



GREATER YELLOWSTONE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

News release

Participating Agencies

US Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Grand Teton National Park and
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial
Parkway

Yellowstone National Park

US Fish & Wildlife Service

National Elk Refuge
Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife
Refuge

US Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge
National Forest
Bridger-Teton National Forest
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Custer National Forest
Gallatin National Forest
Shoshone National Forest

Chair

Steve Kallin

Executive Coordinator

Virginia Kelly

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Greater Yellowstone Area

Climate Action Plan and Sustainable Operations

BOZEMAN, MT: – In 2007, the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee Sustainable Operations Subcommittee began inventorying greenhouse gas emissions from federal operations, and discovered that greenhouse gas emissions totaled 26,162 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. On each of their units, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee managers have pledged to achieve a minimum goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 21-36 percent below the 2007 baseline. This equates to removing 1,856 passenger cars from the road each year, or saving 51.5 rail cars worth of coal from being burned.

Leading by example is a powerful tool for creating positive change. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem itself achieves this objective by touching over 6 million visitors every year with its beauty, grandeur, and charismatic wildlife. The federal agencies operating within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem have an incredible opportunity and responsibility to lead by example through the implementation of initiatives that preserve natural and cultural resources, address environmental threats, protect and conserve water resources, promote a clean energy economy, and strengthen the vitality and livability of surrounding communities.

As a result of this overarching goal the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee made sustainable operations one of its highest priorities. Through interagency cooperation, the agencies have coordinated recycling programs, reduced water use and developed a plan to inventory and reduce the greenhouse gases emitted by federal land management agency operations within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.



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“This is not only good environmental and land management policy, but also sound fiscal policy,” stated Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee Chair Steve Kallin. “Most of the emissions reduction actions contained in the Climate Action Plan more than pay for themselves over the next decade as they also improve air quality, decrease energy consumption, reduce waste and help mitigate climate change.”

Kallin said, “Although the overall greenhouse gas emissions footprint of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is relatively small when compared to more urban or industrial areas in the United States, the greater impact of this initiative is the example it sets for what is possible when separate agencies work together to address complex problems like climate change.”

Some of the planned projects for reducing greenhouse gases include use of low friction tires to increase gas mileage; use of video conferencing to reduce travel; and use of smart thermostats and lower temperature settings to save energy. Many of the actions involve simple behavioral changes, such as turning off computers when not in use. Behavior change is an important component in reducing greenhouse gases.

Other efforts to reduce resource consumption include water conservation and recycling propane and bear spray canisters. Kohler Company donated dozens of low-flow plumbing fixtures for installation at high-use federal facilities around the region. Water use has been reduced, as well as the energy needed to pump potable water and the chemicals used to treat wastewater.

A propane canister recycling system pioneered at Yellowstone National Park is now in use throughout the ecosystem; since 2005, over 100,000 propane canisters have been recycled in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Several partners and the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee agency employees cooperated to develop a new method to recycle bear spray canisters. Collection sites have been placed around the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Recycling sites can be found at: <http://www.bearsprayrecycling.info/collection-sites>.

ABOUT THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (GYCC) The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee includes federal land managers from national parks, national forests and national wildlife refuges across the Greater Yellowstone Area: the largest, essentially intact natural area in the lower 48 states. Together, these agencies manage 14 million acres of federal land. The committee was formed to pursue opportunities of mutual cooperation and coordination in the management of core federal lands within the Greater Yellowstone Area. Participating federal land



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managers administer three national parks (Yellowstone, Grand Teton & John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway), two national wildlife refuges (National Elk Refuge, Red Rock Lakes), and six national forests (Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Shoshone, Gallatin, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, & Custer).

The Climate Action Plan is on the Web at:

<http://www.fedgycc.org/documents/GYAClimateActionPlanFinal.pdf>

Information about the GREATER YELLOWSTONE COORDINATING COMMITTEE and links to member agency websites are available at: <http://www.fedgycc.org/>

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