



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Yellowstone National Park Open For Snowmobiling In 2004/2005** ***Cleaner, quieter snowmobiles and guides available in West Yellowstone, Mont.***

West Yellowstone, Montana – November 18, 2004 -- Yellowstone National Park will be open for all winter activities during 2004/2005, including snowmobiling on technologically advanced sleds. The park opens for its traditional winter season at 8:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, December 15, 2004**, and will be open to winter recreationalists until March 14, 2005.

“We will have a full season of snowmobiling in Yellowstone National Park this winter,” said Marysue Costello of the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce. “And all of the snowmobiles in the park will be **the cleaner, quieter four-stroke machines** which will provide an environmentally friendly way for folks to see the Park.”

The four-stroke sleds have several significant advantages over traditional machines. The new engines produce **none of the blue smoke** associated with older snowmobiles; they don't have that distinctive 'two-stroke' engine smell, they are **significantly quieter** and have reduced hydrocarbon emissions.

“Last year all of the guide companies in West Yellowstone made a commitment to only taking the four-stroke sleds into the Park,” said Costello. “The community is continuing with that commitment again this winter and we are pleased the NPS recognizes our concern for the environment and our willingness to use the cleanest equipment available.”

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“The park is set to welcome all winter recreationalists who come to experience Yellowstone in what many visitors believe to be its most impressive season,” said Cheryl Matthews of the Public Affairs Office of Yellowstone National Park.

The National Park Service (NPS) recently approved a three-year winter use plan, which provides plenty of winter recreation while protecting the scenic beauty of Yellowstone National Park. The winter use plan calls for:

- snowmobiles allowed in Yellowstone on roads automobiles use in the summer. This is not a change from previous usage rules as snowmobiles have always been allowed on those roads.
- all snowmobiles must be accompanied by a commercial guide.
- all snowmobiles will be four-stroke machines, which feature the cleaner, quieter “Best Available Technology” (BAT) standard set by the NPS.
- snowcoaches will continue to be allowed in Yellowstone on roads automobiles use in the summer. Once again, this is not a change in usage rules.
- cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are also allowed on trails within the Park.

The plan will be in effect for the next three years while the National Park Service creates a permanent winter use plan for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

A total of 720 snowmobiles will be allowed to enter the park each day and **400 of those will be able to enter the park at the west entrance in West Yellowstone.** Snowmobilers can find authorized guide companies and snowmobile rental companies in the West Yellowstone Visitors Guide or on the West Yellowstone Chamber website at <http://westyellowstonecvb.visitmt.com>. For those who bring their own machines, environmentally friendly snowmobile oils and fuels are readily available in the town.

The latest information on snowmobiling in Yellowstone National Park can always be found at the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce website (<http://westyellowstonecvb.visitmt.com>). Just check the “News Flashes” button on the home page.

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