

Summary

NPS Winter Use Roving Team Meeting with Blue Ribbon Coalition and local businesses

Date: January 18, 2006

Location: Holiday Inn Conference Center, West Yellowstone, MT

Present: Travis Moulton, Jerry Johnson, David McCray, Brad Loomis, Randy Roberson, Denice Swanke, John Sacklin, Bill Howell, Clyde Seely, Jack Welch, Brad Schmier

1) Purpose agency/group or NPS gave for wanting a visit at this time:

- share information about modeling scenarios
- answer questions about the planning process and review project history as needed
- opportunity for dialogue

2) Results of this meeting and/or next steps:

NPS will be attending a similar meeting in Jackson later this month with BRC and interested parties. The next public comment opportunity will be during the DEIS.

3) Points raised:

- The temporary plan seems to be working.
- Prefer noncommercial guiding to unguided access.
- Concern that 720 limit will be reached soon (and not meet demand).
- Dislike the suggestion to limit or decrease group sizes (per wildlife report).
- Comment was made that West can't grow without increased use.
- Consider internet based training for (noncommercial) guides.
- Consider restricting time of administrative operations (to improve sound).
- Consider implementing temporary plan and unguided access for 1st year of implementation.
- General discussions re:
 - i. Gates' report and considerations for Gibbon Canyon
 - ii. Concept of improved BAT for snowmobiles
 - iii. West snowmobile fleet size
 - iv. Public perception that the parks are closed
 - v. Monitoring reports and soundscapes report
 - vi. Summer/winter noise and sound issues
 - vii. Guiding

4) Questions asked:

- Could the 2003 decision still be implemented (because Judge Sullivan found fault with the process)?
- What was the peak snowmobile entrance (at West) during the holidays?
- Was the temporary plan the most conservative option re: guiding/numbers?
- Why are 2 strokes being used at Old Faithful and parkwide?
- Is there a comparison available from Howard Haines/MT air quality data available?
- Could the park open and close on fixed dates, such as Dec. 15 and March 15?
- Can the Canyon rim drive roads be open to snowmobiles under a time separation like the Firehole drive?

5) Parting Comments

Thanks for the update and information.