

# Winter Use Plan and EIS

## Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks

### John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway



Newsletter – April 2006

## PLANNING UPDATE

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing a long-term plan for managing winter recreational use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway. The initial public scoping phase of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process closed on September 1, 2005. The next public comment opportunity will be when the Draft EIS is released in fall 2006.

Recently, the NPS held two open house style meetings, one in Bozeman, Montana, and one in Jackson, Wyoming. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce the six preliminary alternatives that may be considered in the forthcoming Draft EIS. The NPS wishes to thank all who attended the open houses and provided feedback. The NPS will consider this feedback as the planning process continues.

Now that the major task of writing the document is underway, the NPS winter use team is less available for roving team meetings. Nevertheless, the agency understands how important it is to foster quality, consistent, and transparent information exchange as it

moves forward to the Draft EIS stage. While the NPS will not be able to accommodate all roving team meeting requests, it will do its best to honor them given the time and staffing available.

## INFORMATION ON WEBSITE

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/winteruse/index.htm>

The website currently includes:

- An Adobe Acrobat file of the presentation given during the open house meetings.
- A report which summarizes comments received during, and shortly after, the open houses.

In May, roving team meeting summaries will be posted on the NPS website as well.

## NEXT STEPS

In mid-April, cooperating agencies will meet with the winter use team. This roving team meeting will allow cooperating agencies to jointly hear from the NPS, and one another, policy perspectives on the set of alternatives most likely to provide the framework for the Draft EIS. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Boulevard, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

**For more information, please visit:** [www.nps.gov/yell/winteruse.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/winteruse.htm)

You may also contact Yellowstone National Park at: 307-244-2019.