



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yellowstone National Park

PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

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Al Nash or Dan Hottle 307 344-2015
YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov

Yellowstone National Park News Release

Public Comment Periods Open On Temporary Rule And Draft Long-Term Plan For Yellowstone Winter Use

A proposed rule to extend the existing “one-year rule” regarding the management of snowmobiles and snowcoach activity in Yellowstone National Park for the upcoming 2012-2013 winter season has been released for public review and comment.

The National Park Service is proposing to amend the Record of Decision for the 2011 Environmental Impact Statement and to issue a rule authorizing oversnow vehicles use during the 2012-2013 winter season.

This proposal would implement the same rules during the 2012-2013 winter seasons as have been in place for the past three winters. This plan allows for up to 318 commercially guided Best Available Technology snowmobiles and up to 78 commercially guided snowcoaches daily. It will also continue to provide access for motorized oversnow travel over the East Entrance road and Sylvan Pass.

The proposed rule that would implement this action was published in the *Federal Register* today, and is available for public review and comment for 30 days.

The proposed rule and an electronic form to submit written comments can be found on the Internet at www.regulations.gov by searching the “Documents Open For Public Comment” and selecting the National Park Service as the agency. It is also available on CD or in hard copy by writing the Management Assistant’s Office, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190.

Written comments may be submitted through the Regulations.gov website, in person, or by mail. Comments will not be accepted by phone, fax, or e-mail. All public comments must be received or postmarked by midnight, October 4, 2012.

The National Park Service has also reopened the public comment period for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for long-term plan for winter use in Yellowstone National Park. The second public comment period will allow additional opportunity for the Park to address public and cooperating agency comments on the Draft SEIS. Comments will be accepted through October 9, 2012.

Electronic copies of the Draft SEIS and a form for submitting public comments on the document electronically via the Internet are available at the National Park Service’s Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website under the ‘Winter Use Plan’ link at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yell>. You can request a copy of the Draft SEIS in compact disc or printed paper form and submit written (hard copy) comments by mail to: National Park Service, Management Assistant’s Office, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190. Comments may be submitted in writing through the PEPC website, in person, or by mail. The park cannot accept comments by phone, fax, or email. The park is also unable to accept bulk comments.

This schedule has been adopted to ensure that the 2012-2013 winter season will not be interrupted during further scientific analysis and review of public comments on the long-term plan for oversnow vehicles in the park.

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