

**MOUNT WASHBURN** • Construct a new antenna support structure around the east, north, and west sides of the existing fire lookout. • Relocate multiple antennas currently attached to the historic fire lookout building to the new mounting structure. • Build new underground vaults to conceal new point-to-point microwave antennas. • Replace the existing offsite diesel generator with a propane generator that would provide reliable and environmentally safe backup electrical power. • Relocate old, buried electrical service with new electrical service. The new service would be buried in the existing Chittenden Road from the existing generator shed to the fire lookout. **CANYON** • Install a new tower and equipment room at the existing telecommunication site near the maintenance building. • The new tower will support new cellular antennas and one point-to-point microwave antenna. • The new tower will be hidden from the public's view through camouflage using color and/or texture. **LAKE** • Install a new tower and equipment room at an existing telecommunications site near the Fishing Bridge Junction and the Lake developed area. • The new tower will support one point-to-point microwave antenna • The new tower will be hidden from the public's view due to existing vegetation that screens the view. **GRANT** • Install one point-to-point microwave antenna on an existing tower at an existing telecommunication site.

During construction, the trails to the Mount Washburn summit and Fire Lookout, from the north and the south, will be closed to public access. During these closures no public access to the trails or the summit will be allowed. The fire lookout and public restrooms will be closed during construction. The trail accessing the lookout from the Chittenden parking area will be used temporarily to allow for construction equipment access and to secure the construction area.

**Project Locations:**

**Location 1**

**County:** Park **State:** WY

**Location 2**

County: Teton

State: WY

**Mitigation(s):**

- Comply with the Migratory Bird Act of 1918. Ensure that the nest of migratory birds are not damaged by timing the project outside of nesting period and/or visual inspection of vegetation before it is treated or removed.
- The project lead will ensure that all project-related employees, such as contract employees, would be given orientation on how to avoid disturbing or encountering bears and how to minimize unavoidable effects or encounters. Orientation would include information about park regulations regarding food storage, disposal of garbage and other bear attractants, and approaching or harassing wildlife
- Ensure work crews adhere to bear safety and food storage regulations
- Visitors shall be routed away from construction activities, when feasible.
- Contractor shall at all times conduct operations to ensure the least inconvenience to the public.
- To minimize the amount of ground disturbance, staging and stockpiling areas would be located in previously disturbed sites if at all possible. All staging and stockpiling areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions following construction. Construction zones and staging areas would be identified and fenced with construction tape, snow fencing, or some similar material prior to any construction activity. The fencing would define the construction zone and confine activity to the minimum area required for construction.
- To minimize possible petrochemical leaks from construction equipment, the contractor would regularly monitor and check construction equipment to identify and repair any leaks. Equipment would not be serviced or refueled near streams; storage and refueling or construction parking and staging areas, would be at least 46 meters (150 feet) from streams or riparian areas.
- All equipment must be pressure washed with hot water (greater than 102 degrees F) prior to entrance on park property to reduce the possibility of invasive species.
- The contractor shall submit a safety plan to the Park Safety Officer prior to commencement of work. Safety plan shall demonstrate compliance with OSHA and other applicable safety laws. It shall include an emergency safety plan and shall list contractor points of contact.
- Line locates must be completed before any excavation work may begin. The depth of utility line varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service, harm you and those around you and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 before every job gets underground utility lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences.
- Although there is no surface evidence of archeological resources, clearance to proceed is recommended with the condition that if concealed archeological resources are encountered during project activities, all necessary steps will be taken to protect them and the Park Cultural Resources Manager will be notified immediately.
- All workers will be informed of the penalties of illegally collecting artifacts or intentionally damaging any archeological or historic property.

**CE Citation:** B.1 Changes or amendments to an approved plan, when such changes would cause no or only minimal environmental impact.

**CE Justification:**

**Decision:** I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

**Signature**

Categorical Exclusion Form - Proposed Telecommunications Infrastructure at Mount Washburn & Other Park Areas - PEPC ID: 70097

Superintendent:

  
Daniel N. Wenk

Date:

7/5/2014

**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Proposed Telecommunications Infrastructure at Mount Washburn & Other Park Areas  
PEPC Project Number: 70097  
PMIS Number:  
Project Type: Implementation Plan - Other (IMPL)  
Project Location:  
County, State: Park, Wyoming  
County, State: Teton, Wyoming  
Project Leader: Bret DeYoung

### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This proposed project would construct an antenna mounting structure at the Mount Washburn Fire Lookout to improve poor telecommunications services at the Old Faithful, Grant, Lake, and Canyon developed areas. At Canyon, this project would provide better cellular service in the developed area and limit spillover into the backcountry.

