



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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## Grand Canyon News Release

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### **National Park Service Announces Availability of Environmental Assessment for Narrowband Radio Conversion Project at Grand Canyon National Park**

**Grand Canyon, Ariz.** – Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Steve Martin today announced the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the park's Narrowband/Digital Radio Conversion Project. The park is requesting comments on the EA during a 30-day public review period beginning June 5, 2007.

The EA evaluates a No Action Alternative and a Preferred Alternative that proposes to convert all radio communications in Grand Canyon National Park from wideband/analog to narrowband/digital technology, including replacing radio repeaters, towers, and antennae at up to six sites within the park and three sites outside the park. The objectives of the project are: (1) to comply with federal regulations that require all federal agencies, including the National Park Service, to convert to narrowband radio communications; (2) provide for improved park radio communications and coverage, to increase public and employee safety and the ability of the park to safely and effectively conduct park management activities; and (3) to improve communications interoperability and services with other agencies.

The EA has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as amended. To comply with the National Historic Preservation Act as amended, in addition to the EA a Memorandum of Agreement will be developed with the State Historic Preservation Office

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(SHPO) that outlines how the National Park Service will consult with the SHPO as the project moves forward. This agreement must be completed before the NEPA decision document can be completed.

A news release and a public scoping letter describing the project proposal were issued on September 20, 2006, and comments were solicited until October 21, 2006, for this project. The six substantive comments received as part of this public scoping period were considered and addressed as described in the EA.

The EA will be on public review for 30 days. The document can be reviewed online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca> by clicking on the project name, and then scrolling to “Open for Public Comments.” People who cannot or do not wish to obtain the document online may request a paper copy by leaving a telephone message at 928-779-6279 clearly stating their name, address and telephone number and which document they are requesting.

Comments must be posted online or postmarked no later than July 9, 2007. People are encouraged to post their comments online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca>. Comments can also be mailed to: Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Attention: Radio Comments, P.O. Box 129 (#1 Village Loop), Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023.

After the public review period, the comments received will be carefully considered before a decision will be made, which is expected in summer or fall 2007.

For additional information, please contact Rick Ernenwein, Project Planning Leader, at (928) 779-6279.

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