



United States Department of the Interior

Geological Survey
Cascades Volcano Observatory
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July 28, 2011

Crater Lake National Park and the U.S. Geological Survey Invite Comments On Installation of Wireless Communication Tower

The National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey invite public comment on an assessment of the environmental effects of a proposal to install a new wireless tower in Crater Lake National Park. The public comment period is July 28 through August 28, 2011.

The U.S. Geological Survey Cascades Volcano Observatory (USGS/CVO) is proposing to install a new wireless tower in the vicinity of the non-historic building that serves as an employee bunkhouse within Crater Lake National Park. Crater Lake is a potentially active volcano. Before volcanoes erupt they provide warning signs including swarms of small earthquakes, release of volcanic gases, and swelling of the volcanic edifice. Such warning signs are often subtle and the period of warning can be as short as days before eruptive activity commences. Monitoring volcanoes requires sensitive instruments to be placed on the volcano to detect unusual activity as early as possible. Data from these instruments need to be transmitted to a volcano observatory for scientific analysis. Currently the USGS operates three seismic and four continuously recording GPS (CGPS) stations in the Park. Typically, monitoring data are transmitted via radios, phone lines, and Internet from instruments installed on a volcano to scientific facilities for processing and analysis. Unfortunately, the park's data communication infrastructure cannot support the additional requirements needed to telemeter the volcanic monitoring data out of the Park to the USGS/CVO in Vancouver, Wash. Thus all data are stored on a computer in the Park and must be manually downloaded by USGS/CVO staff once every three to six months.

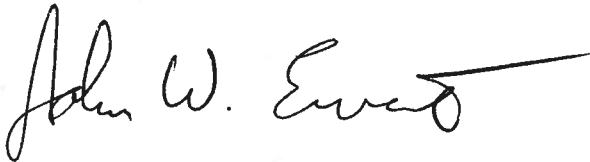
The installation and operation of the communication tower will provide the necessary infrastructure to enable scientists from the USGS/CVO to remotely monitor, analyze and interpret all seismic activity within the Park from USGS/CVO in real time on a 24 hours, 7 days a week basis. Additionally the tower will permit all data to be routed out of the Park through a reliable and secure data communications link independent of the Park's limited communications link.

The U.S. Geological Survey has completed a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on this project. We are soliciting public comments on this assessment. To review the EA, visit the Crater Lake National Park website at www.nps.gov/crla/parkmgmt/planning.htm. Copies are also available for review at Crater Lake National Park and at public libraries in Klamath Falls and Medford, Oregon. Additionally, you may review project information and submit comments at the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

We appreciate any comments or insights you have as we continue with the environmental assessment process. Please post your comments directly on the PEPC website or send written comments to:

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1300 SE Cardinal Court, Suite 100
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John W. Ewert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

John Ewert,
Scientist in Charge
U.S. Geological Survey, Cascades Volcano Observatory