The project would improve safety for park workers and visitors; reduce the number of antennas attached to the exterior of the historic fire lookout; and increase the availability of cellular telecommunications bandwidth that currently limits park operations, visitor safety, and visitor experience.

The project would include the following components:

**MOUNT WASHBURN** • Construct a new antenna support structure around the east, north, and west sides of the existing fire lookout. • Relocate multiple antennas currently attached to the historic fire lookout building to the new mounting structure. • Build new underground vaults to conceal new point-to-point microwave antennas. • Replace the existing offsite diesel generator with a propane generator that would provide reliable and environmentally safe backup electrical power. • Relocate old, buried electrical service with new electrical service. The new service would be buried in the existing Chittenden Road from the existing generator shed to the fire lookout. **CANYON** • Install a new tower and equipment room at the existing telecommunication site near the maintenance building. • The new tower will support new cellular antennas and one point-to-point microwave antenna. • The new tower will be hidden from the public's view through camouflage using color and/or texture. **LAKE** • Install a new tower and equipment room at an existing telecommunications site near the Fishing Bridge Junction and the Lake developed area. • The new tower will support one point-to-point microwave antenna • The new tower will be hidden from the public's view due to existing vegetation that screens the view. **GRANT** • Install one point-to-point microwave antenna on an existing tower at an existing telecommunication site.

During construction, the trails to the Mount Washburn summit and Fire Lookout, from the north and the south, will be closed to public access. During these closures no public access to the trails or the summit will be allowed. The fire lookout and public restrooms will be closed during construction. The trail accessing the lookout from the Chittenden parking area will be used temporarily to allow for construction equipment access and to secure the construction area.

**C. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	None	
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	None	
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources	Potential	
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes <i>stone walls</i>	Potential	Impact: Historic stone retaining walls may be impacted slightly due to vibrations from construction equipment. Portions of the wall that have had previous "blowouts" due to erosion would be repaired.
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	Potential	Impact: the Mt. Washburn Lookout (48YE946) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The project would be adversely impacted and a MOA has been prepared that specifies the terms under which the adverse effects to the historic property will be minimized and mitigated.
<b>Geological</b>	None	

<b>Geologic Features</b>		
<b>Geological Geologic Processes</b>	None	
<b>Lightscares Lightscares</b>	None	
<b>Other Human Health and Safety</b>	Potential	Impact: Will improve safety by elevating most antenna to a higher level at the Mt. Washburn Lookout. Will improve cellular service to the Canyon developed area. Will improve bandwidth for Lake, Old Faithful, and Grant.
<b>Socioeconomic Land Use</b>	None	
<b>Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.</b>	None	
<b>Socioeconomic Socioeconomic</b>	None	
<b>Soundscares Soundscares</b>	None	
<b>Viewsheds Viewsheds Viewshed</b>	Potential	<p>Issue: Additional infrastructure on Mount Washburn (steel lattice antenna mounting structure) would be visible atop the mountain top from various roads and trails in the park.</p> <p>Impact: The antenna mounting structure would be visible from park roads and trails, though the additional impacts would be minor in that the fire lookout building is completely visible from these locations already. The lattice structure to mount antenna on would allow sky to be visible through it, and the structure would not appear opaque as is the case with the existing building. The new lattice structure would extend 9.5 feet above the existing building which is approximately 30.5 feet tall. A new lattice tower adjacent to the existing tower located just north of Fishing Bridge Junction would not increase visual impacts. This tower is presently not visible from the road or trails, and is only slightly visible from vehicles if passengers turn directly 90 degrees from the vehicle to view it through the trees. The proposed tower will be the same height as the existing tower. The Grant monopole is presently visible from boats on Yellowstone Lake, and a new microwave dish will be located on this monopole. The new dish will be visible on that tower from visitors that are viewing from boats on the lake. A new steel lattice tower will be located directly adjacent to an existing communications tower in the Canyon Administrative Area and will be visible from the road leading to Canyon Junction from the west and south, though only the top few feet of the tower will be visible. Camouflage will reduce this visibility considerably, and most visitors will not notice its presence.</p>

