



YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS - WINTER USE PLANS

Defending the Planet One Beat at a Time

YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS NEED YOUR HELP!!!



Created in 1872 as our first National Park, Yellowstone National Park remains a crown jewel in the National Park System, along with its sister Grand Teton National Park. The pristine and naturally wild environment of these parks is unique and arguably without equal. This is especially true during winter months, when the impressive natural beauty of the parks is enhanced by the peace and tranquility of the frosty setting. Over the past four decades the increasing numbers of snowmobiles using the parks - from 1,000 visits in 1963-64 to over 76,000 visits in 1999-2000 - has tarnished these treasures with dirty air,

inescapable noise pollution and congestion. After a decade of study, in 2001 the National Park Service issued regulations under the Clinton Administration which would have phased-out snowmobile use in the parks by the 2003-04 winter use season. Settling a lawsuit brought by snowmobile manufacturers, and as part of a series of environmental rollbacks, however, the Bush Administration canceled implementation of those regulations, and issued a new regulation in September 2004 that would allow for continued excessive use of snowmobiles in the parks.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN???

Rejecting the 2001 regulations and allowing continued use of snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, the National Park Service under George W. Bush and Gale Norton will allow significant adverse impacts on the winter use and enjoyment of the parks, including:

- Air and water quality. Snowmobile emissions cause major negative impacts to visitor and staff health, visibility, natural resources, and aesthetic and wilderness values.
- Excessive noise pollution. Under the 2001 regulations, audible motorized noise would be audible more than 50% of the time *on no acres!* Under the Bush Administration Rule, 12,069 acres would have audible motorized noise more than 50% of the time.
- Wildlife impacts. Ungulates such as bison using groomed routes are particularly at risk, with disturbance and harassment occurring at a time when individual animals are particularly challenged for survival.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP???

On September 7, 2004, the National Park Service issued a Temporary Use Plan. Under this Temporary Use Plan, the NPS will allow up to 720 snowmobiles to enter Yellowstone each day for the next 3 Winter Seasons. As many as 140 snowmobiles will be allowed in Grand Teton and the John D. Rockefeller Memorial Highway connecting the two parks. During the Fall of 2005, the NPS began the process of Scoping the new long-term Winter Use Plan, which is expected to be issued in draft form in the fall of 2006.

While the NPS is developing the new draft, long-term plan, you can help make a difference. Write to the NPS and let them know that you oppose Snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks:

Yellowstone National Park
Winter Use Plan
PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Rock the Earth and its members will continue to vigorously oppose the Bush Administration's efforts to keep unique national treasures like Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks open to snowmobiles. Check the sites listed below for information and updates.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION???

Rock the Earth: www.RockTheEarth.org/projects/project_snowmobiles.html
Acoustic Ecology Institute: www.acousticecology.org/sryellowstoneplan.html
Greater Yellowstone Coalition: www.greateryellowstone.org

