

Winter Use Plan and EIS

Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway



Newsletter – October 2006

SAVE THE DATE

NPS Meeting with Cooperating Agencies:

Friday, December 8, 2006
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Holiday Inn
1701 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, Wyoming
(800) 527-5544

The National Park Service (NPS) will meet with Cooperating Agencies to discuss a preliminary version of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Details follow below.

Public Information Fair:

Friday, December 8, 2006
5 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn
1701 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, Wyoming
(800) 527-5544

The NPS will host an Information Fair to be held following the Cooperating Agency meeting. At this event, NPS will be available to explain to visiting members of the public the information learned in monitoring and modeling efforts.

PLANNING UPDATE

The NPS is currently preparing an EIS and long-term plan for managing winter recreational use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. The DEIS is expected to be available for public comment later in winter 2006-2007.

A preliminary version of the DEIS is being prepared for Cooperating Agencies to review in mid-late November (at which time it will also be posted on-line at the following address:

www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/winteruse/index.htm).

As agreed to in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NPS and Cooperating Agencies, the MOU states that the NPS will

“provide cooperators a preliminary draft EIS and allow for a reasonable amount of time for cooperating agency comments” (point 11, p. 4). To assist in that review process, a meeting between the NPS and Cooperating Agencies has been set for December 8, 2006 to discuss the preliminary version of the DEIS.

Although this additional step is specifically designed as a review process between the NPS and the Cooperating Agencies, this meeting will be open to members of the public who would like to observe. This meeting is not intended as a venue for public input.

In order to share results of the most recent monitoring and modeling information face to face with interested members of the public, the NPS will also hold a Public Information Fair following the Cooperating Agency meeting.

TIMELINE

Draft EIS released with 60-day public comment	early Winter 2006/07
Proposed regulation with 60-day public comment.....	late Winter 2006/07
Final EIS	Fall 2007
Record of Decision	Fall 2007

WHO ARE THE COOPERATING AGENCIES AND WHAT ARE THEIR ROLES?

The Cooperating Agencies are ten government agencies that have an interest in the Winter Use Plan. These are the three states and five counties

For more information, please visit: www.nps.gov/yell/winteruse.htm

You may also contact Yellowstone National Park at: 307-344-2019.

in which the parks are located, the U.S. Forest Service (which administers much of the neighboring lands), and the U.S. EPA (with expertise in air quality and NEPA). Each Cooperating Agency has agreed to play a specific role in the development of the Winter Use Plan. More information about those roles may be found in the Public and Agency Participation Plan on the winter use website at the following address: www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/winteruse/index.htm.

INFORMATION ON WEBSITE

If you are unable to attend these meetings, the preliminary DEIS, recent modeling, monitoring, and technical reports, and other information regarding winter use in the parks, is available on the above website.

HOW DO THE NEW NPS MANAGEMENT POLICIES AFFECT THIS WINTER USE PLANNING PROCESS?

The *2006 NPS Management Policies* approved by former Director Fran Mainella on August 31, 2006 are the collection of policies by which the NPS manages all parks. In general, the 2006 edition is very similar in content to the 2001 edition but it

received extensive review and comment from the Service's career employees, as well as from tens of thousands of citizens. The DEIS will conform to the final 2006 Management Policies.

The final edition of the Management Policies is available on the NPS website at www.nps.gov/policy/MP2006.pdf, or copies may be purchased for \$18 through the U.S. Government Printing Office (refer to ISBN 0-16-076874).

HOW CAN I COMMENT ON THE WINTER USE PLAN?

At this stage in the development of the Winter Use Plan, the NPS is still writing the DEIS. The DEIS will be available for public review and comment later in the winter 2006-2007. Once the comment period is announced, comments will be accepted on-line through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. The comment period will be announced several ways, including by a newsletter.

For more information, please visit: www.nps.gov/yell/winteruse.htm

You may also contact Yellowstone National Park at: 307-344-2019.