<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources <i>Visual impacts increased for visitors hiking to summit.</i>	Potential	Impact: Increased amount of telecommunications-related infrastructure would be installed at summit, which is a popular visitor hiking destination.
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience <i>Visitor Access</i>	Potential	Issue: Trail closures during construction.  Impact: Temporary impacts from trail closures would limit access to the Mt. Washburn Lookout during construction. Construction activities are scheduled for July, August, and September of 2018. Closures of the trail would be implemented in order to reduce hazards to visitors from construction activities and equipment that will be accessing the summit on a regular basis during this time period.
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	None	
<b>Water</b> Wetlands	None	
<b>Wilderness</b> Wilderness	None	

**D. ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS:**

Question	Answer	Notes

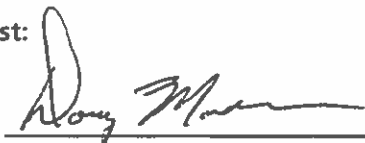
**Reviewers:**  
Doug Madsen

**Optional Signatures:**

**Compliance Specialist:**

**NEPA**

Doug Madsen



Date: 7/5/18

Raymond  
McPadden

*For* 

Date: 7/5/18

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Proposed Telecommunications Infrastructure at Mount Washburn & Other Park Areas - PEPC ID: 70097



NHPA  
Tobin Roop

FOR



Date:

7/5/18

Approved:

Superintendent:

  
Daniel N. Wenk

Date:

7/5/2018



# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yellowstone National Park

### 2. **Project Description:**

**Project Name:** Proposed Telecommunications Infrastructure at Mount Washburn & Other Park Areas

**Prepared by:** Tobin Roop **Date Prepared:** 05/30/2018 **Telephone:** 307-344-2224

**PEPC Project Number:** 70097

#### **Locations:**

County, State: Park, WY

County, State: Teton, WY

#### **Describe project:**

This proposed project would construct an antenna mounting structure at the Mount Washburn Fire Lookout to improve poor telecommunications services at the Old Faithful, Grant, Lake, and Canyon developed areas. At Canyon, this project would provide better cellular service in the developed area and limit spillover into the backcountry.

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#### **CANYON**

- Install a new tower and equipment room at the existing telecommunication site near the maintenance building.
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- The new tower will be hidden from the public's view through camouflage using color and/or texture.

#### **LAKE**

- Install a new tower and equipment room at an existing telecommunications site near the Fishing Bridge Junction and the Lake developed area.
- The new tower will support one point-to-point microwave antenna

Assessment of Effect Form - Proposed Telecommunications Infrastructure at Mount Washburn & Other Park Areas - PEPC ID: 70097

- The new tower will be hidden from the public's view due to existing vegetation that screens the view.

**GRANT**

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During construction, the trails to the Mount Washburn summit and Fire Lookout, from the north and the south, will be closed to public access. During these closures no public access to the trails or the summit will be allowed. The fire lookout and public restrooms will be closed during construction. The trail accessing the lookout from the Chittenden parking area will be used temporarily to allow for construction equipment access and to secure the construction area.

**Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])**

**3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

No  
 Yes

Source or reference:

**4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

**Archeological Resources Affected:** No

**Archeological Resources Notes:** This is a mountain top

**Historical Structures/Resources Affected:** Yes

**Cultural Landscapes Affected:** Yes

**Ethnographic Resources Affected:** No

**5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

Yes Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

Yes Replace historic features/elements in kind

Yes Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

Yes Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

Yes Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

No Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

Yes Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Supporting Study Data:**

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

**B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS**

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

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**No Reviews From:** Curator, Archeologist, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist, Historical Landscape Architect

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**C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Assessment of Effect:**

- No Potential to Cause Effects
- No Historic Properties Affected
- No Adverse Effect
- Adverse Effect

**2. Documentation Method:**

**A. Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation**

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

**B. Streamlined Review Under the 2008 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement (PA)**

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

**Applicable Streamlined Review Criteria**

(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

**C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

**D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process**

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

**E. Memo to Project File**

**3. Consultation Information**

**SHPO Required:** No

**SHPO Sent:**

**SHPO Received:**

Assessment of Effect Form - Proposed Telecommunications Infrastructure at Mount Washburn & Other Park Areas - PEPC ID: 70097

THPO Required:  
THPO Sent:  
THPO Received:

SHPO/THPO Notes:

Advisory Council Participating: No  
Advisory Council Notes:  
Additional Consulting Parties: No

**4. Stipulations and Conditions:** Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

**5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:** Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties: (Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

- Assessment of Effect - Archeology - Although there is no surface evidence of archeological resources, clearance to proceed is recommended with the condition that if concealed archeological resources are encountered during project activities, all necessary steps will be taken to protect them and the Park Cultural Resources Manager will be notified immediately.
- Assessment of Effect - Archeology - All workers will be informed of the penalties of illegally collecting artifacts or intentionally damaging any archeological or historic property.

**6. Assessment of Effect Notes:**

**D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:**

Compliance Specialist:

NHPA Specialist

Tobin Roop

FOR 

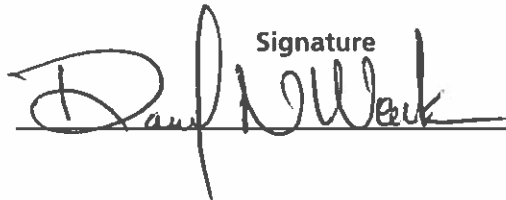
Date:

7/5/18

**E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL**

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Superintendent:

  
Signature

Date:

7/5/18





## Other Compliance/Consultations Form

**Park Name:** Yellowstone National Park

**PEPC Project Number:** 70097

**Project Title:** Proposed Telecommunications Infrastructure at Mount Washburn & Other Park Areas

**Project Type:** Implementation Plan - Other (IMPL)

**Project Location:**

County, State: Park, Wyoming

County, State: Teton, Wyoming

**Project Leader:** Bret DeYoung

### ESA

**Any Federal Species in the project Area?** No

**If species in area:** No Effect

**Was Biological Assessment prepared?** No

**If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred?**

**Formal Consultation required?** No

**Formal Consultation Notes:**

**Formal Consultation Concluded:**

**Any State listed Species in the Project Area?** No

**Consultation Information:**

**General Notes:**

**Data Entered By:** Doug Madsen

**Date:** Oct 11, 2017

## ESA Mitigations

*No ESA mitigations are associated with this project.*

### Floodplains/Wetlands/§404 Permits

Question	Yes	No	Details
A.1. Is project in 100- or 500-year floodplain or flash flood hazard area?		N	Exempt from compliance with executive order: Statement of findings approval date:
A.2. Is project in wetlands?		N	Exempt from compliance with executive order: Statement of findings approval date:

B. COE Section 404 permit needed?		N	Issue Date: Expiration Date: Request Date:
C. State 401 certification?		N	
D. State Section 401 Permit?		N	Issue Date: Expiration Date:
E. Tribal Water Quality Permit?		N	
F. CZM Consistency determination needed?			N/A
G. Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Required?		N	
H. Any other permits required?		N	Permit Information:
Other Information:			

Data Entered By: Doug Madsen

Date: Oct 11, 2017

## FloodPlains & Wetlands Mitigations

*No FloodPlains & Wetlands mitigations are associated with this project.*

### Wilderness

Question	Yes	No	
A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness?		N	
B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness?		N	
C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness?		N	
D. Would the project or any of its alternatives adversely affect (directly or indirectly) Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness? (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required)		N	
E. Does the project or any of its alternatives involve the use of any of the Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses: commercial enterprise, permanent road, temporary road, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, landing of aircraft, mechanical transport, structure, or installation? (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required)		N	
If the answer to D or E above is "Yes" then a Minimum			Initiation

Other Compliance/Consultations Form - Proposed Telecommunications Infrastructure at Mount Washburn & Other Park Areas - PEPC ID: 70097



Requirements Analysis is required. Describe the status of this analysis in the column to the right.			Date: Completed Date: Approved Date:
Other Information:			

Data Entered By: Doug Madsen Date: Oct 11, 2017

**Other Permits/Laws** *Questions A & B are no longer used.*

Question	Yes	No
C. Wild and scenic river concerns exist?		N
D. National Trails concerns exist?		N
E. Air Quality consult with State needed?		N
F. Consistent with Architectural Barriers, Rehabilitation, and Americans with Disabilities Acts or not Applicable? (If N/A check Yes)	Y	
G. Other:		N

Other Information:

Data Entered By: Doug Madsen Date: \_\_\_\_\_